

JAM FRUIT

AUCTION
SALES

EVERY MORNING
OF ALL FRUITS IN
SEASON.

AGENTS—

OTAGO FRUITGROWERS'
ASSOCIATION.

CANTERBURY FRUIT-
GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

Telephones—608 Office. 609 Store.

McKAY BROS.

AUCTIONEERS AND LAND
AGENTS.

EXCHANGE MART.

Esk Street.

INVERCARGILL.

Box—17.

'Phone—15.

Telephone—862.

THE PRAM AND CYCLE SHOP,
122 DEE STREET.

PRAME, PUSH CARTS, PUSH
CHAIRS.

The best selection in Invercargill to
choose from.

BICYCLES, TYRES, AND ALL CYCLE
SUNDRIES

We have just opened up a fine assortment
of SUIT CASES—20in., 22in., 24in.,
26in. The price is right. Get one for
the holiday season.

REPAIRS.—We don't repair motor cars
nor motor cycles, but we can and do
repair Prams and Bicycles, AND
WE DO IT WELL.

If your Pram or Bike is beyond repair
we will sell you a new one. THAT'S
FAIR.

Thomas Bird,

122 DEE STREET.

SPEND THAT £50 TO THE
BEST ADVANTAGE.

BY spending a pound here and a pound
there you cannot buy to the best ad-
vantage.

Make out a list and buy from the ONE
reliable firm,

VERNON SMITH & CO.

ATHENAEUM BUILDINGS,
INVERCARGILL.

Our stocks include Household Iron-
mongery, Glassware, Cutlery, Tools for all
trades—in fact everything in the house-
hold line.

WHY WORRY?

You'll get rid of all the fuss and

bother by letting us cater for

the

WEDDING.

A. C. MILLARS LTD.

P.O. Box—29.

'Phone—275.

PROFESSIONAL.

W. Macalister, B.A., LL.B.; S. Morell
Macalister, LL.B.; Horace J. Macalister,
LL.B.; Alan B. Macalister.

MACALISTER BROS.,

Barriers and Solicitors,

INVERCARGILL.

Money to Lend on approved security at
current rates.

F. G. HALL-JONES, B.A., LL.B. (late
Rattray, Armistead and Murray, and
late James Harvey).

P.O. Box 48. Telephone 36.

RATTRAY & HALL-JONES,

BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS,
ESK STREET, INVERCARGILL, N.Z.

MR CHARLES DUERDEN, Pianist,
is open for engagement at Private
Parties, Dances, Socials, etc.

FULL ORCHESTRA SUPPLIED.

Address—

25 Princess Street, Georgetown,
Invercargill.

ERIC M. RUSSELL, SOLICITOR,

Hallenstein's Buildings,

ESK STREET,

INVERCARGILL.

Money to lend on freehold security.

STOUT & LILLICRAP,

SOLICITORS.

Esk street.

MONEY TO LEND

On Freehold Security at Current Rates
of Interest.

FOR THE EMPIRE'S CAUSE.

IN MEMORIAM.

CLARK.—In affectionate remembrance
of our dear son and brother, Sergeant
George W. Clark (Tiny), No. 9/550, Main
Body, N.Z.E.F., who died in No. 2
General Hospital, Chelsea, England, on
January 5, 1919, from wounds received in
France, on September 16, 1916.—Inserted
by his parents and brothers. 124

"The Digger."

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 1921.

ONE-MAN CARS.

The citizens of Invercargill will read
with considerable interest and trepidation,
the report of the meeting of the Town
Council on Tuesday night when it ap-
peared that the Council on ordering some
one-man trams from America had not
stipulated in the contract that fare-boxes
should be fitted on the cars capable of re-
ceiving English money. The "Johnson"
fare-box deals only with American money,
and the contractors in America, finding
they have no box capable of handling
English coins, claim that the fare-box is
not an essential part of the one-man car.
We wish the Council every success in its
efforts to overcome the difficulty. The
Traffic-Manager, Mr. Glancefield, is opti-
mistic, but it is a pity that no report
from him was submitted to the meeting
and published in the press. The citizens
of this town are coming to rely more on
the experts whom they employ than on
the amateurs who direct our civic affairs.

