



ALAN GRANT (F.I.O.N.Z.) Optician, HASTINGS.

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VOL. III. No. 254

HASTINGS, N.Z., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1940.

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Desert Armistice Thought Possible

BRITISH REACH BARDIA

Desperate Stand Expected After Long Retreat

The official Ankara radio declares that an Anglo-Italian armistice is "entirely possible." The newspaper "Ukcham" declares: "The damage done to the Italian fleet and the removal of the possibility of an attack on Egypt has settled the Mediterranean problem in England's favour."

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HITLER HOPES FOR CONFUSION

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PLANS FOR NEW AIR OFFENSIVE

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WINGS OF EMPIRE BROADCAST

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GERMAN TROOPS IN AUSTRIA

MASSED ON ITALIAN BORDER

BUDAPEST REPORT

A Million Men Said To Be Involved

WINGS OF EMPIRE BROADCAST

AIRMEN SPEAK

New Zealanders Not Lonely

BUSY IN CANADA

PRELUDE TO INVASION ATTEMPT

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Roosevelt Suggests Lending Of Arms To Save British Finance

(United Press Association—Copyright.) (Received December 18, 7.45 p.m.) WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.

President Roosevelt has revealed that the Administration is considering building additional armaments for the United States and lending or leasing them to Britain.

He said that there was banal talk of additional dollar loans or gifts to Britain, but that a plan of leasing United States materials or selling them subject to mortgage was a possible solution to the question how to extend more aid to Britain.

"Since the best defence of Britain is the best defence of the United States, American armaments would be of greater value if used for Britain than if kept in storage here," declared the President.

He was trying to eliminate the dollar sign from the controversy of how best to increase United States aid to Britain, he said. The United States, under this plan, might take over future British orders for certain munitions and other implements of war which the British need. The United States could pay for their manufacture and then lend or lease them to Britain to be returned after the war.

Return After Victory If the equipment was in good shape the United States would accept it back from the British on payment of a reasonable fee. If damaged or destroyed, the British would agree to replace it.

The President said that the plan would require enabling Bills for appropriations, which would be recommended to Congress soon after it convenes on January 3.

The President, when asked to comment on Mr Cordell Hull's assertion that the first days of 1941 would be crucial for Britain, said: "The Administration's programme for speeding defence production is to keep everlastingly at it and push the people."

Productive Capacity He emphasised that Britain and the United States used the same types of equipment, therefore the United States funds since they had created the production capacity. He said that they might have to consider outright gifts of war material later, but he was not sure that that would be necessary or that the British desired gifts.

The Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Henry Morgenthau) stated that British Treasury officials had said that Britain could not order any more war supplies from the United States unless financial aid was assured.

Ships For Britain The Secretary of State (Mr Cordell Hull) stated that on the basis of full information on foreign developments, including the British situation, he was urging all possible speed in defence production. He personally favoured making the maximum number of United States merchant ships available for sale to Britain.

The Washington correspondent of the Associated Press said that the Secretary of State's statement is being examined to determine whether additional merchant shipping can be made available for rushing supplies to Britain. Mr Hull is reported to have told the defence commissioners and other members of the Government that Britain will probably face a serious crisis in the spring unless delivery schedules are speeded up.

Whirlwinds Are Ready

FAST NEW 'PLANE

Peep Behind Veil Of Secrecy

BRITISH TRIUMPH

United Press Association—Copyright. (Received December 18, 10.55 p.m.) LONDON, Dec. 17.

Lord Beaverbrook's reference in a broadcast to Whirlwinds lifted only the corner of the veil of secrecy which cannot be lifted higher except to say that the Whirlwind is one of the most advanced fighters in the world, and may soon be as much a household word as the Spitfire and the Hurricane, but its existence has been one of the war's best kept secrets.

"JEHOVAH'S WITNESS" GAOLED

Would Not Cease His Activities

By Telegraph—Press Association. DUNEDIN, Dec. 18.

William Crook, a labourer, Balclutha, was charged at the Balclutha Court to-day with participating in the activities of the subversive organisation known as "Jehovah's Witnesses."

MORE BOMBERS WANTED

STILL A POSSIBILITY OF INVASION

BRITAIN PREPARED

Aeroplane Production Stepped Up

British Official Wireless. (Received December 18, 6.0 p.m.) RUGBY, Dec. 17.

In the four months commencing in August, the British output of aircraft and engines was double the output of last year. This was stated in a broadcast by the Minister of Aircraft Production (Lord Beaverbrook) who said also that machines were coming from the United States in an increasing flow of types. American fighting aeroplanes were of excellent quality. Some had been equal to the best produced in Britain.

According to the programme during 1943, said the Minister, 26,000 aeroplanes would reach Britain from the United States. "During that year," he said, "the famous 3000-a-month scheme will be realised."

Air Supremacy Lord Beaverbrook likened Hitler in his conspiracy to dominate Europe to a man sitting on a three-legged stool, one leg supported in the air. "We have knocked from under the German leader one leg of his stool—supremacy in the air," the Minister declared.

"We have seized control of the air by day with our fighter squadrons of Hurricanes, Spitfires, Defiants and Whirlwinds," he said. "We must recognise, too," he continued, "that he may be making preparations for an invasion of Britain even before springtime comes."

Lord Beaverbrook concluded his broadcast with an appeal for more bombers.

CONTRACTS FOR NEW DESTROYERS

United Press Association—Copyright. (Received December 18, 8.35 p.m.) WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.

The Secretary of the Navy (Colonel Frank Knox) announces the award of contracts for 40 additional destroyers at a cost of 253,000,000 dollars.

Loans or Leases Regarding loans or leases to Britain, he said: "If a neighbour's house is on fire when you are possessed of a hose you do not ask first for 15 dollars as the price of the hose. You help to put out the fire, then, if the hose is O.K., the neighbour returns it with thanks. If it is smashed he offers to replace it."

Tentative Only His tentative plans—which he emphasised were not final—did not call for taking over all future British orders, he said, but they did call for the completion of a large number of orders with United States funds.

He added that he was speaking of future British orders. He believed that the British possessed sufficient exchange for the orders already placed.

JAPAN QUIETLY PREPARES

FEAR OF AMERICAN PRESSURE

NEW BASE WANTED

Guarding Oil From Batavia

United Press Association—Copyright. (Received December 19, 1.45 a.m.) HANOI, Dec. 18.

The Japanese military mission is reported to have informed the French that Japan needs a base in south Indo-China to guard the route to Batavia on account of her oil needs.

It is said that the Japanese are quietly preparing for any action necessary in the event of an increase in the American pressure and consequently have prepared Storm Island, in the Prately group, as a military base.

It is estimated that Japan will have 75,000 troops in the south-eastern area in the springtime when the bases for the concentrations will be ready.

LAVAL'S PLOT TO OUST PETAIN

Hint That Weygand May Form Anti-Nazi Group In Africa

(United Press Association—Copyright.) (Received December 18, 11.55 p.m.) LONDON, Dec. 17.

The Paris radio stated to-day that the German Minister to France, Otto Abetz, during a three-hour conference with Marshal Petain, at which Pierre Laval attended for at least half an hour following his release from detention disclosed that Laval, before his arrest, was plotting to establish a government with its seat at Paris.

Abetz added that the Germans had approved the plan but Marshal Petain discovered the plot and ordered Laval's arrest just in time.

The British United Press Bern correspondent states that Laval was forced to write his own resignation at a full meeting of Cabinet, at which he was accused of attempting to supersede Marshal Petain.

Other correspondents suggest that Laval's attendance at to-day's conference implies that Hitler seeks his reinstatement.

E. B. Wareing, former chief of the "Daily Telegraph's" staff in Paris, reconstructing the plot, says: "Hitler planned to inveigle Marshal Petain to Paris on December 15 to attend the reburial of the ashes of Napoleon's son. The Minister of the Interior (M. Peyrouton), however, stated to Cabinet his fears for Marshal Petain's safety."

"It is now believed that if Hitler and Marshal Petain had attended the reburial the latter would have been ordered to sign a German-dictated peace treaty. The Marshal's refusal would have been followed by a trumped-up story of his insanity and illness."

"M. Peyrouton, after the discovery of Laval's designs, took measures to prevent Laval going to Paris, where he intended to meet his fellow-conspirators."

"Marshal Petain's continuance in power may be conditional on his giving Hitler the right to transport troops across Vichy territory. His refusal might mean the Marshal's suppression by Laval."

"Marshal Petain is unlikely to withdraw from France, but other members of Cabinet might favour leaving for Africa in order to regroup themselves under General Weygand, who is reported recently to have expressed regret at his own action in breaking off the struggle on the erroneous ground that a French revolution was close at hand."

ORDERED OUT OF AMERICA

HOSPITALITY BETRAYED

Hungarian Princess And German

FEDERAL INSTRUCTIONS

United Press Association—Copyright. (Received December 18, 10.55 p.m.) WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.

The Justice Department has ordered the 'expulsion' from the United States of a German, Karl Scheuring, aged 18, and Princess Maris Hohenlohe, an Hungarian.

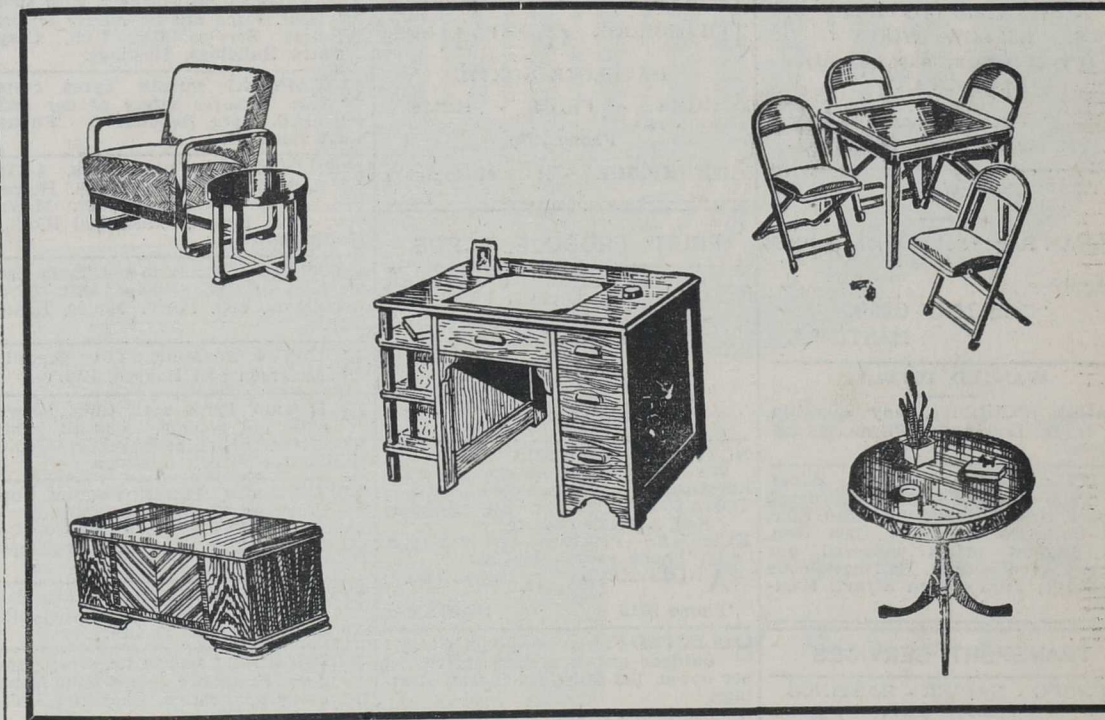
Regarding Scheuring, Federal officials reported: "We know of 33 good Nazis who, in the event of a crisis, would not hesitate to betray the hospitality of the country where they are guests."

DAVIS CUP PLAYER KILLED

Flying Accident In Rhodesia

United Press Association—Copyright. (Received December 18, 10.30 p.m.) SALISBURY, (Rhodesia), Dec. 17.

The Davis Cup player Ronald Shaves was killed in a flying accident on the eve of the completion of his training as a pilot.



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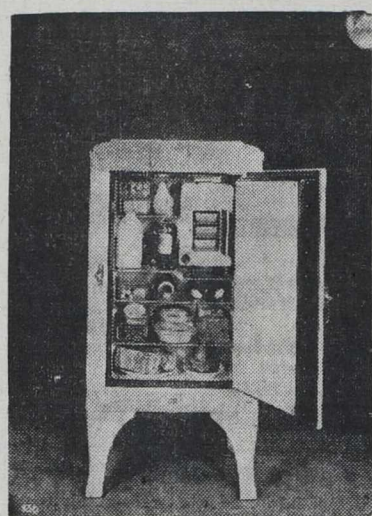
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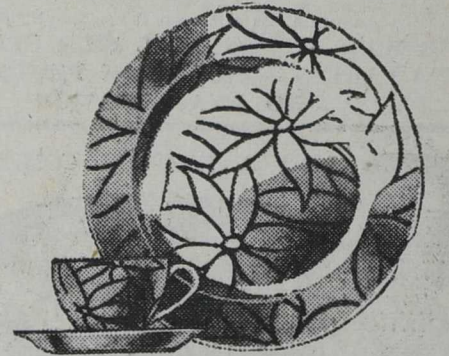
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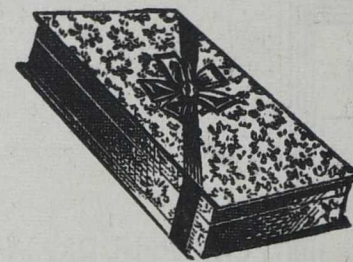
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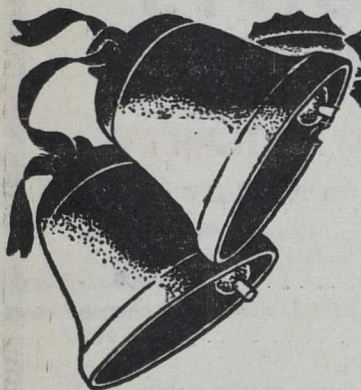
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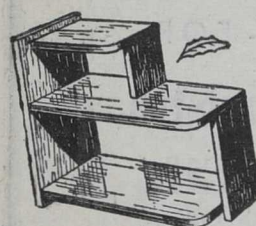
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CHRISTMAS TRAVELLERS WERE ADVENTURERS

Christmas in the coaching days was a merry and romantic time, in spite of the difficulties and dangers of travelling during the winter months. Only the well-to-do took long journeys at Christmas time in the early coaching days, and even prosperous tradesmen very seldom visited distant relatives. And what an adventure it must have seemed to them when a Christmas visit was decided upon. In 1700 the coach took a week to travel from London to York.

It is not perhaps generally known that as late as Christmas, 1834, there were no less than 28 mail coaches leaving London daily for various parts of the country, and, even in the 'fifties, a number of coaches were still on the road. In the late 18th century those who wished to spend the festive season with friends had to set out on their journey some days before Christmas, if they had any great distance to travel; and what a setting out it was! People, we are told, occasionally made their wills before starting upon a long journey, and various were the schemes devised for hiding money. On these long, slow journeys the traveller simply had to carry a good supply of guineas, for banks were few and far between, and he never knew what he might have to spend. There is a story of a farmer who had a special pocket made in the top of his Wellington boot; but alas! it was discovered by a wily highwayman, and he was poorer by £100.

But there was a jollity about Christmas in the coaching days which made up for the many troubles and hardships which the traveller had to endure. At Christmas everyone had a good word for everyone else, and the welcome which the weary traveller received,

when—after perhaps an absence of many years—he again spent Christmas with those near and dear to him made up for the hours, even days perhaps, spent on the top of the coach, exposed to wind and weather.

At Christmas the highwaymen were specially troublesome, for at that festive season everyone had money. Also the nights were very long and the days were short. And there was no way of avoiding the dangers of the road; one had to travel by coach or remain at home. To be "benighted" had a meaning in those days; and before a guest set out for home, friends and relations gathered round him, and wished him a "safe journey."

The guard was supposed to pro-

tect the passengers with his blunderbuss, but there is good reason to believe that he sometimes aimed rather wide of his mark, and the coachman seemed by no means loath to pull up when ordered to do so by the "gentleman at the cross-roads." It is to be feared that sometimes they received a "Christmas box" from the said gentleman—in fact, it is known that many of the coach drivers and guards were in league with the highwaymen.

The weather encountered was something to remember, and the state of the roads was terrible. For hours the unfortunate outside passengers sat numbed with cold or drenched with rain whilst those inside the coach shivered and tried to stretch cramped limbs. The later coaches were top-heavy and frequently overturned, and the early ones often sank into the mud up to the wheel axles, so bad were the roads.

As far as can be ascertained from the old records, Christmas was frequently snowy in bygone days. During the winter of 1836 the Liverpool

coach had to fight its way through the snow drifts, and in the severe winter of 1856 many coaches were abandoned. There is a picture of the old Cheltenham coach traversing a flooded road, drawn by six horses; and in the North it frequently took six and even eight to extract a coach from the snow-drifts.

One can realise what the outside passengers must have suffered in such weather; and it should be remembered that the journey was not over in a few hours like a modern railway journey. In the 18th century the mackintosh had not been invented; and, as no cloth could possibly have withstood a day's rain, it is pretty obvious that the outside passengers must have been wet through to the skin before they reached the welcome shelter of the inn.

Yet Christmas in the coaching days had charms which, alas! have gone for ever. Try to picture the arrival at the wayside inn on a fine, cold December evening, with the passengers and the coach people all filled with the true spirit of Christmas.

How warm and comfortable the inn parlour must have looked, with its bright fire, its spotless white tablecloth, and its white panelling.

There was no wild rush; everyone took his time, and Mine Host was moderate in his charges. Even if one had through some mischance of the road, to spend Christmas Day at the inn it was no great hardship. English roast beef and plum pudding were sure to appear on the table, and the landlord bustled in and greeted his guests with "A Merry Christmas to you all, gentlemen. God bless you!"

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The Masonic

Havelock Christmas Shopping

The Birthday Of Mithra

The Origin Of Christmas Is Shrouded In The Mists Of Antiquity

With Christmas at hand our thoughts are turned a great deal to small coloured candles flickering up on a tree, old carols, plum pudding, mince pies, crackers and paper caps, holly and mistletoe. We are so used to these things which are part and parcel of Christmas Day, that never do we, even for one moment, stop to think when and how these customs originated (says an English writer).