The blunder—if it is a blunder—on the
part of the Council is of a sort that is
familiar enough to the Digger. The army
is the nursery of idiotic actions, yet there
never appears to be any definite person to
blame. The writer recalls a conversation
some time ago with the captain of a large
Home boat which was employed on one
trip to carry five British railway engines to
Salonika. The skipper pointed out to
the Loading Officer that he had no cranes
strong enough to lift these engines out of
the hold when the boat reached her desti-
nation, and asked if the transport officer
had any information as to what cranes
could be obtained at Salonika. The latter
replied that he had no information on the
point and the extent of his business
was merely to see that the engines were
put aboard. Sure enough on his arrival
the skipper was unable to get the engines
unloaded, but after a week's delay a
French ship arrived, with a powerful
crane, and was able to tranship the en-
gines and land them on the wharf. The

engines were then found to be too large to
go through the tunnels.

The Returned Soldiers' Association is en-
gaged in a hopeless battle with the
Honourable D. H. Guthrie over the mat-
ter of soldiers' homes. As every Digger
knows, the Government broke its promise
to returned soldiers in the matter of pro-
viding soldiers' homes. Never in the history
of New Zealand Parliament has there
been a more deliberate breach of faith on
the part of the Government in fulfilling its
pledges. Returned soldiers were promised
definitely and unequivocally, that the
benefits of the Discharged Soldiers' Settle-
ment Act would remain available until a
year's notice was given of their curtail-
ment. There were plenty of returned
soldiers foolish enough to believe the
promise, but last year they were astounded
to read Mr Guthrie's announcement
that although the Discharged Soldiers'
Settlement Act remained unrevoked, no
further monies would be provided, except
in "special circumstances," to returned
soldiers to buy homes. Monies will still
be advanced to build houses, but while
a really comfortable house can be pur-
chased for well under £1000, the veriest
hovel costs that figure to build. So the
Government having wriggled out of its
promise and made a plaything of the re-
turned soldier, states that under "special
circumstances" it will advance monies to
purchase. At the last meeting of the
N.Z.R.S.A. the Minister was closely ques-
tioned as to what were the "special cir-
cumstances" of which he spoke. He re-
fused to give any definite answer, and
when specific instances were cited he
refused to say whether they came under
the heading of "special circumstances." So
far as we know no instructions have been
issued to Land Boards as to what "special
circumstances" entitle a soldier to have
his application approved. We do know
that a soldier who was in hospital until
the benefits of the Act were curtailed was
informed by the Land Board that he could
get no assistance to purchase a dwelling.
So we wish our headquarters all success in
their campaign against the Government in
the interests of homeless soldiers. Against
the German or the Turk we back our com-
rades to win every time, but the politi-
cian is a more subtle foe, and he holds
all the cards.

EVENTS OF THE WEEK.

The exceedingly hot and trying weather
experienced in Southland in the early part
of the week emphasises the great disad-
vantage that Invercargill suffers under
in the matter of swimming facilities.
Other towns in New Zealand, almost with-
out exception, have some sort or respect-
able bathing place. Travel where you
will, in almost every town one is able to
enjoy either a dip in the briny, a plunge
in a clean river, or a cool swim in the
municipal baths, but in Invercargill un-
less one has the time to spare and a con-
veyance to get out of town, he has to
forgo the pleasures of a swim and be con-
tent with what enjoyment can be gained
by a wet at home. This isn't good
enough. In any collection of people a
swimming place is an essential institu-
tion and yet in this progressive (?) fifth
city of New Zealand the thing is con-
spicuous by its absence. Tuesday was a
day to make Diggers sigh for a swim.
They could carry their minds back to the
bathing parades in many parts of the
world and recall scenes where naked men
revelled in cool or warm waters, but
where in Invercargill could a citizen en-
joy a decent swim?

Invercargill will never be complete un-
til swimming baths are established and
the pleasures of swimming made possible
for the average citizen. At present a
bathe may be obtained at the back beach
Greenhills, the Bluff, Riverton Beach
or the Aparima River, but we do not all
own motor bikes or Ford cars.

The construction of proper swimming
baths is a matter for the City Council, and
being one of such vital importance to the
health and welfare of the people, should
be a matter of first consideration. Let
the Mayor and City Councillors consider
the question, and if in their wisdom it is
seemed desirable that a pool should be
provided let them ascertain the cost,
sound the citizens by a poll, get on with
the work and let us swim. A public
swimming bath in Invercargill, with a
few counter attractions, should easily pay
expenses and interest on borrowed money
without adding to the rates.