During the second century, the religion of Mithra, who came from Persia, flourished side by side with Christianity. By the end of the second century this religion of Mithra had taken so strong a hold in Europe, that even a Roman Emperor, Commodus, was instructed in its principles, a form of sun worship. Legend has it that Mithra was born among the hills on the 25th day of December and that those who first worshipped him were shepherds. Because Mithra delivered them from a "devouring bull whose blood became the vine and the marrow of his bones the wheat," the first day of the week was kept in memory of him and called Sunday.

Great Rejoicings

The birthday of Mithra, that is December 25, a day of great domestic festivity, nearly coincided with the feast of Saturn, known as Saturnalia—also a time of great rejoicings and incidentally of much unrestrained licence. Apparently these merry-makings and festivities during the month of December which attracted so many people, also tempted the Christians. "Why," thought they, "do we not also make merry? Of course instead of keeping this feast in honour of Mithra or Saturn, we shall keep it in memory of Jesus. Saturn and Mithra are but myths, and He was One Who actually once lived among us."

And so gradually, it is supposed, the birthday celebrations of Mithra became the feast of the Nativity, the feast of Christ. Indeed, by the fifth century A.D. Christmas had completely supplanted the heathen festivals.

Holly Decorations

The holly decorations in our homes to-day, are, too, a survival of the Roman Saturnalia. The ancients used to decorate the interiors of their homes with evergreens as "a refuge for the spirits of the woods from the inclemency of the weather in winter." To the people of those far-off days, the Sun was a great god, for he gave them both warmth and light.

When the sun was hidden in winter or showed himself but little, the ancients suffered grievously. No wonder they rejoiced greatly when after a certain day in December, the days began to lengthen, for they knew, then, that soon the hard times would be over.

And so, as a sign of the green-ness and life that was coming back to the earth, they hung garlands of holly in their homes—holly which keeps its leaves and is green all the year round.

CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS

Santa Claus's Counterpiece In Many Lands

The venerable Bede, the old historian, reminds us that long before the first Christmas, December 25 was associated with the honour and dignity of motherhood, and, of course, still is, although the pagan has given place to the Christian feast.

We are so used to talking about Father Christmas that it is not until we go abroad that we realise that other countries have a Mother Christmas for their toy-bringer, the bringer of good gifts to good children.

Once upon a time folks believed that St. Lucy was the wife of Good Saint Nicholas, and that at Christmas time she helped her spouse in the distribution of his gifts. In Switzerland this belief apparently lingers, for in some parts they will tell you that St. Lucy takes gifts to good girls, while St. Nicholas takes his to happy boys.

Custom in Sweden

The youngest and prettiest maiden in the household plays the role of St. Lucy in Sweden on Christmas morning. She it is who goes from room to room laden with sweetmeats and gifts which she leaves first with the master and mistress, then with the sons and daughters, and when the household have all had their Yuletide greeting, she will visit the dogs, the horses in the stables, the cows in their stalls, and even the fowls.

An aged woman used to bring gifts to the peasantry of Holy Russia, Babinska, they called her, and tradition said that she lived in Bethlehem when the Christ was born, and that the Holy Family begged admission at her door. She refused to house them, and so through the ages she is condemned to appear on earth each Christmas-tide, bearing gifts in honour of the birthday of the Child she refused to shelter.

Very beautiful is the Mother Christmas of Poland. To greet her coming, a little hay is placed under the tablecloth that covers the festive board, a reminder of the humble bed on which the Babe of Bethlehem was placed. And when she has given away all her gifts, Mother Christmas takes back with her to Paradise some happy babe that has just awakened from its first sleep; there it sings a carol before returning to the earth, and they say you can always tell the babe thus honoured, for it laughs and crows so loudly when Christmas Day dawns.

THE VILLAGE PREPARES FOR CHRISTMAS

Busy Township Provides Quiet Retreat For Lovers Of The Countryside

To the casual visitor to the Village, Havelock North is an ideal place to spend a quiet holiday—a fact which will be gainsaid by none—but residents know that while the township may be small in area its shops are fully capable of filling all the needs of the residents.

Christmas time is here, stocks have been augmented and the Village can boast its capability to give service that is better than any other place of its size.

The Village is a popular resort, as is evident by the numbers from the city who spend vacations there, and that the beauty of its quiet country roads and the majesty of the hills are appreciated is proved by the numbers who pay return visits.

Santa Claus Does Exist

THIS IS THE NAME OF A VILLAGE IN AMERICA

When children affirm their belief in the reality of Santa Claus they are nearer the truth than the tolerant adults who smile at their naive earnestness. There is a Santa Claus, as thousands of American children can testify.

They have received letters bearing a Santa Claus postmark; and they know that they came through the ordinary post because a smiling postman delivered them on Christmas morning into their own hands. Even the older children, wise in the ways of paternal trickery, are shaken in their scepticism.

The explanation is that Santa Claus is the name of a village in America, the postmaster of which is a kindly soul with a soft spot for children. At Christmas he is one of the hardest-worked men in America. Every year hundreds of American children post letters to Santa Claus and many of these childish missives find their way to the little village in Indiana.

Fortunate Children

Instead of consigning them to the waste-paper basket, the postmaster sends out short stereotyped replies, to the delight of the fortunate children who receive them and to the considerable surprise of those parents who have never heard of the tiny village.

The village did not always bear the name of Santa Claus. It was originally known as Santa Fe, with which name the few inhabitants were perfectly satisfied. As the population increased the leading residents decided to apply for the establishment of a post office. The first observation of the United States Post Office Department was that another village in Indiana also bore the name of Santa Fe, and regulations were that there could not be two post offices of the same name in any one State.

A mass meeting of the villagers was called to consider the ruling. A resolution that the village should change its name was carried unanimously, but when it came to the choice of a new name there was considerable diversity of opinion. Just as it seemed that the meeting would dissolve without having reached a decision, the village humourist rose and in a weary voice proposed that the new name of the village should be Santa Claus. The humourist only wanted to raise a laugh, but the effect of the proposition was almost magical. It was seconded immediately and carried without discussion.

Letters to Santa

As post office sorters began to be aware of the name on the list they realised that they had at last found an appropriate destination for those frayed and dirty envelopes bearing the legend "Santa Claus" that invariably found their way into the mails at Christmas. At first only a few letters reached the village, but as the years passed and its name and fame became more widely known, the letters increased in number until they assume formidable proportions.

Not only do children write to Santa Claus. Parents also take advantage of the opportunity by writing a letter signed "Santa Claus" to their own children and forwarding it to the postmaster to be posted at the famous village so that the stamp will bear the Santa Claus cancellation.

"...A Dozen Larks In A Great Dish"

SAMUEL PEPYS HAD A VARIED DIET

Whatever our forefathers of past centuries lacked, they certainly had plenty of tempting Christmas fare, and the appetite to eat it.

Take, for example, the dinner to which Pepys sat down on Christmas Day, 1658, which consisted of "a dish of marrow bones, legs of mutton, and a loin of veal; three pullets and a dozen larks, all in a great dish. Also a great tart, a neat's tongue, a dish of anchovies and prawns and cheese."

And what hungry Briton of to-day would not hail a Christmas pie like that provided for his guests in 1770 by a Sir Henry Grey? "It was," we read, "nine feet in circumference, weighed 165lb, and contained among other ingredients four geese, two turkeys, two rabbits, four wild ducks, two snipe, seven blackbirds, and half a dozen pigeons." This leviathan pie, we are told, was brought round at table on a four-wheeled truck specially constructed for the purpose.

A few years earlier the Earl and Countess of Northumberland gave a Christmas supper, the principal feature of which was a colossal cake, crowned by the presentation in sugar of a chaise and six horses, with coachman, footman and Lady Yarmouth seated inside.

INTOXICATED COWS IN TOWNSHIP

Ten head of cattle recently became drunk on opium at Dunolly, Victoria.

Residents were startled to see the cattle staggering along the main street. The cattle had been drinking at the railway station dam.

Poppy plants from the Soldiers' Memorial Reserve had been thrown into the dam and the cattle are believed to have eaten the plants, and to have been affected by the opium they contained.

Hours after the cattle had been rounded up in a paddock two or three cows were still lurching drunkenly.

A FEW REMINDERS
MIXED NUTS
MUSCATELS
XMAS CAKES
FIGS
ALMONDS
JORDAN HAMS
XMAS HAMS
CORNDIALS
TINNED FRUITS
SALMON
TONGUES

AND A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL

FROM
H. F. BUSH LTD.,
HIGH CLASS GROCERS
HAVELOCK NORTH — PHONE 2725

It costs no more to have a
PERFECT HOME
LET ME QUOTE FOR

- BUILDING
- REPAIRS
- ALTERATIONS

Consult the man who knows his job.

S. E. MORGAN
BUILDER — HAVELOCK NTH.
PHONE 2810

For
HOME-MADE CAKES

Tip-Top Ice Cream, Confectionery, Fruit and Vegetables at

B. DUKE'S
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New Cycles
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YOU MAY RELY UPON

J. H. DUNCAN
CYCLE DEALER — HAVELOCK NTH.

RAKAUNUI HONEY
(New Zealand's Finest)
"NECTAR FROM HAWKE'S BAY'S SUNNY PASTURES"
EXTRACTED AND PACKED BY
ASHCROFT'S HONEY HOUSE
TE MATA ROAD — HAVELOCK NTH.
On Sale from All Grocers or from the Honey House.

Merry Christmas
TO ALL OUR CLIENTS—
A Merry Christmas
AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

ESTAUGH & TRENEMAN
HAVELOCK NORTH

Procure the
FOODS
You'll want for CHRISTMAS

from the
HAVELOCK NORTH TRADING CO.

We appreciate the generous support accorded us during the past year and while wishing all

THE COMPLIMENTS OF
THE SEASON

give our assurance of the continuation of our best services during 1941.

Havelock North Agent For
THE "DAILY MAIL"

Order From Us For Before-Breakfast Delivery.

JUST IN CASE!
FIRE BRIGADE
HAVELOCK NORTH 2606

Merry Christmas

WISHING MY MANY CUSTOMERS
A MERRY XMAS AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

and thanking them at the same time for their generous support during the past year.

MISS PEGGY MARVIN
HAVELOCK NORTH
(Just Around The Corner From C. T. Crawford's)

Happy Xmas & New Year
Greetings from

J. PICKERING
General Carrier, Wood & Coal Merchant
Phone 2867 — Havelock North

AGENTS FOR GLEN AFTON COAL

BEST QUALITY FIREWOOD IN ANY LENGTH
SUPPLIED PROMPTLY.

Entrust Your Carrying To Our Careful Drivers

A
MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a
HAPPIER NEW YEAR
TO ALL

W. A. MEAD
Painter—Paperhanger—Glazier
HAVELOCK NTH.—Phone 3017

What Shall I Give Papa,

Mama;
Auntie Flo,
Uncle Joe;
The Evans twins,
the girl who grins;
My son & daughter,
the downstairs porter;
My mother-in-law,
the boy next door;
What shall I give the man I love.

What shall I give the couple above;
Gordon the warden,
the village vamp,
Daniel the spaniel,
the boy in camp;
Cousin Elsie,
the Duke of Chelsea;
Nanny,
Granny,
my four dear brothers—
What shall I give a million others.
And what will they give me?

DONALD SYME
THE HAVELOCK NORTH CHEMIST
CAN ANSWER YOUR EVERY QUESTION.

THE ALL-ROUND GIFT HOUSE

Books, Stationery, Christmas Cards, Drapery, Wools, Periodicals.

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COMFORT IN YOUR HOME FOR MANY CHRISTMASSES TO COME DEPENDS UPON ENGAGING A RELIABLE BUILDER

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BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS
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ESTIMATES FREE

Prepare for Christmas!
SPEIGHT'S BEER

Quality Wines and Spirits, Christmas Hampers a specialty.

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EXCHANGE HOTEL

HONESTY QUALITY SERVICE

THE BEST MEATS AT THE RIGHT PRICES

HIGH QUALITY HONEST WEIGHT AND A SPOTLESS SERVICE

AT
H. J. LEWIS
PHONE 3067 — HAVELOCK NORTH

THE VILLAGE SMITHY
WHEELS, DRAYS, PLOUGHS AND SLEDGES, CAR SPRINGS AND CARRIERS.
Acetone and Electric Welding a Specialty

ROBT. GIVEN
HAVELOCK NORTH

Have Your
SHOE REPAIRS
DONE IN
YOUR OWN TOWN!
"SHOE REPAIRS THAT LAST"

A. WOTHERSPOON
HAVELOCK NORTH

APPOINTMENT OF MR PAIKEA COMMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

CAUCUS CHOICE Difficulties Of The Selection

By Telegraph-Press Association. WELLINGTON, Dec. 18.

The selection by this week's caucus of the Parliamentary Labour Party of a representative of the Maori race on the Executive Council was referred to tonight by the Prime Minister (the Hon. P. Fraser).

He stated that the caucus had very great difficulty in deciding between Mr P. K. Paikea (Northern Maori) and Mr E. T. Tirikatene (Southern Maori).

While Mr Paikea represented by far the larger number of Maoris, Mr Tirikatene had longer Parliamentary experience.

Shipping At The Port Of Napier

PHASES OF THE MOON.

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XMAS GIFT SUGGESTIONS

FOR HER:

STOCKINGS: Always popular. In every wanted toning.

From 5/8 to 11/6

HANDBAGS: To suit all.

From 25/-

Scarves, Bathing Costumes, Boxed Stationery, Toilet Sets, Slippers, Handkerchiefs, etc., etc., at prices to suit all pockets.

FOR HIM:

FANCY HOSE: In all colourings. Wool, silk, or cotton.

2/6 to 5/6

TIES: A huge assortment to choose from.

1/- to 5/6

SHIRTS: All sizes, all colours.

5/11 to 17/6

Sports Shirts, Coats, Trousers, Hats, Tennis Shoes, Scarves, etc., etc.

Come In and Choose Early!

ROBERT MAGILL

North Clyde (Wairoa) & Napier

LOOK your BEST for the CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS!

DO NOT LEAVE YOUR DRY CLEANING TILL THE LAST MINUTE... Look over your wardrobe to-day and bring in that SUIT, FROCK, COSTUME or 'phone us and we will call and collect.

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NAPIER Phone 3960. HASTINGS Phone 4270.

MEN'S FUR FELT HATS 15/6

Colours: Blue, Brown, Grey, Fawn, Green.

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Corner Emerson & Dalton Sts., Napier.

SOME HOLIDAY CARS

PLYMOUTH "6" SEDAN: A late model which has done only 26,000 miles. £225

MORRIS "8" SALOON: A recent 2 door model in first class order and priced right.

DODGE "6" SEDAN: Repainted and new tyres. An ideal cheap and roomy car at Only £100

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THOMPSON MOTORS LIMITED

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ALL WINES FULLY MATURED.

PORT: 38/- per case of 12 bottles. MADEIRA (Sweet Sherry): 45/- per case.

SHERRY (dry): 45/- per case. Assorted Cases made up as required. DRAUGHT PORT: 28/- per 2 gallons. Cartage Extra.

10/- deposit on jars if supplied. Cased Wines (i.e. any station in H.B. All Prices Include Sales Tax.

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Makers of the Vulcan Log-hauler, Concrete Mixers, Strong-room Doors, Motor Pistons We are noted for Aluminium Castings, Iron and Brass Castings, Electric and Oxy-Acetylene Welding, Bridge Ironwork. All Foundry Supplies are stocked by us. You will find us in...

HASTINGS STREET, NAPIER.

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CHRISTIE'S Furnishings

Hawke's Bay Daily Mail Your Own Morning Paper

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1940.

DEMOCRACY IN THE FUTURE

There was a time when to criticise an established system of government was to be branded as a revolutionary. This was several degrees worse than being branded as a radical, and it savoured very much of the term "socialist" which caused so many nightmares in Victorian days.

Those days have gone, and it was not very long ago that a leader of the British Conservative Party said that of course he was a socialist—to the extent that every decent man and woman was a socialist. This statement did not cause any earthquake in politics, simply because thinking people to-day recognise the necessity for a continuous and sanely-planned improvement in the social system.

To-day the "Daily Mail" publishes an article by Mr J. B. Priestley in which the writer analyses the problems which will face British Democracy after the war. The underlying argument of Mr Priestley's review is simple: Democracy must either move ahead or it will slip back into some form of reactionary Fascism.

There is a tendency at the present time to attempt to defy Democracy as part of an effort to combat the widespread appeal of totalitarianism for people who sincerely believe that Democracy has outlived its usefulness. But, as Mr Priestley points out, it is a question whether the principle of true Democracy has yet been put into practice. Nominally, Great Britain has been a democracy for generations, and yet Mr Priestley says:

For nearly 10 years before the war, Britain was being run by a small plutocratic Tory clique which produced one of the worst governments this country ever has known. Our entrance into the war soon proved that this ruling class was no longer capable of ruling efficiently... We did not begin to fight the war properly until the base of government was broadened. But it is still not nearly broad enough. This is recognised by everybody except the small, but influential, group of persons who put their own privileges before anything else.

If Mr Priestley's argument is sound, it explains a good many things, including the futile bungling of British foreign policy which was partly responsible for the present conflict. There is no question that if Great Britain had not vacillated between idealistic pacifism and the diplomatic let-out of "taking a grave view" of matters and "deploring the actions" of the aggressive dictatorships, neither Germany nor Italy would have been in a position to destroy the peace of the world.

Looking back to the 10 years before 1939, it is difficult to find a single point of policy which did not have the effect of lowering British prestige. Sanctions were imposed on Italy during the Abyssinian War and then were dropped like a hot potato; non-intervention in Spain was proclaimed, but when Italy, Germany and Russia all took a hand in the game, and when British ships were being sunk wholesale by Italian submarines, nothing was done about it; France time and time again endeavoured to enlist British support in an effort to curb the insane expansionist policy of Nazi Germany, but no help was available until it was too late. And so the middle went on until the crowning triumph of diplomatic retreat—the Munich Agreement—was reached. The agreement had only one merit: it staved off for a year the war made inevitable by disastrous muddling.