Invercargillites will soon be numbering
amongst their daily experiences the sight
of aeroplanes in flight. On Tuesday
night the De Havilland machine belonging
to the South Canterbury Aero Company
brought two passengers from Dunedin,
and on Wednesday it crossed to Stewart
Island on reconnaissance work. During

February a couple of 'planes will be
stationed in Invercargill and joy rides
may be indulged in by young and old. It
is hoped that before long Invercargill will
be the terminus of a regular service with
Timaru as the northern terminus, and a
side-line is likely to be established be-
tween Invercargill and Stewart Island.

Diggers in search of homes should take
note of the sections that are now open
for selection in the Waikiwi town settle-
ment, a block of land recently acquired
by the Government from the Acclimatisa-
tion Society and cut up into town sec-
tions. These sections vary in price from
£70 to £100 and may be acquired for
cash on lease with an annual rental of
five per cent on the capital value, or on
the deferred payment system which en-
ables the purchaser to pay for the land
in twenty years. Advances may also be
made to returned men up to £900 for the
erection of a house, so for a five
pound note paid down, a Digger is in a
position to commence getting his own
home together.

The cables do not paint very glowing
pictures of the conditions at present
prevailing in England and America. The
estimated unemployed in England at the
present time is a million, whilst in the
United States they are quoted at six
millions. One of the methods being tried
to overcome unemployment is emigration.
Mr Lloyd George has introduced his em-
igration Bill under which the Govern-
ment is empowered to send ex-service men
to the dominions overseas. Whilst we
are prepared to receive as many ex-ser-
vice men in this country as we can ab-
sorb, the scheme requires very careful
handling. Europe is in a very unsettled
condition and amongst the large number
of unemployed are a host of very undesir-
able characters, and it is up to the Gov-
ernment of this country to take steps to
ensure a proper supervision of immigrants
before they depart, for once here it is a
more difficult matter to deport them.

When it became evident that the price
of wool was going to tumble we were
somewhat cheered to mark a speech by
the Prime Minister to the effect that the
Government would stand loyally by the
returned soldier settlers, in their hour of
need and see to it that they obtain returns
for their produce in keeping with the high
prices paid for the land. The majority
of soldiers have now clipped and are
putting their wool into the sales, and al-
though the prices seem to be firming a
little, the return is inadequate, and un-
less something is done, the outlook for
these men, who twelve months ago, put
their bit of capital into high-priced land
and sheep, is gloomy. The established
wool-grower is in a position to hold his
wool in the hope of better prices, but the
returned soldier with a big mortgage on
the land, needs must sell now in order to
get ready money to pay his interest.
What is the Government going to do for
these men?

If the Government intends to make ad-
vances to returned soldier woolgrowers to
enable them to hold the wool for better
prices the scheme should have been formu-
lated and made public before this. The
wool is already in the hands of the
agents for sale and it is now up to the
Government to redeem their promise and
guarantee a minimum price.

Our recent visitor, Sir A. Conan Doyle,
in addition to being an authority on spir-
its and the art of communication with
the departed, now considers that a strong
case has been made out for the "fairies."
In an article contributed to the Christmas
Number of the Strand Magazine he puts
the case. Fairy photographs are the
basis of the argument. The photographs
(two in number) are alleged to have been
taken by two girls "under circumstances
which seem to put fraud out of the ques-
tion." The identity of the youthful photo-
graphers is hidden under an alias but
we have Sir Arthur's word for it that the
girls belong to a "well-known and re-
spected" family. The services of an ex-
pert professional photographer of many
years' standing were requisitioned and af-
ter a careful analysis the expert asserts
"the pictures were entirely genuine un-
faked photographs of single exposure,
both straight untouched pictures." Other
professional photographers, while unable
to detect any faking, declined to testify
to their genuineness. Whilst the photo-
graphs may be genuine enough it would
not appear impossible that the fairies
themselves are faked. It would be re-
markable if fairies were to be found ex-
actly like the pictures painted by imagi-
native artists, yet the "fairy" photo-
graphs bear a very close resemblance to
the conventional form. Sir Arthur no
doubt will contribute further articles on
the fairies. We would like to know some-

thing of their doings in fairyland. We
gather from his description of an "elderly
male" and "romping young women" that
they are born, live, grow old, and fade
away. We presume that they then be-
come fairy spirits. Sir Arthur will have
to make out a better case for the fairies
before he gets many fairy believers. He
claims to have collected a lot of evidence
from people who have seen fairies but
he has not quoted and instance. It
is not uncommon for individuals to "see
things" but they don't call these visions
"fairies." Apparently Sir Arthur has
applied the wrong name or has been re-
galed with some pretty tall fairy yarns
and has swallowed them whole.

We regret to report the death by
drowning of Mr J. F. McKenzie while
bathing in the "Devil's Pool," Waihopai,
on Tuesday. The deceased served with
the N.Z.E.F. and left with the 16th Rein-
forcement, being drafted to the Rifle Bri-
gade. He carried on with his company
in France until the battle of Messines,
where he was severely wounded by a
bomb, that burst within a few feet of
him. He emerged from hospital carry-
ing a number of wounds and one of
his eyes was considerably affected, he
being forced at times to wear a shade
to protect it. In addition to his eye
he received several serious scalp wounds.
After leaving hospital in England he was
returned home, and received his discharge
from the Expeditionary Force about two
years ago, since then he has been, when
his health would allow, working on a
farm at Limehills. We desire to express
our deepest sympathy with his relatives
in their sad bereavement.

CRICKET NOTES.

The latter half of the 1920-21 season
opened on Rugby Park under improved
conditions. During the first round a
town team travelled to Wyndham every
week, and the country side on its own
matting wicket had little difficulty in
getting a good lead in competition points,
but it was thought that on the home
turf wickets this lead was not likely to
be maintained. However, Wyndham with
a patched team, but with all the Mc-
Beaths, batted from 2.45 to ten minutes
to 6, Dan McBeath after an innings of
many chances falling to Tapley caught
Dr Brown for 127 in the course of which
scoring he hit 7 sixes, some of the strokes
being reminiscent of Don Hamilton's
smiting power. Much of the success of
Wyndham's batting was due to the true
slow pitch and to Dr Baird's wonderful
innings of 75 minutes (33 b. Doig). In
the Appleby-Union match, Poole third
wicket down, played a brilliant innings
for 55, bowled Dixon. Dale, a colt,
hit the tired bowling for 40, bowled
Whelan, a Crawford product. Union
failed to make a fair batting stand on an
easy wicket. With the coming games
against Otago, Canterbury and Australia,
it will be well for Southland cricketers
to get in steady practice, and Rugby Park
and Mr Alex Handford are now ready for
them.

WYNDHAM (203) v. I.C.C. (39 for five
wickets).

Wyndham came in late and played
from 2.40 to ten minutes to 6, some of
I.C.C.'s batting being done under adverse
light conditions. Dr Baird and H. Mc-
Beath opened the visitors' batting, John
Gilbertson being supported by J. Doig in
the attack. The doctor opened un-
steadily, but the slow pitch gave him con-
fidence, and several misjudged catches
showed him his luck was in; so he
picked good length balls off his middle
peg and sent them to the boundary, some
of his late turns being Trumper-like in
brilliance. H. McBeath, G. McBeath,
and Bogue made seven all told. Dan
McBeath came in at three wickets down,
sustaining a l.b.w. appeal at the third
ball, and surviving numerous chances
through the rawness and slackness of a
few of the fieldsmen. His 127 was a
great performance in the fagging heat,
and, when Tapley deceived him with an
off-break to mis-hit—just as Conradi got
Don Hamilton in the Otago-Southland
game here last year—the batsman was
visibly pumped. The captaining of the
I.C.C. was open to criticism, as regular
bowlers were tried and re-tried in vain
against Dan. A. McBeath hit a vigor-
ous 16 and was clean bowled by John
Gilbertson. The rest of the team—five
men—made seven runs. Extras (12) show
the good pad-work of James Gilbertson
and Tapley. Driscoll, Gleeson, Camm,
Dr Brown, and Cowan fielded keenly all
through for I.C.C.

Camm and Dr Brown took strike for
I.C.C. just after 6 p.m., Camm being
brilliantly caught left-handed by Dr
Baird at point from a stroke on a rising