It is plain enough that little of the blame for this tragic history can be laid at the door of the British people. Throughout the period public opinion was well ahead of the Government's foreign policy, and the attitude of British Democracy was only once able to express itself—when it gave overwhelming support to the National Government in an election fought on the issue of a firm hand in the Mediterranean. But once the Government was returned it forgot all about the firm hand, and British Democracy had no choice but to submit to a continuation of the international mess.

And now the whole state of mind of the British people has been changed by war. It is useless to pretend that the nation, which entered the conflict with a grim determination untinged by jingoistic hysteria, is going to be satisfied with catch-phrases like "making a land fit for heroes to return to." The people are prepared to toil and suffer and to rise to heights of heroic sacrifice which no other nation on earth could hope to attain, but at the same time they are not prepared, once the war is won, to sit back under the old policy of drift.

Thus far Mr Priestley's argument is sound: British Democracy must move forward. It must discard the pathetic futilities illustrated by the most famous instance of misplaced bureaucratic authority—the Ministry of Information. It must concentrate on the building of a new and greater Britain and a British Empire which will embody the finest British traditions and will provide "fit habitations for an indomitable free people."

Personal

Mr G. L. Jamieson, Waipukurau, is on a visit to Napier.

Mr J. Wylie has left Waipawa on the first stage of his journey to England, where he will go into training for the Fleet Air Arm. He was met by a number of townspeople and presented with gifts from the citizens and the Patriotic Committee.

Mr D. M. McIntosh left Hastings yesterday on a visit to New Plymouth.

Mr W. Sealy-Wood, Havelock North, has received notice that he has completed his M.B. Ch.B. Dr. W. Sealy-Wood will take up an appointment in the Auckland Hospital at the beginning of 1941.

Fireman R. Colwill, Hastings, has been called up for overseas service. At yesterday's meeting of the Hastings Fire Board the chairman (Mr G. A. Maddison) extended to him congratulations and best wishes.

Mr J. M. Gill was welcomed as the new Government member succeeding the late Mr A. Jones at yesterday's meeting of the Hastings Fire Board. He was sure that Mr Gill would be of great assistance in the administration of Fire Board affairs at Hastings, said the chairman (Mr G. A. Maddison).

Mr H. R. H. Chalmers, general manager of the Bank of New Zealand, has been elected chairman of the associated banks for 1941 in succession to Mr P. R. M. Hanna, whose term expires on December 31.—Press Association.

AT THE HOTELS

Mr J. D. S. Miller, Mr David Jones, Mr C. Robertson, Miss M. Deverell (Wellington), Mr and Mrs A. G. Wallace, Mrs G. H. Graham (Waverley), Mrs F. D. Martin (Matapiro) are at the Grand Hotel, Hastings.

Mr and Mrs D. St. Clair Brown, Mrs J. D. Williamson, Mrs E. C. Beale (Auckland), Miss Stella Morice, Mr J. A. King (Wellington), Mrs M. Hamilton (Bournemouth), Mrs A. Burgess (New Plymouth), Mr and Mrs C. Handley (Palmerston North), Mr and Mrs H. White (Porangahau), Mr and Mrs G. Ross Parsons (Halifax), Mr and Mrs H. White (Waipawa), Mr R. P. W. Barker, Mr C. A. Wackley, Mr C. J. Hyland, Mr A. W. Reid, Mr H. W. Barker, Mr H. Allen, Mr F. Calcott (Gisborne) are at the Masonic Hotel, Napier.

Mr H. C. Piested, Mr G. C. House, Mr W. H. Edwards, Mr F. Payne, Mr D. O'Rourke, Mr C. McLean, Mr Lock, Mr Walton, Mr D. Bevin (Napier), Mr A. Pierard (Wellington), Dr Davis (Gisborne) are staying at the Clyde Hotel.

Miss Bascand (Gisborne), Mr Virtue, Mr Barber (Christchurch), Mr Irving (Auckland), Mr Collinge (Dunedin), Mr Jackson (Napier), Mr Walton (Dargaville), Miss Spence (Haukuru) are guests at the Wairoa Hotel.

AIR FORCE AND ARMY CASUALTIES

Official Announcement Wellington, Dec. 18.

The following official casualties were announced to-night: Flying Officer Samuel James Millen, D.F.C., missing on air operations. His father is Mr S. G. A. Millen, 18 Peakes Road, St. John's Hill, Wanganui.

Sergeant John Frederick Coombs, R.N.Z.A.F., missing on operations. His wife is Mrs J. F. Coombs, 155 Queen's Drive, Lyall Bay, Wellington.

Pilot Officer Neil Anzao Svensen, missing on air operations. His mother is Mrs N. P. Svensen, 111 Gonville Avenue, Wanganui.

The "Daily Mail" acknowledges the receipt of the season's greetings from the Post and Telegraph Department message boys, whose good wishes are heartily reciprocated.

MAIL NOTICES

POST OFFICE, HASTINGS (Napier Mails close approximately one hour earlier than Hastings).

OUTWARD OVERSEAS MAILS. CHRISTMAS MAILS. Australia, mid-December. Early posting is recommended in view of the uncertainty of transit time.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18. Australian States and countries via Australia. Mails close 6 p.m.; parcels 4 p.m.

Other overseas mails will be dispatched as opportunity offers.

TRANS-TASMAN AIR MAIL TO AUSTRALIA. Mails close at Hastings three times each fortnight 4 p.m.

TRANS-PACIFIC AIR MAIL. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20. Trans-Pacific Air Mail—Postage rates—Letters: Hawaii, 2/6 each 10z. United States of America and Canada (including air in America), 4/- each 10z. Great Britain 5/9 each 10z. Mails close 4 p.m. For further particulars apply to Post Office.

INLAND MAILS. Napier, Monday to Friday, 8 a.m., 11 a.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m. Saturday, 6 a.m., 11 a.m., 4 p.m. Gisborne District, 4 p.m. Wairoa, 6.30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Auckland, Mt. Cook and Waikato districts, 8.5 a.m. and (letters only), 4 p.m. Saturdays only, 1.15 p.m. (letters only). Manawatu, Waipara, Dannevirke and Tararua Districts, 8.5 a.m., 4 p.m. and Monday to Friday, letters only, 6 p.m. Wellington, 8.5 a.m., 4 p.m. Monday to Friday (letters only), 6 p.m. Saturday only 1.15 p.m. Waipawa, 8.5 a.m. and 4 p.m. Waipukurau and south of Waipukurau, Monday to Friday, 8.5 a.m., 4 p.m. Saturday, 8.5 a.m. Otane, Monday to Friday, 6.30 a.m., 4 p.m. Saturday, 6.30 a.m. Opapa, Poukawa, Paki Paki and Pukehou, 6.30 a.m.

AIR MAIL INLAND. Blenheim, Nelson, Westport, Grey-mouth and Hokitika, Monday to Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 4 p.m. Auckland and New Plymouth, Monday to Friday, 6 p.m. Christchurch, Oamaru, Dunedin and Invercargill, Monday to Thursday, 6 p.m. Saturday, 4 p.m. L. A. BURNS, Postmaster.

LOCAL AND GENERAL

Injured Foot

Mr William Keast, 102 Grey's Road, Hastings, had his toe badly injured when a lead pipe fell on his foot at the gas works.

"All are Paid"

Reference to services given gratuitously to the community by the St. John Ambulance was made by the acting-chairman of the Hastings sub-division (Mr J. F. Jones) at the annual inspection parade last night. Speaking of the medical boards for the examination of recruits he said laughingly: "The recruits are paid, the doctors are paid; the Army officers are paid; everyone is paid except St. John Ambulance men."

Winner of £12,000

Mr Walter Russell, greenkeeper of the Duneid Bowling Club, received a Christmas "box" at the week-end that will relieve him of all financial worry for the rest of his life. It was a letter from the Registrar of Totteralls, notifying him that he had won first prize of £12,000 in a recent consultation. Mr Russell, who is 64 years of age, does not expect to obtain his money until early in the New Year, but already he has made tentative plans, the most important being a decision to invest the greater portion of his winnings in something that will return him a steady income.

Motor Vehicles Imported

Motor vehicles imported during the 10 months ended October 31 of this year numbered 6135, or less than one-third of those imported for the corresponding months of last year—namely 24,907. The value of the imports for this year's period was £983,878, compared with £4,102,661 for the 10 months of 1939, showing the "slashing" effects of import restrictions. Motor-cycles imported were 322 in number, compared with 887 for the 1939 period, and the value of these imports for this year so far as it has gone is £19,685, compared with £47,703 for the 10 months in 1939.

Despicable Swindle

A recrudescence of a form of swindling which flourished during the last war is indicated apparently by an incident which gave the parents of a Gisborne soldier now serving in Egypt an uncomfortable 48 hours. The mother of the soldier received from Egypt a cable appeal for the urgent dispatch of £25, the cablegram bearing the name of her soldier son. The amount asked for aroused her suspicions, as the woman was aware that her son stances not to make such an appeal without some extraordinary cause. In consequence, she cabled to her son stating that she was puzzled by the request, and naming the amount stated in the cablegram received by her. Promptly came the reply from her son: "Do not send money." The Egyptian address from which this message was dispatched did not coincide with the dispatch point of the message, and it seems obvious that an unauthorised person has used the Gisborne soldier's name in an effort to swindle his parents.

Letters To The Editor

Letters to the Editor must be written on one side of the paper only, and in ink. The correspondent's name and residential address must be given even if the letter is to be published anonymously.

Street Parking In Hastings

Sir,—In your issue of to-day which sets out the opinions of several persons on the above subject, one man says that the reservations in front of picture theatres are to allow a quick exit in case of "fire or other emergency."

I don't know what he means by "other emergency," but the case for fire seems quite reasonable. If that is so, why should it not apply to hotels? People may have valuable belongings to save as well as their lives, which they invariably attempt to salvage.

Does the gentleman mean that if a fire occurs when the hotels are full of people it does not matter whether they get burned or not? I am, etc., AN UNLOOKER. Hastings, December 18.

Breakfast Table

"Have you any references?" inquired the lady of the house. "Yes, mum, lots of 'em," answered the prospective maid. "Then why did you not bring them with you?" "Well, mum, to tell the truth, they're just like my photographs. None of them do me justice."

We bow our head in humble respect: The hen still produces the best package-product, use and convenience considered.

Mrs A: "I thought you knew her. She lives in the same square as you."

Mrs B: "Perhaps! But she doesn't move in the same circle."

Bride-to-be: "I hope we don't get any duplicate wedding presents."

Groom-to-be: "Oh, I don't know. My dad's promised us a cheque for 5000 dollars and I wouldn't mind getting a duplicate from my father."

An American's advice to after-dinner speakers: "If you don't strike oil in the first two minutes, you'd better stop boring."

What will you wear during the Xmas holidays? Do you need a new hat or the faces of the models and sports coats for the beach? Parkers offer many suggestions, and a visit to their interesting shop would be well worth your while.

HAWKE'S BAY WEATHER

"DAILY MAIL'S" SPECIAL FORECAST IS FOR FINE MILD WEATHER

The "Daily Mail's" special forecast is as follows:— Winds: Moderate south-west to west winds. Weather: Fair to fine and mild. Seas: Slight.

HASTINGS WEATHER

Meteorological readings taken yesterday at 5 p.m. at the Hastings Magnetic Observatory, Cornwall Park, were as follows:—

Table with 2 columns: Reading, Value

NAPIER WEATHER

Meteorological readings taken yesterday at 5.30 p.m. at Napier by the Government recorder (Miss G. Hutton) are as follows:—

Table with 2 columns: Reading, Value

Collecting Shrapnel

Children still in the cities of Britain now greet each other on the way to school with, "How much shrapnel have you got?" says a British seaman recently arrived in Auckland. At night while a raid was in progress and ring of falling shrapnel is practically continuous. Next morning the children go forth and collect the pieces which litter the streets and rush off with them to the city hall, where the waste metal headquarters are in this way they feel that they, too, are helping in the struggle.

Slogans from Britain

"This is one that Hitler did not go in for is the legend painted in bold characters on a case which is part of a shipment recently discharged at Dunedin from a British vessel. Most of the packages arriving from England bear the standard line "Britain delivers the goods," stencilled on them, but others are embellished with more original and more pointed slogans. "Where is Germany's blockade?" is the derisive question case bears, while others have "This will show the southern part of the North Island but it is rapidly losing intensity."

Forecast.—Winds: Westerly to south-westerly predominating, fresh at first in exposed positions but decreasing and otherwise moderate. Seas.—New Zealand waters: Slight to moderate. Eastern Tasman Sea: Moderate south-westerly winds and moderate seas. Weather: becoming fair to fine in most districts with mild temperatures.

Today's Diary

Only Five More Shopping Days to Christmas. HASTINGS

The Theatres: "Dust Be My Destiny" and "Torchy Blane in Chinatown," Cosy 2.0 and 7.45 p.m. "Gunner George," Regent, 2.15 and 8 p.m. "Cross Country Romance," State, 2.15 and 8 p.m.

NAPIER

Annual Meeting Napier Branch of the National Party, Borough Chambers, 8 p.m.

The Theatres: "We Are Not Alone," Regent, 2 and 8 p.m. "Millionaires in Prison," and "Cur-tain Call," State, 2 and 8 p.m. "Tropic Holiday," and "Stolen Heaven," Mayfair, 2 and 7.45 p.m.

Home Guard Presentation

In recognition of his services as a temporary instructor, Sergeant-Major Gully, of the Napier Company of the National Military Reserve (Class 2), was the recipient of a presentation at last night's parade of the Second Battalion of the Napier Home Guard.

WESTERMAN'S SUGGEST...

Choosing Gifts for men is a problem, but here at Westerman's we have literally hundreds of gift suggestions which will be bound to please. The good news is that we have many gifts for men!

WIDE END TIES—Latest styles and newest patterns. In Silks, Cashmere and Marcellines. Prices: 2/6, 3/6, 4/6, 5/6.

WIDE END TIES and HAND-KEPT HATS—To match. Done up in boxes. A wonderful choice and a delightful gift. Prices: 4/11, 5/6, 7/6, 8/6, 9/6.

MEN'S SMART PYJAMA SUITS—Stripes, checks and two-tone styles. Prices: 10/6, 12/6, 15/6, 21/-, 25/6.

MEN'S FUSED COLLAR COAT SHIRTS—In all the newest creations. Smart designs and pleasing colours. Prices: 7/6, 9/6, 10/6, 12/6, 15/6 and 18/6.

MEN'S NEGLIGE SHIRTS—With 2 or three collars to match. New tonings, new stripes. A selection of the best English materials. Prices: 7/6, 10/6, 12/6, 15/6.

SPORTS SHIRTS—With laced fronts in a cool summer material. Well cut and nicely finished. Price: 10/6.

MEN'S SMART SOCKS—Fancy and plain. Ribbed and plain designs. Sizes 10in. to 12in. Prices: 2/6, 2/11, 3/6, 3/11, 4/6, 4/11, 5/6, 5/11, 6/6.

BOYS' SPORTS SHIRTS—In White and Canary, open fronts with strap and button fastener. Prices: 5/6, 5/11 and 6/6.

MEN'S BATHING SHORTS—New rope and plain knits. Also fancy knits. In Blue, Maroon, Saxe, Black, White and Grey. Prices: 8/6, 10/6, 12/6 and 15/6.

COUNTER ATTACKS FAIL TO STEM GREEK ADVANCE

Italians Skim Cream Of The Army In Useless Attempt To Fight Back

(United Press Association—Copyright.) (Received December 18, 11.15 p.m.)

LONDON, Dec. 17.

After 50 days of war the Greeks are everywhere... The battle in the Tepelini region is passing through a particularly fierce phase, the Italians making a last desperate effort, but the Greeks are holding a number of most useful strategic points.

Several Italian units have been dispersed in the Pogradec sector, the importance of which is indicated by the strength of the reinforcements which both sides are bringing up.

Blizzard conditions have practically brought operations in the Devoli Valley to a standstill.

"The Times" Athens correspondent says: "Despite bad flying weather the Italians are forcing their aircraft into action on certain sectors to maintain the ebbing morale of the troops, but the results are negligible. The general position is that the Italians everywhere are slowly but surely withdrawing. They unsuccessfully endeavored to protract operations until the spring by transforming the

COASTLIGHTS MAY GO OUT

By Telegraph—Press Association. WELLINGTON, Dec. 18.

A notice to mariners was issued to-day advising that at any time, without further notice, all lights on the New Zealand coast are liable to be extinguished or altered, and fog signals discontinued.

war of movement to trench fighting. The Modena division was thrown into the fighting on the central front and another Alpine division further left. The latter seven times vainly attempted to recapture Mount Skovovic.

"A Greek observer declares that the Italian leaders have subjected their men to useless slaughter to justify the subsequent retreat. A similar fate was suffered by the specially chosen counter-attacking force in the Drynos River area, where the Modena division retired after heavy losses, leaving 200 prisoners, including a senior officer."

Elite Troops Used The "Daily Telegraph" Athens correspondent says: "The Italians' increasing use of elite troops is most significant. This skimming of the cream of the army represents living on capital in a military sense and is calculated to lower the army's morale."

Greek planes to-day blew up a large ammunition dump on the northern front and killed a large number of Italians massed nearby. The Greek War Ministry has issued a communique stating that fires have been observed at Klisura, (north of Argirokastro) on which the Greeks are advancing and inflicting heavy losses on the Italians.

Heavy Losses "The enemy has been obliged to retreat with heavy losses under pressure from our troops towards Klisura, where the fires were noticed," says the communique. "On the other fronts the fighting continues successfully. We have captured many prisoners, among whom was one lieutenant-colonel, and much wounded equipment."

All fortified positions on both sides of the Dinos River descended to Tepelini are now held by the Greeks. The Italians have withdrawn to new positions on the heights on both sides of Tepelini.

Italians 75's are keeping the road to Argirokastro under continuous fire. The recent blizzards have thrown up natural barriers on the north-western front, snow two metres deep blocking the roads and filling the ravines.

Indications that the Italians had recaptured Port Palermo were given when the official Greek spokesman to-night denied that it was now in Greek hands. "The Greeks again have the gulf port of Palermo under artillery fire," he said.

"Would Like To Help" —BUT CANNOT

Centennial Exhibition Shareholders

GOVERNMENT VIEW

By Telegraph—Press Association. WELLINGTON, Dec. 18.

A decision voluntarily to wind up the New Zealand Centennial Exhibition Co. Ltd., was reached at the fourth ordinary general meeting of shareholders to-day.

The chairman of directors (Mr. T. C. A. Hislop) said he could see no monetary return for the shareholders. A letter was read from the Hon. W. Nash stating that the Government would like to help the smaller shareholders by making them some return of capital, but further consideration had shown that this proposal was fraught with difficulties and anomalies which it did not appear possible to avoid.

Mr. L. C. Fergie, secretary of the company, was appointed liquidator and the directors were authorised to continue to act in negotiations with the Government for taking over the assets.

Wild Boars And Wolves

DANGER TO GREEKS

Intense Cold Experienced In Albania

WOUNDED SUFFER

By Telegraph—Press Association. (Received December 18, 10.45 p.m.) ATHENS, Dec. 17.

The shortage of blankets and woollens is seriously hampering the Greeks.

The terrific cold has driven wild boars and wolves from the hills and wounded soldiers are obliged to lie on stretchers in snowheaps for hours covered with a single blanket.

The Greek advance is very fast and there is no time to care for them.

HEAVY DAMAGE AT SMALL COST

Air Force's Bag In The Desert

United Press Association—Copyright. (Received December 18, 10.15 p.m.) LONDON, Dec. 17.

"The Times" Cairo correspondent says that the British and Australian Air Forces' total bag since the operations began in the Western Desert is now 122, compared with 13 or 14 last.

The actual total bag is considerably higher in view of the great number put out of action on the ground.

Orari Reported Safe

NOW IN PORT

Torpedoing Story Refuted

ALL ABOARD WELL

By Telegraph—Press Association. WELLINGTON, Dec. 18.

The Prime Minister (the Rt. Hon. P. Fraser) announced that the New Zealand Shipping Co.'s vessel, Orari, which was reported on Saturday to have been torpedoed, has arrived at a British port. There are no casualties and all on board are safe and well.

The American Mackay Radio Station reported that the Orari (11,000 tons) was torpedoed on Friday afternoon in the Atlantic, and this was followed by a German claim that the ship had been torpedoed in the East Atlantic.

Yacht Smashed On Island

YOUNG MAN MISSING

Wellington Harbour Discovery

FURTHER SEARCH

By Telegraph—Press Association. WELLINGTON, Dec. 18.

The fourteen-foot yacht Lupi, belonging to F. Weston, Elizabeth Street, in which T. J. B. Osborn, single, 29, went cruising in Wellington Harbour on Monday and failed to return, was found smashed to matchwood this afternoon on the eastern side of Ward Island, Eastbourne.

The island police said to-night that a sail had been tied to the mast. Apparently Osborn had tried to row the yacht, but it was awkward to row.

No sign was seen of a cruising yachtman. A further search of the island would be made to-morrow by the police.

WODEHOUSE KEEPS ON WRITING

Interned By Germans, But Quite Happy

United Press Association—Copyright. (Received December 18, 6 p.m.) LONDON, Dec. 17.

The English humorist, P. G. Wodehouse, has spent his time in a German concentration camp writing 20,000 words for a new book. He said in a letter to a friend in Geneva, adding that he was quite happy.

Mr Wodehouse and his wife were captured at Le Touquet last June.



ITALIAN DEFEAT.—The Italians' headlong retreat out of Egypt to Libya can be traced on this map of the Western Desert area. Following the fall of Sollum and the Italians' desperate climb up Hell Fire Corner, the Army of the Nile is now concentrating its attack on Bardia. Sidi Omar and Fort Capuzzo, south of Bardia, have both fallen to the Empire troops, assisting in the encircling of the present main point of attack. Tobruk and Derma are the two other strongholds of the Italians. The British are at present attempting to sever communications between Bardia and Tobruk but their success is not yet announced.

NATIONAL PARTY CANDIDATES

GENERAL ELECTION SELECTION

END OF MARCH

Announcement Made At Auckland

By Telegraph—Press Association. AUCKLAND, Dec. 18.

The announcement that by the end of March next year all the National Party candidates for the general election would be selected, was made by Mr G. M. Smith, chairman of the Auckland Division of the Party at a meeting of members and supporters which was addressed by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr S. G. Holland) to-night.

"THERE'LL ALWAYS BE AN ENGLAND"

Famous Song

REFERENCE BY HIS MAJESTY

Simple Theme

Two British song writers entered a musician's Seventh Heaven when his Majesty the King referred to their now famous song, "There'll Always be an England," in a solemn message to his people. The following is condensed from A. W. O'Brien's recent article on the song in the "Montreal Standard."

It took a second World War to give teeth to such verses as these:—

"There'll always be an England While there's a country lane, Wherever there's a cottage small Beside a field of grain, There'll always be an England, And England shall be free, If England means as much to you As England means to me."

In March, 1939, two hard-working song-writers of the Irwin Dash Company, London, England, wrote a number they entitled, "There'll Always Be an England." Their names are Ross Parker and Hughie Charles.

A Little Too Much Staid old England thought it was a little too much in the "Rule Britannia" category. All this business about happy little cottages in rural settings and the Empire's championing of freedom—sort of seemed a bit thick, don't you know? The English gave it an indifferent reception. Then came September 3, 1939, and all this business about freedom and the Empire that seemed a little thick a short time previously became a short something in dire peril. In a thousand music shops the Forgotten Song, with its background of marching feet and its thundering rhythm and its references to cottages and small farms and England means to "you" came off the shelves. The humming of it spread like wildfire in the nation rushing to prepare for a fight for life.

By mid-November "There'll Always Be an England" had totalled sales in England of 200,000. And, overnight, the Empire wanted to know more about this song-producing team of Parker and Ross.

Ross Parker, the man who supplied the words, is only 25 and has since joined the British army, where he is marching to the tune of his own song. His real name is Michael Ross. He is a native of Manchester. Ross is a singer and a piano player. His work first came to the attention of the music world when he wrote "The Girl in the Alice Blue Gown."

Hughie Charles is 33 years old and is manager of the professional department of the Irwin Dash Music Company. He is a piano player, married, and has two sons. He, too, is a native of Manchester, where he was leading a small orchestra before fame hunted him down.

Huge Orders The head of the Toronto firm of music publishers having the Canadian rights for the song report that the Canadian reception to "There'll Always Be an England" is a record for recent years. The sale is reported to be well over 60,000 and orders are still coming in briskly. (New Zealand sales are quoted at 12,000). The song is catching on with the Americans.

Due to the timeliness and link with England's time of peril, the song is receiving an unusual volume of patriotic publicity. Automobiles may be seen on every street around Montreal bearing stickers on which are printed, in natural colours, a British flag and the words in red, "There'll Always Be an England."

Woman's Bravery Rewarded

AIR RAID WORKER

Courage And Coolness In Danger

INJURED ASSISTED

British Official Wireless. (Received December 18, 6 p.m.) RUGBY, Dec. 17.

A list of officers and other ranks of the R.A.F. to whom awards have been made for gallant conduct during air-raids contains the name of Corporal Josephine Robins, a member of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force. She is described as displaying "courage and coolness of a very high order in a position of extreme danger."

Corporal Robins was in a dug-out which received a direct hit during an intense enemy bombing. A number of men were killed and two seriously injured. Though dust and fumes filled the shelter, she immediately went to the assistance of the wounded and rendered first aid, staying with them until they were taken away.

The posthumous award of the George Cross to Squadron-Leader Eric Moxey was announced to-day.

In August last, Squadron-Leader Moxey, who was a Flying-Officer observer in the last war, was a technical intelligence officer at the Air Ministry, and he volunteered to remove two unexploded bombs embedded in an aerodrome. From the nature of his duties, Squadron-Leader Moxey was fully aware of the risks and danger of the operations. One of the bombs exploded, causing his death.

DEATH SENTENCE FOR TREACHERY

Irishwoman's Offence

PLANS OF PROHIBITED PLACES

Telephone Wire Cut

United Press Association—Copyright. (Received December 18, 6.0 p.m.) LONDON, Dec. 17.

Mr Justice MacNaughten, at the Hampshire Assizes, sentenced to death Dorothy Pamela O'Grady, aged 42, described as a housewife, and "The Duchess of Downing" under the Treachery Act, and the Defence Regulations.

The case was heard in camera. O'Grady was found guilty of making a plan of the Isle of Wight, to assist the military operations of the enemy, and also of cutting a military telephone wire with the object of impeding the military operations of his Majesty's forces. She was also found guilty of approaching a prohibited place, with a view to the commission of an offence, and of possessing a document containing information purporting to reveal defence measures.

Mr Justice MacNaughten said: "On the evidence, which admits of no doubt, the jury has returned a verdict of guilty of treachery, for which the law prescribes but one sentence."

O'Grady heard the sentence un-moved.

LLOYD GEORGE MAY BE AMBASSADOR

Significant Visit Paid To Downing Street

United Press Association—Copyright. (Received December 18, 6 p.m.) LONDON, Dec. 17.

There are persistent reports that the Government has asked Mr Lloyd George, who was Prime Minister of Britain during the last war, to become the new Ambassador to Washington. He called on the Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill, Downing Street to-day, and remained for some time.

BOY ACCIDENTALLY KILLED

By Telegraph—Press Association. WANGANUI, Dec. 18.

Andrew Gordon Martin, 11, No. 3 Line, Wanganui, was accidentally shot at his home this afternoon by a younger brother, Colin, aged 9.

It appears that the two brothers and another boy found a shotgun in the house and when the younger brother was handling it it went off, the charge penetrating the elder boy's back. Death was instantaneous.

NEW ZEALANDERS IN BATTLE

HEAVY FIGHTING NEAR BARDIA

LIGHT CASUALTIES

Transport And Guns Captured

United Press Association—Copyright. (Received December 18, 6 p.m.) LONDON, Dec. 17.

It is learned in London that both New Zealand and Australian troops have taken part in the victorious advance in Northern Africa, as well as an Indian division commanded by Major-General Beresford Peirse (says a British Official Wireless message).

It was announced in London to-night that Australian and New Zealand forces are in action in the heavy fighting that is proceeding across the Libyan border following the capture of Sollum and Fort Capuzzo.

This action has for its objective the capture of the port and base of Bardia. Reports of its capture are not confirmed, but the Ankara radio stated last night that the British advance forces were 20 miles past Bardia.

Battle By Moonlight The first official reference to the participation of Australian troops is contained in to-day's Cairo communique, which states: "Last night, Australian troops successfully engaged an enemy column by moonlight, capturing transport and guns."

The Prime Minister of Australia (the Rt. Hon. R. G. Menzies), who is at present in Adelaide, announced to-day that he had received a special dispatch from the Commander-in-Chief of the British forces (General Sir Archibald Wavell) that Australian troops had been in action against the Italians in the Middle East.

Major Henry Ren, of the Royal Tank Corps, a former outstanding Rugby International, died of wounds in Egypt.

Few Losses The British Government spokesman said to-day that the latest reports from the Western Desert indicate that the British losses were infinitesimal when compared with the results.

"It would appear," he said, "that the chief difficulties are now the weather and the difficulties of bringing up supplies. The moral effect of the victory will be tremendous throughout the world, and especially in the Middle East, while the threat to Egypt has been removed."

Military circles deprecate speculation as to further advances in the near future. They point out that the attacking force is now 150 miles from its railhead. Although Sollum is a small harbour with deep water, and big ships can approach within half a mile of land, it is at present very near the scene of the fighting and so exposed to air attacks as to make its use in a large way at present impracticable.

SWISS WILL CLAIM COMPENSATION

Bombing Of Basle

BRITISH RAIDERS BLAMED

United Press Association—Copyright. (Received December 18, 6 p.m.) BASLE, Dec. 17.

A woman was killed and several injured at Basle and two women were killed and one child injured in the suburb of Binningen last night when unidentified planes dropped 16 bombs, damaging the central station and a number of houses.

After these bombs had been dropped on Swiss territory, anti-aircraft guns on the German side of the border opened up. It is believed that a large squadron of planes was over German territory, from which one plane strayed over Switzerland.

The Basle correspondent of the British Associated Press reports that about 16 bombs fell. One hit the central station and another the adjoining square, damaging a number of houses. There was a large squadron of planes over Germany at the time German aircraft runs on the frontier went violently into action.

The Swiss President, in a statement at a meeting of the Federal Council to-day, said that the "planes which bombed Basle were believed to have been British."

The council will demand compensation for the damage, which is considerable, immediately the identity of the planes is definitely established.

Twenty Women Trapped

HALL HIT BY BOMB

Lone Raider Startles Londoners

NOVEMBER CASUALTIES

United Press Association—Copyright. (Received December 18, 6 p.m.) LONDON, Dec. 17.

A bomb blast on Monday night in a West Midland town caused the roof of a hall to collapse, trapped 20 women under the debris, and killed a boy and a girl. A stick of bombs straddled a street, and a number of persons were injured.

Four bombs from a lone raider startled Londoners on Monday night. The first two landed on a crossroads, and blew a bus across a street, interlocking it with another. A third landed in a street and blew in the windows of shops and of a nurses' home. The fourth hit a public house, from which a number of people were taken to hospital.

Raiders bombed several towns in the Midlands, Liverpool, another north-west town, and northern and East Anglian towns. Incendiaries rained down and then high-explosives.

Raiders were over the north-west town for an hour. They lit a cinema, and a number of people were killed or injured.

The Ministry of Home Security announced to-day that 4588 persons were killed and 6202 sent to hospital in the United Kingdom in November as a result of air-raids. The figure comprised 2289 men, 1806 women, and 493 children killed, and 3493 men, 2251 women, and 458 children sent to hospital.

Not 'Socialisation Of Doctors'

MINISTER'S REPLY

Question At Issue Is Mode Of Payment

MR HOLLAND'S VIEW

By Telegraph—Press Association. WELLINGTON, Dec. 18.

The Minister of Health (the Hon. H. T. Armstrong) drew attention to a statement reported to have been made by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr S. G. Holland) to Wellington businessmen yesterday, to the effect that they should not look on while doctors were socialised. He was surprised, he said, that the Leader of the Opposition should make such a misleading and irrational statement, as no-one knew better than at all times it had been stated that there would be freedom of choice between doctor and patient, and that the main point at issue had been the willingness or otherwise of the profession to accept payment from the Social Security fund.

Not Acceptable The receipt of social security payments was not wholly unacceptable to the profession was clear from the success of the maternity benefits scheme, which had now operated for over 12 months in a manner completely satisfactory to both patient and medical men.

He noticed that Mr Holland talked about the rights of democracy. He would point out to him that the Social Security Act had not only received the approval of Parliament but was endorsed by the people at the last general election, so it was a piece of legislation for which democracy itself was responsible, and Mr Holland's speech could be interpreted as an appeal to lawlessness and force to flout the will of democracy.

Need For Unity The Leader of the Opposition had also stated that there had never been more need for unity than at the present time, but he failed to see how his reported remarks could be the slightest degree contributory to the unity which in these days was so necessary not only for the defence of the country, but for the provision of essential services to maintain the health of the civil population, upon whom the success of New Zealand's war effort ultimately depended.

BRITAIN LOOKS FORWARD TO THE NEW DEMOCRACY

Choice Lies Between Reaction And Progress, Says A Famous Writer

(By J. B. Priestley, in the "Christian Science Monitor")

During this war, or immediately after it, Britain either must achieve a new democracy or go Fascist. Why Fascist? Because if the forces of reaction can resist the demand for a new democracy, they will be compelled to use so many repressive measures that the result will be Fascism. There is, in my opinion, no alternative. We cannot stay long as we are. Either we drop back into reaction and repression or we go forward to achieve a new democratic order.

Nearly all persons who think at all about these matters—and I could produce ample evidence to support this—are fighting this war not merely to defeat Adolf Hitler and his kind, but also to bring about this new democracy.

For nearly 10 years before the war, Britain was being run by a small plutocratic Tory clique which produced one of the worst governments this country ever has known. Our entrance into the war soon proved that this ruling class was no longer capable of ruling efficiently, more especially in the circumstances of this war. We did not begin to fight the war properly until the base of government was broadened. But it is still not nearly broad enough. This is recognised by everybody except the small, but influential groups of persons who put their own privileges before anything else.

People Want More Say I do not think for a moment that promises from on high of post-war reforms such as better housing, more employment, new opportunities for workers will satisfy the people of this country. They do not want more presents from the Government. They want to have more say in the political and economic affairs of the country. They want a wholesale reduction of privilege. It means a complete overhauling of civil service and the educational system.

The Social Pyramid We shall not have a better Britain until the complete social revolution, which already is taking place in the minds of the people, is put into effect. The social pyramid, the influence of which in political and economic affairs can hardly be exaggerated, has come crashing down. It already has received a bomb or two, and must sustain more damage if the war is to be fought successfully. But it must not be repaired again after the war. It must come down and be replaced by a very different social structure.

What we have had for years is a kind of masquerade in which government by financial, big business, and vested interests is disguised as a charming feudalism. The dark little industrial town is very ugly and depressing and hardly shows any signs of truly urban civilisation, but not too far away is a delightful old country mansion in its park-like grounds. So forget the town and concentrate on the mansion. That was Britain and we have had enough of it. Remember, it is the town that is delaying and defeating Herr Hitler, for it is the town that receives his bombs, that manufactures the Spitfires and Hurricanes.

Just as the people hurried themselves into a prodigious war effort, so they can hurl themselves into the task of building a great new Britain. When they can form a government that makes the test of every policy and action: "How does this benefit the people?" and not: "How does this benefit our important friends?" The full creative energies of whole classes, hitherto frustrated, will be released, with the result that what at one time would have been thought miracles of social reconstruction can be accomplished.

If this seems unduly optimistic, I would remind you that these very classes—natural scientific, professional, technical, skilled in all trades—are precisely those that are most necessary to the modern world. Set them to work, not for some privileged group but for their wives and daughters, sons and brothers, and out of the brave and successful, there can arise, as if by magic, great new cities, flat habitations for an indomitable free people.

U-BOATS BOMBED AT BORDEAUX

HEAVY R.A.F. RAID ON DOCKS

RAIDERS BOMBED AT BORDEAUX

HEAVY R.A.F. RAID ON DOCKS

FACTORIES ATTACKED

Big Fires Started At Mannheim

Desert Transport

Important Role In Offensive

RAPID ADVANCE

Desert Travel

Long and arduous hours have been filled in a different way throughout the offensive by the New Zealand Signals Company. This detachment, which has been operating with the Western Desert forces ever since Italy entered the war, helped to shoulder the big responsibility of establishing and maintaining communications in the rear of the advancing British troops.

LATE SPORTING

Imported Stallion Destroyed

GOLDEN EAGLE'S END

By Telegraph—Press Association. WANGANUI, Dec. 18.

The Fairway stallion Golden Eagle belonging to the Grange Stud, Westmere, and imported from England last September, had to be destroyed this evening because of a twisted bowel.

HEAVY DAMAGE TO TROOP TRAINS

RECRUITS "TREATED TOO LIBERALLY"

R.S.A. OPINION

Earlier Departure In The Day Suggested

The suggestion that the authorities might exercise better control over men on troop trains was made by the president of the Hastings Returned Soldiers' Association (Mr. P. J. Priest) at last night's reunion of the association.

He had been told that damage amounting to about £200 had been done to carriages of a train carrying men to Trentham, and he felt that this state of affairs should be ended as soon as possible, said Mr. Priest.

Earlier Departures

Mr. Priest expressed the opinion that the trouble was due, in many respects to the men being "treated too liberally" by their friends on the day of their departure. He suggested that if time-tables were rearranged so that trains left earlier in the day, the men would not have sufficient time to take too much liquor before they left. If the trains could leave Hawke's Bay earlier in the day the men would arrive at Trentham in daylight and not at midnight or early in the morning as had been the case in the past.

While he appreciated that the trains left Napier and Hastings fairly late through waiting for Gisborne men to arrive, he thought that this could be met by East Coast soldiers being billeted for a night at Napier, said Mr. Priest. Breaking their journey would be better for the men and at the same time would allow the train to leave earlier for Trentham.

"You cannot blame the young fellows," said Mr. Priest. "People who witnessed scenes at the Hastings Railway Station when a recent troop train left will appreciate what goes on."

Station Farewells

Discussing the proposal that some provision should be made at the railway station for friends of soldiers and their next-of-kin to have a good opportunity to farewell the men, Mr. Priest said that he could see no way of erecting a barricade on a narrow platform such as that at Hastings. Even if a barricade were erected, the need for tickets would be issued with tickets no good purpose would be served.

Although hundreds of people gathered at the station, Mr. Priest felt that they were not there out of curiosity, but were there to do their duty as citizens to the men. Most real farewells were made at places other than the railway station, said Mr. Priest.

Successful Evening

The Christmas re-union of the Hastings R.S.A. was very well attended and the evening was most successful. The full programme was augmented by the Hastings Orphans' Orchestra.

The following toasts were honoured: "The King," "The New Army," proposed by Mr. P. J. S. George, replied to by Lieutenant Silvester; "The National Military Reserve," proposed by the Rev. S. F. N. Waymouth, replied to by Major Earle; "The Home Guard," proposed by Major S. I. Jones, replied to by Mr. R. E. Hunt.

Brisk Business Reported

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

War Conditions Are Accepted

LITTLE GRUMBLING

Contrary to the predictions of prophets of gloom, the second wartime Christmas promises to excel its predecessors in every way, and buying in the Hawke's Bay centres goes on just as it did in the prosperous pre-war days.

The wise have taken advantage of the warm weather of the last few days and have been making the most of their opportunity to buy before they are caught in the inevitable rush early next week.

Now that the school holidays have begun, the shopping areas are daily besieged by children bent on spending the contents of their money boxes, and if the children cannot obtain the variety of goods that was offering in other years, they do not appear any the less delighted with their purchases.

A few of the adults show displeasure at being unable to secure some favourite article, but in most cases a substitute has been gladly accepted. There also appear to have a realisation that wartime must bring sacrifice, and little grumbling is to be heard.

Appreciation Of Seamen

ASSISTANCE GIVEN

Letter To Mayor Of Napier

PATRIOTIC FUND

Some time ago 14 members of the crew of a vessel sunk off the Australian coast called at Napier while returning to England on another ship.

The shipwrecked men were without ready money with which to purchase small necessities since the pay due to them could not be lifted until they reached England and made application to the Admiralty.

The men interviewed the Mayor of Napier (Mr. T. W. Hercock) and through patriotic funds a small sum of money was made available to each of them, an action which was much appreciated by the men.

A letter of thanks has now been received by Mr. Hercock from the sailors, who express pleasure at the hospitality accorded them so far from their native country.

FIRE AUXILIARY CORPS COSTING ABOUT £1000

Hastings Proposal Outlined By Superintendent Of Brigade

"To make this corps of real value will cost a considerable sum of money, and at present I estimate that £1000 will be required to outfit the auxiliary men for service," said the Hastings Fire Brigade superintendent (Mr. R. Henderson) in a report presented at yesterday's meeting of the Hastings Fire Board.

To carry out the scheme each corps would need a pump capable of supplying 80 to 100 gallons a minute, this being approximately the average flow from an artesian well of two-inch diameter, said Mr. Henderson. The hospital squad would need a larger pump, capable of dealing with 400 to 500 gallons a minute, as the racecourse lake could be used if required and also the baths at the Memorial Hospital.

In addition to the pumps, other gear would be necessary, such as a 20ft. extension ladder for each squad, bucket pumps, spanners, ropes and certain tools, continued the report. Each squad would need a separate lock-up place to stow gear in.

It was proposed to divide the members into five squads with a fireman from the brigade to act as foreman, said Mr. Henderson. One squad would consist of ex-firemen under ex-foreman J. Flynn, who was foreman under the board for several years. To this squad would be allotted the care of the emergency hospital on the racecourse, Royston Hospital, and the Memorial Hospital.

The other four squads would each have a quarter of the borough to protect, with the brigade covering the central and brick-area part of the town.

Salvage Corps

He was also preparing another squad, to be known as a salvage corps, said Mr. Henderson. Their work would be to remove any goods needed to be moved under orders of the superintendent of the brigade. The goods would be taken to some building where they would be carefully recorded and would not be removed before a receipt was given for the articles to be handed over.

Commenting on the report, the chairman of the board (Mr. G. A. Maddison) said that the formation of the auxiliary corps was a step forward in setting up an organisation under the Emergency Precautions Committee.

"I would like to congratulate the superintendent on this report. He has done a very fine job and Hastings should be proud of it," said Mr. M. Taylor. "It is only a beginning, but I feel that the 65 men who have volunteered will put their shoulders to the wheel and give of their best."

Mr. Henderson: They are very enthusiastic.

Mr. G. W. B. McCormick: Well, I hope they never have a job to do.

Conference Arranged

A letter was received from the New Zealand Fire Boards' Association stating that it was the intention of the emergency committee of the association to arrange a conference of superintendents and deputy-superintendents of brigades of the main centres and the secondary towns as soon as the Government's decision for the placing of fire reserves on a war footing was available for discussion.

The superintendents of the main centres had indicated that the formation of an association of superintendents was generally desired, said the letter. It was suggested, therefore, that the opportunity could be availed of at the proposed conference to consider fully the formation of such an association.

The board decided to defer further consideration of certain aspects of the Hastings auxiliary corps until after this conference.

Stocks Damaged By Fire

NAPIER OUTBREAK

Brigade Makes Good Save

BLAZE IN CUPBOARD

The Napier Fire Brigade received a call at 5.35 p.m. yesterday for an outbreak at Hellyer's store, at the corner of Carlyle and Craven Streets.

It was found that a fire had broken out in a cupboard beneath a staircase, and although the brigade had some difficulty in getting at the seat of the fire it was not long before it was under control.

The building, which is owned by Mr. J. P. Thomson, was not greatly damaged, but some of the stock was destroyed. It is understood that there was an adequate insurance cover.

Memoranda

On December 26, 27 and 28 the Hastings Lawn Tennis Club (Inc.) will hold a Christmas Patriotic Tournament. Entries will close on Saturday.

The Fernhill Patriotic Society will hold a dance in aid of funds at 8 o'clock to-night. Good music and supper will be supplied, and the Christmas competition will be drawn.

The annual general meeting of the Hawke's Bay Permanent Building Society (Inc.) will be held at the society's office, Tenison Street, Napier, this afternoon at 4.30 o'clock.

The attention of fruitgrowers is drawn to an announcement that the Minister of Marketing, (the Hon. W. Nash), will make over the air at 7 o'clock this evening regarding the fruit industry purchase price plan for the coming season.

Parcels Greatly Appreciated

MANY LETTERS

Suggestion From An Officer

DISH COVERS NEEDED

Letters of appreciation for parcels sent overseas are frequently received by patriotic workers in Hawke's Bay from men in the forces, but a notable letter was that received yesterday by the Mayor of Napier (Mr. T. W. Hercock) from an officer.

"Out in the desert the receipt of such gifts is a source of much pleasure. It is most encouraging, and is an incentive to all of us," he says.

"I would consider it a favour if you would pass on our appreciation to the persons responsible, and let them know they have much to be proud of in the New Zealand boys, who are making their contribution to the common cause under conditions that are certainly not ideal."

The writer suggests that small net dish covers should be included in future parcels, and says that these would assist in maintaining the health of the men. At the place where this company is stationed the flies are a menace.

Inquiries made in Napier yesterday revealed that the Napier Women's Patriotic Service Corps has already included a number of fly-proof covers in the articles sent overseas.

A Private Letter

A parcel recently sent included a card from "Four Little New Zealanders," with their Napier address mentioned. The other day the senders received a letter from a soldier stationed in Egypt.

"I would like to thank 'Four Little New Zealanders' for the care taken in putting up the parcel, and for their good wishes," he says. "The contents arrived in good condition and were very much appreciated, since they included goods that it is impossible to obtain out in the desert."

Needless to say, the senders were delighted to learn that their efforts have been so much appreciated.

Several False Alarms

NAPIER BRIGADE

Superintendent's Report To Fire Board

False fire alarms are still fairly frequent in Napier, according to the report of Superintendent W. G. Gilberd, which was presented to the quarterly meeting of the Napier Fire Board. Of the nine calls received by the brigade, there were only three actual fires. Two calls to chimney fires were received, and the remainder were false alarms.

Superintendent Gilberd reported that Foreman J. Spence had entered military camp and that Fireman P. Scullin and J. Swift were to enter the Air Force on Saturday. Fireman H. Johnson, of the Spit Brigade, had enlisted for home defence and was away in Wellington.

The board decided to procure the following honours for men of the Central Brigade, Napier: Foreman J. Spence, five years' silver medal; Fireman W. Terrill, two years' silver bar; Fireman E. Hawkins, three years' certificate.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CHILDREN

Matinee Performance Of "Aladdin" At Napier

All boys and girls are invited to the Municipal Theatre, Napier, on Saturday afternoon, when the pantomime "Aladdin" will be staged. They should not miss seeing "Aladdin" and the beautiful "Princess Violetta," the "Widow Twankey," the villain "Abanazer," the "Cat," "Slav of the Lamp," the "Spirit of the Cave" and "the Flight Commander," or the ballet, and all the fun and entertainment of the pantomime.

The Blind Club of Napier and children from the Kotemaui School, are to be the guests of the Frivets. At the conclusion of the pantomime, every child will receive a gift. The first part of the performance will be provided by the dancing pupils of the Frivets.

The performance starts at 2 o'clock, and admission charges are: Children 6d, adults 1/-.

BATHING BEAUTIES CONTEST

Entries Being Received At Napier

Several entries have already been received for the Bathing Beauty Contest to be held at Napier on Boxing Afternoon and Evening. In reply to an inquiry as to whether married ladies may take part, it may be mentioned that the first entry received was from a married lady. Competitors must wear bathing costume, high heeled shoes, and no head covering or wrap in the children's classes, no shoes need be worn.

A film is to be taken of Napier during the holiday season, and the Bathing Beauty Contest will be part of the production.

There is no entry fee for the contests, and in the ladies' class the first prize is £25, second £5 and twelve other prizes of £1 each.

Early application is necessary, as entries may be limited in the ladies' class owing to the film being taken. The children's contest will be held at 3 p.m. and the ladies at 5 p.m. Following these contests, the Ladies' Contest and the Marbles Championship will be held.

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE PARADE AT HASTINGS

Men's And Women's Divisions Inspected By District Superintendent

An indication of the keen interest taken in the St. John Ambulance at Hastings was given at the annual parade and inspection of men's and women's divisions and the cadet unit last night in the sub-division's new rooms in the Colonial Mutual Building.

The parade was inspected by District Superintendent R. S. Munro, Napier, and the units were addressed by the acting-chairman of the sub-division (Mr. J. F. Jones) District Superintendent Munro spoke highly of the turn-out and commended the sub-division on its rapid development.

"I must congratulate the sub-division and the centre on acquiring these very fine rooms," said Superintendent Munro, who would be the envy of any other unit in the district—I would go as far as to say in New Zealand. They are fine rooms for a fine brigade and the tradition of St. John Ambulance you are building up in Hastings."

"Your work and what you do concerns me and I have followed closely your work and progress," he continued. "I want you to continue what you are doing. What has been done in the past 12 months can be advanced even further."

Superintendent Munro inspected the St. John Ambulance work and spoke in praiseworthy terms of what they were achieving.

There was a good number of visitors at the parade, many of them young. In the course of his address Mr. Jones said that it was hoped greatly to increase the strength of the women's division at Hastings next year.

IMPORTANT PLACE IN COMMUNITY

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE ACTIVITIES

HUMANE WORK

Vital Need In Time Of Emergency

"We do not know what changes are likely to take place in the international situation or in the theatre of war, but we stand ready as an efficient organisation to alleviate human suffering," said District Superintendent R. S. Munro at the annual inspection parade of the Hastings St. John sub-division last night.

"In spite of the good work done in the past year, there is a much bigger year ahead of us," said the acting chairman of the Hastings sub-division (Mr. J. F. Jones) addressing the units on parade. "We look forward to having no fewer than 100 in the women's division but we will have about 28 in 'A.D.' uniform when we resume activities next year."

A Higher Plane

"The matron of the Memorial Hospital recently spoke in the highest terms of the work of you women but we wish to intensify it and bring it to a higher plane next year," continued Mr. Jones. "I know that it is difficult for many of you, but we are desperately anxious that it should be done. To-night I appeal to employers to subsidise those of you who are working hour for hour so that you may be released to go to the hospital for further training."

If employers would give the young women four hours a week which the employees could make up, it would be possible for them to complete their hospital training in two months, said Mr. Jones. He knew that if the position was fully explained to the employers they would be quite willing to assist in the movement.

Change of Heart

"We live in difficult times," said Mr. Jones, addressing new recruits, "but there is a part for all of us to play in the community. As we go about we hear people blaming systems and I believe what is wanted is not a change of systems, but a change of heart."

"We have responsible Ministers of the Crown warning us that we are in danger," continued Mr. Jones. "I think that is a challenge to all responsible citizens of the Dominion. What are they doing? And so I appeal for all who may to join our ranks, so that at least we may be ready."

Hours For Post Office

NAPIER BRANCH

Details Of Holiday Service

The following hours will be observed by the Napier branch of the Post and Telegraph Department over Christmas and New Year holidays:—

Postal Branch

December 25 (Christmas Day): Will be observed as a Sunday. Closed all day.

Thursday, December 26 (Boxing Day): Closed all day. Mails due for dispatch will close at 7.15 a.m. Street posting boxes will be cleared at 4 a.m. No delivery will be made by postmen.

Wednesday, January 1 (New Year's Day): Closed all day. Mails due for dispatch will close at 8 p.m. on December 31. No delivery will be made by postmen.

Thursday, January 2: Usual hours of attendance. Street posting boxes will be cleared at 4 a.m. No delivery will be made by postmen.

Telephone Branch

Tuesday, December 24: Telephone counter will be open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Wednesday, December 25 (Christmas Day): Will be observed as a Sunday. Closed all day.

Thursday, December 26 (Boxing Day): Office open 9 a.m. to noon and 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. After main entrance closed, apply upstairs, Dickens Street entrance.

Wednesday, January 1 (New Year's Day): Office open 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. After main entrance closed, apply upstairs, Dickens Street entrance.

Telephone Exchange: Open continuously.

When the public office is closed, toll calls may be obtained from the Telephone Branch, upstairs, Dickens Street entrance, or from the telephone exchange, Browning Street.

Money Order and Savings Bank Branch: Closed all day on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

BUILDING SOCIETY'S YEAR

Steady Business

ANNUAL MEETING TO-DAY

Prudent Finance

The 66th annual meeting of the Hawke's Bay Permanent Building and Investment Society (Inc.) is to be held at the society's office, Tenison Street, Napier, to-day.

The annual report records steady business during the year, with applications for loans totalling £16,050.

"The committee wish to place on record the loss sustained by the society in the passing of an esteemed former chairman, Mr. F. W. Williams, who, for a period of over 58 years, was actively associated with the management of the society," continues the report. "His practical business experience, and of real value, contributed largely to the successful development of the society's business. As chairman for many years, and later as vice-chairman until his death, he earned the esteem and appreciation of his colleagues."

"The continued realisation of properties in possession is most pleasing. Possible depreciation of securities has been amply covered as a matter of prudence."

"Bonuses to borrowers amount this year to £646 3/5, and this sum will be paid out in cash in January."

"The amount to be distributed to members in respect of matured subscription investment shares and interest on capital shares is £11,817 12/4."

"The committee have carefully reviewed the financial position of the society. The strengthening of reserves coupled with the maintenance of the usual return to shareholders is considered to be a satisfactory achievement under the war conditions now existing."

It will be necessary to elect three members of the committee in place of Messrs H. J. Bull, P. Ashcroft and R. Holt, who have been nominated, and are eligible for re-election.

Rainbow Shield Swimming

HASTINGS CARNIVAL

Mahora Secures Points Lead

CLOSE FINISHES

Mahora Club assumed the lead in the first Rainbow Shield swimming carnival held at Maddison Baths last night. The points margin was the closest for some years, the clubs' positions being: Mahora 34½ points, Havelock North 32 points, Heretaunga 31½ points.

There was a large crowd and some very close finishes enhanced the evening's entertainment. Detailed results were:—

Junior Boys' 25 yards.—First heat: Ferguson (H.N.) 1, Sievwright (H.N.) 2, Blakey (H.) 3. Time, 14.4-sec. Second heat: Wrightson (H.) 1, Wedd (M.) 2, Cash (M.) 3. Time, 14.4-sec. Final: Ferguson 1, Sievwright 2, Wrightson 3. Time, 15-sec.

Junior Girls' 25 yards.—First heat: Miss Fargher (H.) 1, Miss Mawson (M.) 2, Miss McKeown (H.N.) 3. Time, 15-sec. Second heat: Miss Instone (H.) 1, Miss Biggar (H.N.) 2, Miss Condon (M.) 3. Time, 15.2-sec. Final: Miss Fargher 1, Miss Instone 2, Miss Biggar 3. Time, 15.1-sec.

Intermediate Boys' 50 yards.—First heat: McCracken (M.) 1, Hill (H.N.) 2, D. Drummond (H.) 3. Time, 29-sec. Second heat: K. Taylor (M.) 1, M. Mawson (H.) 2, B. Beckett (M.) 3. Time, 29.2-sec. Final: McCracken 1, M. Mawson 2, K. Taylor 3. Time, 28.1-sec.

Women's Open 50 yards.—Miss Marvin (H.N.) 1, Miss Cook (H.N.) and Miss Shaw 2 equal. Time, 35.1-sec.

Senior Men's 50 yards.—First heat: Wrightson (H.) 1, A. Cash (M.) and Orrell (M.) 2 equal. Second heat: R. Watkins (M.) 1, H. Bodle (H.) 2, Graham (H.N.) 3. Time, 27-sec. Final: Watkins 1, Bodle 2, Wrightson 3. Time, 27-sec.

Junior and Intermediate Dives: E. McCracken (M.) 1, Fankhurst (H.N.) 2, Miss Lowe (H.) 3. Senior Dive: G. Wright (H.) 1, Eves (H.N.) 2, R. Drummond (H.) 3.

Teams' Race: Mahora No. 1 (R. Watkins, I. Brooker, A. Cash, H. Shattky), Mahora No. 2 (J. Ladbroke, I. Thornburn, B. Cummings, F. Round) 2, Heretaunga No. 1 (Bodle, Wrightson, Ogg, Orrell) 3.

Grants Status Of Centre

HAWKE'S BAY DISTRICT

St. John Ambulance Association

IMPORTANT MOVE

As a result of the great advance made by the Hawke's Bay provincial district of the St. John Ambulance Association, its status was raised to that of a centre by a recent meeting of the Commandery in Wellington, according to advice received by the Napier branch of the association.

The Napier brigade sub-district has also been raised to the status of a brigade district, and will remain under the control of District Superintendent R. S. Munro. This alteration in the constitution of the association in Hawke's Bay means that all spheres of the organisation's activity will be directly controlled from within the province without reference to the Commandery in Wellington.

In addition to the ordinary peace-time activity of the St. John Ambulance Association its members were now instructing the Home Guard and Women's Auxiliary Services in first aid.

Waipawa Total Grows

£1,000,000 APPEAL

Sum Collected Is Now £142

(Daily Mail Special Service) WAIPAWA.

Proceeds of a stock drive and further receipts from the recent radio appeal have brought the total of the £1,000,000 Appeal Fund at Waipawa to well over the £1000 mark, and when ordinary activities are resumed after the holidays it should not be difficult for the committee to reach its quota. The following additional donations are acknowledged:—

	£	s	d
Previously acknowledged	882	16	1
Radio appeal (additional)	48	15	0
E. W. Jull (monthly donation)			5 0
Miss A. d'Emden			1 0 0
Mrs F. A. Patterson			3 14 9
J. R. Walker (proceeds raffle)			11 0 0
A. P. McHardy			5 5 0
F. Kingston (monthly donation)			5 0
Anonymous			1 1 0
Mr and Mrs A. Limbrick			10 0
Mr and Mrs A. Malcolm jun.			10 0
Mr E. C. Nissen (monthly donation)			4 0
Stock drive, settlers of Tamumu and Pouterere Ridings	142	19	0
Total	1098	4	10

Granted Status Of Centre

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Xmas Needs



TO OUR WIDE CIRCLE OF SUPPORTERS FROM

W. MARR LTD.

GROCERY & PROVISION MERCHANTS

509 RIVERSLEA ROAD — HASTINGS

LAMB — LAMB

BEST SOUTHDOWN LAMB
DIRECT FROM OUR FARM

NO FREEZING WORKS REJECTS

THOMPSON'S

BUTCHERS & FARMERS — HASTINGS

Compliments of the Season to All

Rainbow Shield Swimming

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Xmas and New Year Greetings from



"LAURETTA"

PARKVALE PLANT NURSERY

CR. VICTORIA ST. & PARK RD. — HASTINGS

ALL CLASSES OF FLORAL WORK AND FLOWERS ARRANGED BY ARTISTIC HANDS.

HASTINGS STEAM LAUNDRY

AND BAG WASH COY.

LYNDON ROAD HASTINGS "PHONE 4361

"The Efficient Firm"

GIFT Suggestions

from **BLYTHES**

USEFUL GIFTS

WHITE HAND BAGS
Sitched and pleated trimmings give new zest to these popular bags. All silk lined and fitted.
Priced 14/6, 16/6 to 27/6

NEW SEASON'S HAND BAGS
In styles that are cleverly fashioned in American Smooth Calf and Grained Leathers. Correct and complete in every fashion detail. All the season's smartest shades.
Prices 15/6 to 27/6

SHOPPING BASKETS
In round and oval shapes.
2/11, 3/11 to 8/6 each

GIFTS FOR HIM

DRESSING GOWNS
In Silk, Paisley, Spot and Striped designs. A wide variety of colours.
Priced from 35/- to 57/6

TIES
English Cashmere, 6/6 each
Silk Ties, 3/6 to 9/6

SHIRTS
Collar attached or two separate collars. Fused style. Medium or long points.
From 9/11 to 21/6

BELTS AND BRACES
All boxed singly. A wonderful range to choose from.
Belts from 2/6 to 5/11
Braces from 3/6 to 5/6

SPORTS SHIRTS
The "Viyella" Game Shirt, "Aertex," Pure Wool, Silk Locknit and Towelling.
Priced from 7/11 to 21/-

GIFTS FOR THE HOME

BEACH TOWELS
Coloured Beach Towels.
2/9, 2/11, 3/3 to 4/6 ea.

TOWELS
Fancy designs with two-tone border.
4/6 each

ART SILK CLOTHS
Coloured bordered. Size 52 x 52.
Price 10/6, 12/9 ea.

TRAY CLOTHS
Hand embroidered Madeira. Sizes, 12 x 18, 14 x 20.
Prices 3/11, 4/3, 4/11 ea.

TEA TOWELS
Fancy bordered Linen. Super quality.
2/6 & 2/11 each

GIFTS FOR HER

GEORGETTE SCARVES
All the newest colourings, also Black and White and Navy and White.
3/11 to 14/6 each

LINEN HANDKERCHIEFS
Crest and Suntan bordered. Fast colours.
1/3 each

BATH CUBES
With delightful true English flower perfumes.
2/1 box of 6 cakes

TOILET SETS
Comprising Brush, Comb, Mirror and Powder Bowl, in all the newest designs.
17/6 to 92/6 set

SOAP
Attractively boxed Floral Perfumes, including "Morneys." Priced from 1/- to 8/3 box of 3 tablets

BLYTHES XMAS CAVE IS NOW OPEN

Visit "Blythes" Xmas Cave and receive your free gift and also a useful Sun Dial. Be early. Limited supplies of Sun Dials.

CAVE HOURS

THURSDAY DECEMBER 19th
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. — 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
FRIDAY DECEMBER 20th
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. — 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
SATURDAY DECEMBER 21st
9 a.m. to 12 Noon.

MONDAY DECEMBER 23rd
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. — 2 p.m. to 5.45 p.m.
TUESDAY DECEMBER 24th
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. — 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
7 p.m. to 9.45 p.m.

BLYTHES

EVERY WOMAN MUST DO HER SHARE OF WAR WORK

Mrs Knox Gilmer An Inspiring Speaker At Hastings Women's Community Club

No woman in Hastings, or, in fact, anywhere in the Dominion, could fail to be inspired by the sincere enthusiasm of Mrs Knox Gilmer, of Wellington, a member of the Dominion Central Executive of the Women's War Service Auxiliary, who has been visiting Hastings.

They must have realised from her talks the vital necessity for women to be up and doing and honestly to play their part in winning the war.

In the various talks which she gave while in Hastings she has made it very evident that any woman who has not so far made some sacrifice and contribution towards the combined women's effort, so vitally needed, must do so without a moment's delay.

It was felt that a very great privilege was shared by all the women who were able to meet Mrs Knox Gilmer when she was the guest of honour at a morning tea party arranged by members of the Hastings Women's Community Club and the Hastings branch of the English-Speaking Union.

The gathering was held at the club rooms where morning tea was served in the bridge room. Seated at the main table were Mrs Knox Gilmer, Mrs C. H. Burgess (New Plymouth), who was also a guest of honour, and her hostess, Mrs Merzies (Napier), the Mayoress, Mrs G. A. Maddison, Mrs W. A. C. Mackenzie, Mrs W. J. White, Mrs W. H. Wood, and the Bishop of Aotearoa, the Rt. Rev. F. A. Bennett.

Afterwards the guests adjourned to the lounge which was gay with bowls of most beautiful flowers artistically arranged. Large bowls contained roses, delphiniums, Christmas lilies and hydrangeas, while on the tables stood bowls of brilliant cactus flowers.

In the absence of the club president, Mrs T. H. Lowry, her place was taken by Mrs F. W. Lewis, who, when extending a welcome to the guests, Mrs Knox Gilmer, Mrs C. H. Burgess, whose work for the Returned Soldiers Association is widely known, and Bishop Bennett, said that she felt it was a wonderful experience to preside over such a splendid meeting and to have the opportunity of welcoming to the club such fine guests.

Mrs Lewis said that she had known Mrs Knox Gilmer for many years and had frequently met her in connection with her work for the Wellington Orchestral Society, the Horticultural Society, the Crippled Children's Society and Blind Institute, to name a few of her interests. "Many people know Mrs Knox Gilmer as a great politician," said Mrs Lewis, "but politics are not considered in her efforts now and everything she does is sincere patriotic work."

Bishop Bennett Pays a Tribute

The Bishop of Aotearoa, the Rt. Rev. F. A. Bennett, said that he was glad to have the privilege of associating himself with those present in heartily welcoming Mrs Knox Gilmer and Mrs Burgess.

"Mrs Gilmer stands prominently on the stage of New Zealand life," said the Bishop. "She is actively connected with everything that has to do with the uplift of the country and is interested in all that concerns both the Maoris and the Pakeha in the Dominion."

The speaker said that he had known Mrs Gilmer and every member of her family for very many years and he admired her wonderful desire to help with the work at hand.

"Women all over New Zealand have a tremendous responsibility as regards the future world," he said, "and they must realise that there is something wrong now with so much money being spent on liquor and gambling and so few people attending church regularly. We have every cause to thank God for his spiritual

help to the Empire at the present time and are we showing our gratitude?" asked the Bishop. "You will do well to follow the example set by Mrs Gilmer to improve the conditions of those around you while the same time paying full attention to the spiritual side," he concluded.

Mrs Burgess spoke very briefly, thanking the members for the invitation to be present and saying that now that she was no longer able to take an active part in the work for the welfare of the people of the Dominion she was pleased to have their appreciation of what she had done in previous years.

When Mrs Gilmer commenced her talk she asked the older people not to criticise the younger folk. She said that there was good in all people and that she had a strong belief in the young folk and admired their independence and their capabilities to act for themselves.

The Need for Education

"Those who are young now will make the future and they need the backing and the guidance of the older folk," said the speaker, who then appealed to the adults to see that their children were affected as little as possible by the war. She said that as citizens of the future they needed a very thorough education and she urged the parents to leave their children at school as long as possible. It was indeed a temptation to let them leave early now that there were more jobs than previously, but she felt so deeply on the subject that she wished the women to sacrifice themselves and work when the money was needed rather than to deprive their children when the effects of lack of thorough education were so lasting.

Mrs Gilmer stressed the fact that the women must be up and doing and not sitting down waiting to be asked. They needed to prepare themselves and the first step was to rally round their Mayoress.

The speaker then described some of the splendid war work done by the people in Wellington. Their first step was to arrange somewhere for the men in camp to whom they had short leaves and members of the Y.W.C.A. executive had been overwhelmed when Mrs Gilmer first asked them to do something for this need. However, she pointed out to them that it was their duty as Christian women to look after other women's sons, with the result that a sub-committee had been set up and wonderful work had been achieved, meals arranged, dancing, sing songs, and even a wonderful Christmas party.

The speaker described the work of the Lady Galway Patriotic Guild, of which she is chairman and paid a glowing tribute to the work of the Executive of the Guild, at their headquarters at Government House. She said that Lady Galway would be very much missed and that everyone admired the way she had worked with the women and had children had played their part in cleaning the hundreds of pairs of shoes to be sent overseas. With regard to the contributions needed especially, she asked for men's clothes and women's underwear.

Mrs Gilmer spoke also of the women's work at the hospitals formed to look after any of the men of the forces when ill and of the generosity of the gifts and time devoted to this.

Finally she made a strong appeal for every woman to back the newly formed Hastings branch of the Women's War Service Auxiliary, to be certain that every woman was trained for some work, realising that the harder women work now the shorter will be the war.

Mrs Lewis thanked Mrs Gilmer for her truly inspiring talk, every word of which had been heard with tremendous interest. She also apologised for the absence of Lady Russell, the wife of the president of the E.S.U., and Mrs E. H. Cullen. Among those present were: Mrs T. W. Lewis, Mrs G. A. Maddison, Mrs W. C. A. Mackenzie, Mrs W. H. Wood, Mrs H. Lovell-Smith, Mrs Hedley Harvey, Mrs F. C. Mackenzie, Miss Elsie Williams, Mrs H. W. C. Baird, Mrs Guy Rochford, Miss Irene Chambers, Mrs Robin Bell, Mrs W. R. Drake, Mrs D. J. Holden, Mrs G. Baillie, Mrs W. A. Whitlock, Mrs R. Cashmore, Mrs A. J. Foot, Miss E. Pickett, Mrs Rees Davies, Mrs J. H. Joll, Mrs Gordon Roach, Mrs Donald Robertson, Miss Hall, Mrs George Davies, Mrs Dudley Newbigin, Mrs W. Barron, Mrs C. Prebble, Mrs T. B. Chapman, Miss M. Curlett, Miss Helen Ford, Mrs W. Bridgman, Mrs F. C. Cumming, Mrs J. W. Satchell, Mrs A. R. Greenwood, Mrs John Joll, Mrs E. Honeybun, Mrs A. C. A. Hyde, Mrs Johnson and Miss Delcia Johnson, Mrs W. E. Taylor, Mrs I. M. Stratton, Mrs E. E. McEneaney, Mrs F. J. Hull, Mrs H. M. Bishop, Mrs N. Beamish, Mrs J. Fraser, Mrs H. I. Simson, Mrs Bach, Mrs F. J. Bone, Mrs Hedley Harvey, Mrs W. J. White, Mrs D. H. Hurschouse, Mrs F. C. Twigg, Mrs W. Richmond, Mrs H. M. Sanders, Mrs C. G. Wilkinson, Miss A. F. Lewis, Mrs E. V. Simpson, Mrs C. Gardner, Mrs R. C. McLeod, Mrs W. A. Cousens, Mrs J. Ritchie, Mrs Learmonth.

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Chinese Hand-Embroidered. 4-Piece Sets in Silk and Satin; White and dainty Pastel shades.

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A great selection of Toiletries in all the best makes—Elizabeth Arden, Yardley's Evening in Paris, Cashmere Bouquet, Potter and Moore's, Three Flowers, Lily Valley, Gifts of Soaps, Perfumes, Bath Crystals and Cubes, Dusting Powders, Toe Powder, Face Powders and Cream. Boxed Toiletries from 2/-

GIFT HANDKERCHIEFS—
White Linen, embroidered from 1/-; Coloured Linen from 1/11 each; White Lawn Embroidered from 7d; Coloured Silk Handkerchiefs 1/3 to 2/11 each; Linen Handkerchiefs, boxes of three from 3/3; Boxes of six from 4/11.

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Choose from our splendid selection, including some English samples. In Morocco, Calif. Suede, Patent and Fancy Leathers, Hand or shoulder-strap styles; snap or zipper fastener.
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A practical gift and lovely, too! In plain shades and soft pastel tonings. Osman and Horrocks makes.
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HASTINGS

LOCAL WAR SERVICE AUXILIARY

The Committee Elected FOR THE HASTINGS DISTRICT Efforts To Be Organised

Accredited delegates from 21 women's organisations in the district attended a meeting in the Borough Council Chambers, Hastings, yesterday afternoon for the purpose of electing members to serve on the local district committee of the newly formed Hastings branch of the Women's War Service Auxiliary.

The Mayoress, Mrs G. A. Maddison, presided and with her was the Town Clerk, Mr Noel Harding, and Mrs Knox Gilmer, a member of the Central Executive and Dominion Council of the W.W.S.A.

As the first business was the election of a committee of nine from the 17 nominations received, the Town Clerk explained to the voting delegates what was necessary and the voting was done by ballot.

The members of the committee elected were as follows:—Mrs G. Baillie, Mrs B. Baumgart, Mrs R. Cashmore, Mrs G. Dasset, Mrs D. J.

(Other women's news on page 2)

Holden, Mrs S. I. Jones, Mrs H. J. Lovell-Smith, Mrs J. B. Pickering and Mrs J. H. Wilkins.

Mrs Gilmer explained that the next step would be the appointment of three members to this committee who had been nominated by the Government and it should be clearly understood that politics did not enter into the matter, the nominations being wisely chosen irrespective of their party.

Mrs Gilmer asked Mrs Maddison to be the convener of the first meeting of the executive committee when a chairman, deputy chairman and secretary would be elected. Later on sub-centres should be formed until every woman is doing her part.

While waiting for the votes to be counted, Mrs Gilmer answered various questions about the Women's War Service Auxiliary. She particularly stressed the need for the wives of soldiers to be so trained that they would be able to take an interest in and help with their husband's work when they returned, especially if the work was farming.

At the end of the meeting the Mayoress thanked Mrs Gilmer very sincerely for her great help and guidance. Mrs Gilmer thanked the women for their interest and for their kindness throughout her visit. She thanked Mrs Maddison for taking the chair, the Town Clerk and the scrutineers.

Five o'Clock Gossip

Mr and Mrs W. P. Stone are Auckland visitors to Napier.

Miss C. McCormack, Masterton, is visiting Napier.

Mr and Mrs E. Jamieson, Waipukurau, are staying in Napier.

Mr and Mrs Hugh St. Leger are Gisborne visitors to Napier.

Miss Montgomery, domestic science instructor at the Napier Intermediate School, is leaving at the end of this year to take up an appointment at the Palmerston North Intermediate School.

Tailored shantung linen sports frocks in blue, green, gold and natural, 79/6. Tailored worsted fannel costumes in air force blue, petrol, grey and regimental blue. Knee length, white sharkskin tennis frocks, with new ballerina skirts, 39/6. Summer coats in all shades, styles definitely new and becoming, priced from 69/6. "Victor Gowns," Hastings exclusive salon. Telephone 3076.

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THE POVERTY BAY TURF CLUB SUMMER MEETING

To be held at the MAKARAKA RACECOURSE, GIBBORNE, MAKARAKA RACECOURSE, GIBBORNE, on FEBRUARY 8 and 10, 1941. FEBRUARY 8 and 10, 1941.

OFFICIALS.—President: F. Tolerton. Judge: P. A. Pettit. Starter: L. Murray. Handicapper: A. Tuckwell. Clerk of Scales: H. I. Gordon. Secretary: G. H. Scatts.

PROGRAMME. FIRST DAY.

- 1.—FIRST HIGHWEIGHT HINDICAP, of £85, second horse £10, third horse £5 from the stake. For horses that have started three times in a steeplechase or hurdle race, AND FOR HORSES ELIGIBLE TO START IN HACK FLAT RACES. Riders to comply with Rule 224 (a) of the Rules of Racing. Min. weight, 9st. 14 MILES.

SECOND DAY.

- 1.—SECOND HIGHWEIGHT HINDICAP, of £85, 2nd £10, 3rd £5. For horses that have started three times in a steeplechase or hurdle race, AND FOR HORSES ELIGIBLE TO START IN HACK FLAT RACES. Riders to comply with Rule 224 (a) of the Rules of Racing. Min. weight, 9st. 14 MILES.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

PENALTIES.—All handicaps subject to the condition that the winner of any race after the declaration of weights may be re-handicapped.

NOMINATIONS for all events close on MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 1941, at 8 p.m.

WEIGHTS for First Day will be declared on or about MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 1941.

WEIGHTS for Second Day declared about 7 p.m. on night of first day's races.

ACCEPTANCES for Second Day close at 8.30 p.m. the same night.

G. H. SCATTS, Secretary. Phone 1134, P.O. Box 315, Gisborne.

WAIPIKURAU JOCKEY CLUB

SUMMER MEETING. BOXING DAY. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1940.

OFFICIALS.—President: P. F. Wall. Judge: M. B. Bergin. Handicapper: H. Joyce. Starter: Murray. Clerk of Scales: H. M. Bishop. Clerk of Course: J. Hindrup. Time-keeper: C. E. Carlson.

PROGRAMME.

First Race starts at 12 noon.

- 1.—MAIDEN RACE, of £100; second £20 and third £10 from the stake. Weight 8st. 7lb. For three-year-olds and upwards that have never won a race on the flat at the time of starting. Nom. £1; acc. £1. SIX FURLONGS.

PRODUCE GOOD FARM HORSES!

BONNIE DALE (2434) Nov. 13. Foaled 13th November, 1939.

SIRE: Bonnie Dene (Imp.) (180). Dam: Lady Bell (1931). Vol. 5. Buchyville Farm, Turite (Imp.).

KILTON CHIEF (3639) Nov. 18. The well-bred five-year-old by Pav-nutrie Dene (2695) s. v. s. Dam: Jeanie Bell (3590) v. 12.—Steam Ship Company Cup Champion. Six registered dams.

Both Kilton Chief and Jeanie Bell were Champions at the H.B. Spring Show, 1937. Kilton Chief was First and Champion in 1938 and 1939 at the H.B. Spring Show and Champion at Manawatu Show, 1939.

ALL INFORMATION or acceptances made by telephone or telegram must be confirmed by letter to the secretary afterwards.

ACCEPTANCES close with the secretary at Waipukurau on THURSDAY, December 19, 1940, at 5 p.m.

F. A. G. DUNN, Secretary. P.O. Box 122, Waipukurau.

NOTE.—Telephone Office at Waipukurau open until 8 p.m.

Approved by H.B. District Committee. A. E. WISHART, Secretary. October 9, 1940.

Railway Handicap Again A Puzzle GREAT SPRINT FIELD

Acceptances May Clear The Issue Somewhat

(By MOTUROA).

An attraction to the best class sprinters in the land and a race that invariably draws a big field, the Auckland Racing Club's big summer sprint, the Railway Handicap, is a race that is particularly kind to the backers of favourites.

There is not an especially long straight at Ellerslie and there is a sharp bend from the half mile, making it necessary for the winner to be well placed all the way.

The uncanny backing of the public on the big day is remarkable, for ante-post dabblers are invariably confronted with a problem difficult of elucidation and early betting on this race takes a wide range.

Speed, stamina and class are needed to win a Railway Handicap, and there are quite a few engaged next Thursday who have these qualifications.

TOPWEIGHT, with Nigger Boy out on disqualification, finds the Wanganui sprinter Amigo at the top of the list with 9.2 and, while he dropped out of the sprint the first day at Awapuni, there is some doubt as to whether he will make the trip.

Nevertheless, Amigo must be respected as a really great sprinter and a fine weight-carrier. His best form, of course, has been shown at Trentham, where he won with the same weight in October, but he has also raced well at Ellerslie in the past.

Black Thread, who now has 9.0, impressed greatly when he won the other day at Woodville. Weighted at 9.2 and he carried 9.3 and, despite the fact that it was his first race since he won the Selwyn Handicap at Riccarton in August with 9.3, he won as he liked. The Gisborne gelding has performed with distinction on all the metropolitan courses of New Zealand and he will be very hard to beat if he does make the trip north.

There is a danger, however, that he may remain at Awapuni and Marton, though the fact that his travelling companion Raana has gone slightly amiss may encourage his connections to take a tilt at Ellerslie, especially if he is equal to winning at Awapuni on Saturday.

SEULEIMAN has not raced since last Easter, when he was up-placed at Ellerslie with 9.1, and he has been dropped 13lb. for his spell from racing, notwithstanding the fact that he ran Brownwen to half a length in this race last year when he weighed 9.6.

It would not be the first time that Alex Cook produced a winner of a big race at first time of asking and he is confident that his horse will fulfil his engagement he will make matters very interesting.

Kathbella was beaten by Vascones at Woodville, but she drops 10lb. to 8.12 here and it is widely felt that she is capable of better form. She is no stranger to Ellerslie, where she was beaten half a head by Black Thread in the last Easter Handicap, and on the second day she was a close fourth in the sprint with 9.10.

Form, however, points most strongly to Lady Tinkle, one of the most consistent gallopers in the land. Lady Tinkle carried 9.3 when she won at Te Awamutu last Saturday and, now, with her re-handicap, she has a very handy impost of 8.11.

LADY TINKLE has beaten some of the best sprinters in the country at Trentham and Riccarton in the past twelve months, and his performance next week would undoubtedly be enhanced by a fall of rain, she appears to hold very bright prospects.

Winner of the Winter Cup with 8.10, Lady Tinkle has raced on only five occasions this season for three wins and a third. She won the Wainui Handicap at Trentham in 1937.

Orello's form has been very disappointing since last autumn and Belle Cane does not appear over six furlongs on this course. Te Takina, Blonde Princess, Classic, Duvalch, Foxola, Gold Money Song, Llandaff, Gaymiss, Orate and Lovalls have all shown good form at Ellerslie, but Endorsement is one on the minimum with an undeniable chance.

This mare has been consistent in the best sprint company in the land and she is in excellent order for Boxing Day. The acceptances to-morrow and the final race may shed further light on this complex problem, but, unless rain falls, it is likely that the strongest fancied will be

LADY TINKLE SIR BEAU MARSHALL HALL MERRY VAALS

Corroborate has winning form to his credit at Awapuni and has only to improve a little on his feebling running to have a chance of paying expenses at the Manawatu summer meeting.

Hugme, who was runner-up to Grand Chase at Hastings in her only start this season, looks a greatly improved filly and, while she is too small to go far in the racing game, her owner-trainer should win races with her. A game little galloper, Hugme has been working well and she is sure to give a good account of herself over the holidays.

FEES: FIVE GUINEAS. All care. No responsibility. J. C. BAIRD Maraekakaho Road Phone 2672 - Hastings

MANAWATU CUP PROSPECTS Awapuni Comment

CONTEST BEARS OPEN APPEARANCE

"Daily Mail" Special Service. AWAPUNI, Dec. 18. Slight rain set in this morning, but a few heavy showers would be appreciated by trainers as the tracks are on the hard side. Most of the horses holding important engagements have been given their final trials. The Buzz, Mr. Maurier, Anita Foe and Old Bill finishing their tasks in a manner that indicates there is nothing amiss regarding their condition.

The prospect of the Manawatu Cup appears to be well concealed. It is given out that Hawera punters have been "caving up" to back Friesland, Du Maurier and The Buzz, but "can't lose" reputations and everybody in Wanganui will plunk their coin on Belle Cane. It may be that the smart daughter of Beau Pere will go close to lifting the stake. Bill Broughton will be in the saddle.

Old Bill will go through to Auckland to-night with Jeffery's horses. Old Bill last gallop was over, but was he kept to put some dash into his work, but was not required to make time.

The Buzz and Anita Foe claimed attention when they were stepped out for a mile gallop. They were not bused in the early part of the trip but over the last half-mile The Buzz was striding along more freely than his companion. Anita Foe is in the right condition to race prominently at the meeting.

Mr. Maurier is getting through a lot of useful work and has never been better than he is at the present stage. He traversed the mile and a half trip to the last stride.

Likely to show to advantage shortly is the two-year-old Goldbridge easily held Renascor. The former is a very nice mover, with an extremely easy action. With 9.12 in the Highweight, it is reasonable to assume he will create some enthusiasm among his admirers over the concluding stages.

Wings of Song pleased by the way the son of Hunting Song reeled off six furlongs in the second day. Old Surrey has only to repeat his track record in the mile and a half to be in the money. Under restraint, he attracted attention by the resolute way he covered six furlongs. He will be produced for the second day at Awapuni. Incidentally, his popular owner, Mr. Leo Collinson, has not been in a good state of health in recent weeks.

Other horses that were given useful trials were Thrasso, Fitzmark, Warlock, Play On and Renascor. Play On, who has been galloping well, will attempt to improve on the performance of the farm-trained Hinerangi has always raced well at Waipukurau and may have a rough chance in the maiden race on Boxing Day.

Flying Spy's third at Woodville suggests an early return to form. She was a two-year-old winner at Waipukurau last Easter.

Don Quix was an impressive winner at Awapuni in September in the Lord Quex gelding is at the top of his form and he will have a big following for his only engagement at Awapuni, the Champion Hack Handicap. This will be his Marton Cup trial.

Native Song, who tops the list in the Flying Handicap, won at Waipukurau as a hack.

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Two years ago Jack Cameron saddled up his new win the Hunter Cup and then ran a close second in the Flying Handicap at Waipukurau. On this occasion Master Cylon, who has been galloping well, will attempt to improve on the performance of the farm-trained Hinerangi has always raced well at Waipukurau and may have a rough chance in the maiden race on Boxing Day.

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VELMOND COLT IS SMART LINEMOND AGAIN

Will Oppose Yaralla At Randwick

"Daily Mail" Special Service. (By Air Mail) SYDNEY, Dec. 15. At least one stable declares itself to be not perturbed at the presence of the champion colt, Yaralla, in the December stakes at Randwick. The connections of Linemond, winner of the Nursery Handicap at the Rosehill meeting yesterday, state that the Velmond colt will run in the stakes.

Linemond has won at his only two starts and in each he has raced away from the field at the finish. S. Davidson, his rider, declared yesterday: "He seems to have plenty of courage and I was never afraid of defeat."

Tusculum, winner of the December Handicap yesterday, is to take his place in the A.J.C. Summer Cup

INVITATION TO STAY AT HOME

CHERRY PLUM has been rated very highly by the Auckland handicapper in the Grafton Hurdles and it would not surprise to see him stay home to his New Year racing at Hastings. Cherry Plum has won only three small races on the flat and, in two starts over the battens, was third at Trentham with 9.4 and narrowly first at Greenmeadows with 9.13. In very much stronger company at Ellerslie he has 10.2 and is giving weight to Knight of Australia, General Ruse and the Whangarei double winner Master Appellant "Moturoa."

On Boxing Day, his time for the distance, 11 furlongs, was 2.13, which is 11sec. outside the record established by Oro in 1933.

Similar decisions were announced for the two former New Zealand horses, Yours Truly and Malagigi, who sit the minor places behind Tusculum. Malagigi was favourite for yesterday's race, as he was for the corresponding event last year, but it was only his second race after a spurious one in Australia this season. Rimvell will be ridden by E. Bartie, who rode Red Thesplan at Rosehill yesterday. Red Thesplan, with Fenestral, is second choice, with Marengo and Stylish next. Ruling fanciers for the Summer Cup are Dewar, Kurrawid and Malagigi.

DECEMBER HANDICAP DIVIDED

Big Field At Auckland Trots

The December Handicap at the Auckland Trotting Club's summer meeting has been divided. The prize money has been increased from £280 to £400, with £200 for each division. The second division will be run on the second day.

First Division—Antarctic Star, Barbara Scott, Cam Derby, Cyone Girl, Josette, Rey Dillon, Erna Peter, Exporter, Franco, Josedale Dawn, Pearl, Or, Ka, Tommy, Worthy, Sparkling Pointer, Portadown, Magic Task. Brackets: Cyone Girl, Josette and Rey Dillon, Josedale Dawn and Pearl.

Second Division—Auto Engen, Blush Worthy, Charon, Cynic, Escobar, Flashlight, Kalua, Lucky Derby, Parrish Boy, Sir Echo, Parrish Lad, Rama Direct, Vanson, Tasker Queen, Northern Smile, Mandalay. Brackets: Parrish Boy and Sir Echo, Rama Direct and Vanson.

RIDING ENGAGEMENTS ANNOUNCED

Horsemen At Holiday Meetings

Additional riding engagements announced for the Manawatu meeting on Saturday are:

W. J. Broughton: Soutane, Belle Cane, Val Pere, Night Eruption, Talenta, G. R. Tattersall: March Easy, Play On, Grand Chase, Golden Moon, All Quiet.

B. H. Morris: The Buzz, Collinamps, Sir Echo, Corica, Picoch, H. Stewart: Half Crown, Homly, Renascor, Stolen Coat, Bold Step, S. Waddell: Greenock, Charles Edward, Newbury.

D. W. Redstone: War Credit, Royal Consort, Little Robin, Bayadeer, Kotua, H. N. Higgins: Friesland, Mastré, Kadappa, Exp. Pul, Siglow, Inform, R. G. Howell: Rakahanga, Harina, Authors.

Triple Crown ran her best race this season when she finished half a head away from Blue Border on Saturday. Her return is not far off.

Catalogue was never dangerous in the Wairongomai Handicap at Otaki on Saturday, but the race will do him much good in view of his holiday engagements. His mission may be the Wairarapa Cup.

Hunting Squire is possibly one of the first of the stock of Sporting Blood to race. But for running widely with Swell Chase at Otaki on Saturday he might have won.

Autolite, with all her weight, tried to lead all the way on Saturday, but weakened in the latter event, he was first start since last Easter and the race should improve her.

ASHBURTON TROTTING CLUB

Fields For Boxing Day

The following are the acceptances for the Ashburton Trotting Club's meeting, to be held on Boxing Day—

11.40.—MITCHAM HINDICAP. Of £150 (3.49 class), 1 1/2 miles. Cleve Hill, Cockney, Dux, Early Bell, Great Worth, Helen Galindo, Lougros, Mavis Nelson, Royal Worthy, Sea Wolf, Smoky, scr.; Noble Lady, 12; Diana Wild, 24; Muraahi, 48; Small Change, 60.

12.20.—WAKANUI HINDICAP. Of £150 (3.43 class), 1 1/2 miles. All Gallant, Avocal, Canister, Dandy Travis, Echoist, Gallinaceous, Hardy Oak, Hoyden, Harold Jinks, Jesse Gentle, Joan Potts, Lone Worthy, Ordinance, Positive, Robynette, Rosie Bond, Shannon Lass, Silver Flash, Solicitor, Spencer, Vero, Statute, Swaggar Jack, Turrot, scr.

1.10.—ASHBURTON CUP HINDICAP. Of £750 (4.29 class), 2 miles. King Potts, Lady Milne, Loyal Rey, Navy Blue, Nelson Eddy, Peter Smith, scr.; Horse Power, Lightning Lady, Nell Graham, Renown's Best, Sandusky, 12; Plutus, 36; Great Jewel, 45.

HOLIDAY TRANSPORT DIFFICULT

DIFFICULTY is being experienced in arranging transport from Palmerston North for Belle Cane and Sir Beau on Sunday or Monday, and it is reported that unless satisfactory arrangements can be made the Wanganui sprint may miss the Manawatu meeting on Saturday. It will be a great pity if these three-year-olds have to be withdrawn from their engagements at Awapuni for they would have been a great draw-card. Early speculators should await further advice.

1.55.—MCLEAN HINDICAP. Of £200 (3.35 class), 1 1/2 miles. Captain Potts, Silver Grafton, Star Ace, Sunny Corner, Tokalon, William Potts, scr.; Braw Lass, Colossal, Grat-tanta, Harry Man, Super Jack, 12; Little Derby, 24; Perula, 36.

2.35.—NEW ZEALAND CHAMPION STAKES. Of £750 (for three-year-olds), 1 1/2 miles. Gold Chief, Gallant Maid, Mighty, Special Force, Ronald Logan, Shadow Maid, Festivity, Walter More, Ngariu.

3.20.—WINSLOW HINDICAP. Of £300 (unhopped trotters), 3.30 class, 1 1/2 miles. Great Mountain, Header, Shandland, scr.; Discard, 12; Blue Logan, Nattie Huon, 24; Bush Laddie, Guy Hugo, G.V. rate, Mohican, Parrish Guide, Reception, 36; Dark Hazard, Franz Derby, Tan John, Timworthy, 48.

4.00.—MIDSUMMER HINDICAP. Of £225 (4.44 class), 2 miles. Jacoe, MacGregor, Panquith, Zin-garie, scr.; Clockwork, Warning, 12; Ashby, Haughty, 24; Drumco, 48.

4.45.—BOXING DAY HINDICAP. Of £300 (2.47 class), 1 1/2 miles. Great Divide, Guncase, Harold Guy, Lady Milne, Sandusky, Smile Again, Wee Potts, scr.; Donald Egan, Jesse Owens, Nelson Eddy, Peter Smith, Southern Smile, 12; Navy Blue, 24.

PLANES of the R.A.F. THE AVRO ANSON RECONNAISSANCE BOMBER. Supreme for Rolling Cigarettes... AIRMAN THE Ace of CIGARETTE TOBACCO. 2 OUNCE TINS—2/11 FINE CUT (Purple Tin) SUPER FINE (Grey Tin)

CHRISTMAS CHEER. SPANISH SHERRIES: Harvey's Mild Sherry (the world's best) only three bottles left! only 27/- at Vinerona (a bright, dry Sherry) 6/6 qt. PORTS: Joven's (1933) Vintage—6/6 qt. Conziska Old Port—6/6 qt. Australian Port (Our Special) 6/6 qt. ALE & STOUT: Speights Ale—Wilson's Strong Ale—Red Band Ale—Timaru Ale—Tut Ale and Stout—McGavin's Stout—Guinness' Stout (Ballagoolin). All brands of Whiskies, Dry Gins and J.D.K.Z. Squares, French Brandy, Sparkling Wines, Champagne, Cocktails, Liqueurs, etc. GRAND HOTEL BOTTLE STORE HASTINGS. FIRST WITH THE LATEST! Join Our Progressive and Modern Library to Get the Latest Novels. OXFORD BOOK CLUB HASTINGS

COURTENAY Mere. SETS NEW STANDARD IN RADIO VALUE. COURTENAY MERE 5 Valve Broadcast Mantel Model. Soaring sales, greater output, and a cutting of production costs, once again enable Courtenay to set a grand new standard in radio value with the Courtenay "Mere"—a 5 valve broadcast mantel model selling at only £14-15-0. £4 lower than a practically identical model which was one of last season's best sellers! And none of the high standard of Courtenay tone, selectivity, range, fidelity, has been sacrificed. With its dignified, highly polished wood cabinet, slide rule dial, improved 6 1/2" speaker, Courtenay Mere certainly is radio value unexcelled. AGENTS: REES RAMSDEN, LTD., Heretaunga Street, Hastings. NAPIER BAIT & ELECTRICAL CO., Emerson St, Napier. MAYS RADIO SERVICE, Takapau. J. H. SINCLAIR, Waipawa. GUILLIARDS RADIO SERVICE, Waipukurau. An advertisement of Turnbull & Jones Ltd., Distributors, Wellington, Phone 55-025.

Answer To Correspondents

"Mug Punter," Hastings: Raana was scratched for the Rere Nikitene Memorial at 12.25 p.m. on Saturday.

"Funds," Napier: (1) £12 8/6 and £3 1/4; (2) £7 10/- and £2 18/6.

"Wager," Hastings: Tiger Gain won the Manawatu Cup in 1937. The previous year he had run Spiral to a neck. In both races he was ridden by C. F. Shield.

Native Song, who tops the list in the Flying Handicap, won at Waipukurau as a hack.

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Two years ago Jack Cameron saddled up his new win the Hunter Cup and then ran a close second in the Flying Handicap at Waipukurau. On this occasion Master Cylon, who has been galloping well, will attempt to improve on the performance of the farm-trained Hinerangi has always raced well at Waipukurau and may have a rough chance in the maiden race on Boxing Day.

Flying Spy's third at Woodville suggests an early return to form. She was a two-year-old winner at Waipukurau last Easter.

Don Quix was an impressive winner at Awapuni in September in the Lord Quex gelding is at the top of his form and he will have a big following for his only engagement at Awapuni, the Champion Hack Handicap. This will be his Marton Cup trial.

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Next Christies
Russell St., Hastings

HAWKES BAY

HMAS GIFTS

OUR WINDOWS AND SHOWCASES ARE BRIMMING
FULL OF QUALITY GIFTS SUITABLE
FOR XMAS PRESENTS.

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Jewellers - Watchmakers - Engravers - Hastings.

ILL HEALTH

can be caused by an unhealthy skin. If you suffer from any skin or scalp ailments, ask for a free consultation from our trained nurse at the

KLEXEMA ROOMS

Union Bank Buildings
Heretaunga Street, HASTINGS.
Klexema treatment has given immediate relief to hundreds of sufferers. Phone 3128

Nurse visiting MASONIC HOTEL, NAPIER.
SATURDAY, January 11th.
Phone for appointment.

DENTAL NOTICE

The Surgeries of E. Dentist Davies Ltd., at Napier, Hastings and Waikato, will close at 8 p.m. Tuesday, December 24, and will reopen on Monday, January 13, 1941.

E. DENTIST DAVIES,
Governing-Director.

BUILDERS' REQUISITES

Gibraltar Plaster Centre Board.
Asbestos Sheets (flat or corrugated).
Red Bean Plywood.
Sisalraft Building Felt.
Wilson's "Star" Cement.
Wilson's Rapid Setting Cement.
Wilson's Koppo Waterproofing Cement.
White Cement and Cement Colours

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Heretaunga Street W. Phone 3088
(Next Cafe The Paragon)

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WAIROA - Next Prebble's

PERMS 15/-
ENDS 10/6

Introduces the new scientific hair treatment - ZOLO
ZOLO - ZOLO
Vitalised Hair Conditioning Cream, which is exclusive to the State.
6-10 Months' Guarantee!



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Commission Woollscourers
Whakatu :: Hastings
(Established 1885)

Only Strictly Commission Wool Scouring Done.
Inspection Invited at All Times.

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Works, 3478.
W. Tucker, 337a.
A. J. Price, 2732.

IT'S A CINCH!

5 VALVE BROADCAST RADIO
PACEMAKER
£14/14/-

5 VALVE PORTABLE
ULTIMATE
£19/10/-
COMPLETE.

The Ideal Xmas Gift!

FAIRCLOUGH'S RADIO LTD.
Fair Enough at Fairclough's!
35 EMEISON ST. : NAPIER

RETREAD YOUR TYRES

ARE YOUR TYRES WORRY?

Check over your car now - Do not wait till the last minute!

R. J. HOLDER
Tyre Retreading Service.
DICKENS ST. : NAPIER

DEATHS

PROUDFOOT—On December 18, 1940, at Waipukurau, Mary (Grannie), relict of the late Andrew Proudfoot, aged 83 years.
The funeral will leave the residence of her daughter, Mrs. S. Annand, Woburn Street, Waipukurau, following a service which will commence at 2.15 p.m. to-day (Thursday).
WHARMBY & WILLIAMS,
Funeral Directors,
Waipukurau.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NAPIER A.A. AND C. CLUB.
Sixth Meeting.
AT McLEAN PARK.
TO-NIGHT : THURSDAY,
At 6.45 p.m.

CHILDREN'S MATINEE

MUNICIPAL THEATRE, NAPIER,
SATURDAY NEXT, 21st INST.
At 2 p.m.

THE FRIVS
Present
"ALADDIN AND HIS LAMP"
"ALADDIN AND HIS LAMP"
Dance items by pupils of Miss Peggy Black.
Children 6d. Adults 1/-.
A GIFT FOR EVERY CHILD.

PUBLIC NOTICES

APOSTOLIC CHURCH
KING STREET, HASTINGS.
THURSDAY, December 19, at 7 p.m.
FIFTH
SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY
All Welcome

FERNHILL PATRIOTIC SOCIETY.
GRAND DANCE
In aid of Funds.
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 8 p.m.
Good Music and Supper.
Monster Christmas Competition
Will be Drawn.
Gents 2/6; Ladies 2/-.

MAHORA BATHS

TO-NIGHT — TO-NIGHT
TO-NIGHT — TO-NIGHT
CLUB CARNIVAL
Swimming - Diving - Novelties.
Frimley Boy Scout Relay.

TO ALL FRUITGROWERS.

AUCTIONS

IMPORTANT SUB-DIVISIONAL
SALE OF THE WELL-KNOWN
OMAPERE ESTATE.
FRIDAY, 20th DECEMBER, 1940.
At 11 a.m.
MURRAY ROBERTS & CO., LTD.
In conjunction with
H.B. FARMERS' CO-OP ASSN., LTD.
Have been favoured with instructions from Messrs M. C. and J. J. Connor to sell by Public Auction at the H.B. Farmers' Co-op Assn.'s Rooms, Hastings as above, the well known OMA-PERE ESTATE, containing

2679 ACRES
FREEHOLD 2679
Subdivided into
6 — BLOCKS — 6

Varying in area from 300 to 570 acres more or less.

LAND AGENTS

TAUPO HOUSEBOAT
FOR SALE OR LEASE.

WELL Appointed Houseboat, recently refitted, situated on Waikato River. Contains ten cabins with wire mattresses. Well appointed lavatory, bath, and kitchen. Completely equipped kitchen and ample deck space. Overall length 56ft, beam 22ft. Ideal family accommodation at reasonable price or rental.

FOR LEASE AT TAUPO.
NEW MODERN DE LUXE CARAVAN, situated near Lake front; 4 bunks, electric light, gas stove, showerbath, and conveniences. Only blankets required. Rent 4 guineas per week over holiday period.

See
KELSEY AND ROGERS,
Land Agents.
Queen Street.
Phone 4300 Private 2083.

AUCTIONS

LARGE CHRISTMAS OFFERING
IN THE MART,
RUSSELL STREET, HASTINGS,
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20th,
At 10.30 a.m.

MESSRS HARVEY, FULTON AND HILL, under instructions from various clients, will sell—

600 Head of Table Poultury.
100 1 and 2-year-old W.L. Hens.
100 1 and 2-year-old B.O. Hens.
150 B.O. and W.L. Cockerels.
150 B.O. and W.L. Young Cockerels.
30 Ducks.
25 Geese.
12 Turkeys.

— ALSO —

One Orchard Spray Pump on Wheels, 2 Frames and Windows, 1 Trailer, 50 Posts, 3 Kerosene Stoves and Ovens, Maize Sheller, Piano Case, 2 Tents, 2 Counterscales, 3 Drums, 1 Forge, 1 Store Barrow, 2 Counters, Gardening and Carpenters' Tools, All Vegetables and Sundries.

W. E. TAYLOR,
Auctioneer.

AUCTIONS

McGLASHAN'S LTD.
FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALE
TO-DAY 11 a.m. TO-DAY

McGLASHAN'S LTD.,
TENNYSON STREET : NAPIER
Will Sell:
Peaches, Plums, Apricots, Cherries, Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Rhubarb, Lettuce, Cabbage, Cauliflowers, Spinach, Silver Beet, Carrots, Parsnips, Swede Turnips, White Turnips, Onions, Potatoes, Beans, Peas, sweet Corn, Runner Beans, Gooseberries, Loganberries, Strawberries, Boysenberries, Fresh Eggs, Cut Flowers, etc.

TO-DAY—At 11 a.m.

CHRISTMAS POULTRY SALE
BY AUCTION.
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21st,
At 10 a.m.

McGLASHAN'S, LTD.,
TENNYSON STREET : NAPIER
Table Hens and Roosters.
Young B.O. and W.L. Cockerels.
Prime Fat Ducks, Geese and Turkeys.
Also
12 Pure-bred W.L. Pullets.
Fruit, vegetables, Flowers and Sundries.

SATURDAY NEXT, At 10 a.m.

CHRISTMAS SALES
OUR SALES for the Christmas season will be held as follows:
FRIDAY, Dec. 20: Fruit and Vegetables.
SATURDAY, Dec. 21st: Christmas Poultry.
MONDAY, Dec. 23rd: Fruit and Vegetables.
TUESDAY, Dec. 24th: Fruit and Vegetables.

McGLASHAN'S, LTD.,
TENNYSON STREET : NAPIER

STOCK SALES

ASSOCIATED AUCTIONEERS
STORTFORD LODGE YARDS,
MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1940.

The sale will commence at 10 a.m. with fat calves. Best Cattle 13 a.m. until further notice.
Fat Cattle entries included in the draw definitely close at 4 p.m. on Monday.
The times for commencing selling will be as follows: Best Cattle 13 a.m., Store Sheep 11 a.m., Fat Sheep at 30 minutes after completion of fat cattle. Fat 12 noon if fat cattle are finished before that hour. Store Cattle not earlier than 12 noon.

SHEEP—
CATTLE—
The last sale for 1940 will be held on Monday, December 23.

WAIPUKURAU YARDS, TUESDAY, JANUARY 7th, 1941.

Sale will commence at 10.30 a.m. with cattle followed by fat and store sheep. Sale of sheep will commence not later than 12 noon.

SHEEP—
CATTLE—
SALES FOR DECEMBER:
Stortford Lodge, Monday, 23.
SALES FOR JANUARY:
Waipukurau, 7, 14, 21.
Stortford Lodge, 8, 15, 22, 29.
Onga Onga, 13, 27.
H. Ram Fair, 30, 31.
Waipukurau Ewe Fair, 28.

DEATHS

THORP—On December 18th, 1940, at Napier, Alice, dearly beloved wife of Richard Thorp, 8 Colenso Avenue, Napier; aged 79 years.
Private Interment. No Flowers by Request.
C. E. ROGERS & CO.,
Funeral Directors,
Napier.

PUBLIC NOTICES

THE HON. WALTER NASH, Minister of Marketing, will make an announcement over the air at 7 p.m. TO-NIGHT (Thursday), 19th December, with regard to the fruit industry purchase price plan for 1941.
(Signed) C. G. WILKINSON,
Branch Manager,
N.Z. Fruit Growers' Federation Ltd.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of Members will be held in the Borough Council Chambers, Napier, at 8 p.m. TO-NIGHT, 19th inst.

BUSINESS:
Election of Officers;
General.

TERMS OF PAYMENT—

15 per cent. at time of sale.
15 per cent. at date of possession, i.e. 11th February, 1941.
Balance of Purchase Money to remain on Mortgage for 3 years at 4 per cent. right to pay all cash, if desired.
Litho Plans may be obtained on application.
Conditions of Sale may be seen at Messrs Biss & Co., Auctioneers, at the vendors, Napier, or at the auctioneers' offices, Hastings.
Arrangements for inspection may be made with the Auctioneers.

20 ACRES

1 good flats handy to town. First-class grass seed country. Five acres in Montgomery clover, 5 acres in seed mangals, balance in good pasture. Comfortable home and farm buildings.
PRICE: £2450.
Terms Arranged.
FARRELL & PURCHAS,
Sharebrokers and Land Agents,
QUEEN STREET, HASTINGS.

BAKERY BUSINESS

FOR SALE

(Reason: Ill-health.)
Modern Premises, including Shop, 4000 loaves per week and 600 small goods.
Requires Substantial Deposit.
Apply to—
F. C. WILKINSON,
Russell Street Hastings.

BAKERY BUSINESS

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(Reason: Ill-health.)
Modern Premises, including Shop, 4000 loaves per week and 600 small goods.
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Town and country funerals conducted. Private Chapel for use Free of Charge.
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Private Address:
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MARDI GRAS

MARDI GRAS
MARINE PARADE,
MARINE PARADE,
HASTINGS.
2.30 p.m.—JUVENILE BATHING
BEAUTY CONTEST.
1st prize 5/-. 2nd 3/-. 3rd 2/-.
Girls up to 6 years.
Girls over 6 years.
Girls over 9-12 years.
No entry fee.

SITUATIONS VACANT

WANTED: Youth for dairy farm, quite handy to Napier. Ring 4386 Napier, immediately.

WANTED Urgently: Station Cook for Okawa; good wages. Ring 2844 or apply H. Hickling, Okawa.

WANTED: Youth 15-17 for Dairy Farm; good wages. Ring 7463 Hastings between 6.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.

WANTED: Man to milk 4 cows and work in garden. Good home and wages. Suit pensioner. Write "278," Daily Mail, Hastings.

WANTED Immediately: Female cake cook; temporary wages. Apply in person to Watson's Cafeteria.

WANTED: Housemaid Waitress; also Hotel General for Albion Hotel.

WANTED: Married Shepherd capable taking charge. Wife cook for two people. Apply P. Peacock, de Pelichet, McLeod and Co., Ltd., Waipukurau.

WIREMEN REQUIRED
FIRST-CLASS WIREMEN required. Only finished tradesmen considered. Apply—
L. D. DENNISON & CO.,
159 Tapanui Street, Wellington.
Telephone 52-511.

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