

considered very safe, and vessels often steamed at full speed all the time. The water was deep, and the skippers dodged about to obtain different views for the passengers with perfect safety. In many places the Sound was not more than a mile wide. In one of the other sounds, Mr. Wilson added, the Tararua was supposed to have once grazed a rock, but a later search had failed to discover it. The Sounds generally were looked upon as being perfectly safe.

Brave Engineers and Firemen.

DUNEDIN, Friday.

In the course of conversation with a reporter, Mr. Enos Bacon, of England, one of the passengers, said the Waikare was in a very bad way when they left Dusky Sound. Continuing, he said: "One of the pluckiest things I know of was the action of one of the stokers, who was at the fires, working with the water up to his waist. The engineers, too, were in the engine-room until they also were up to their waists in water. But, perhaps, the bravest thing of all was the plucky journey of the second officer, who, in a motor boat, towing another boat with six or seven of the crew in it, went out in the rough sea, and successfully reached Puysegur Point lighthouse. I cannot speak too highly of Capt. Newton. He was on the bridge all the time, and at the moment we struck he had the chart in his hand. The women behaved very bravely. If anyone was excited it was the men, not the women."

Another passenger said that when the second engineer and the last of the firemen left their posts to come on deck, the water was up to their armpits. As the vessel approached shore she struck another rock and slewed round parallel to the shore, where she now lies, one rail being awash.

How the Ladies Fared.

INVERCARGILL, Thursday.

Miss Duckworth, England, in the course of an interview, said that there was not the slightest sign of excitement or hysteria. The officers and crew were "just trumps" and it was their aim to study the comfort of passengers. "Every possible thought and consideration was," said Miss Duckworth, "extended towards us all. The islands are overgrown with vegetation, and we had to scramble over the rocks. Luckily, it was low tide, and so the landing was not so difficult as it would have been if it had been high water. There was a steep bank, nearly down to the water's edge, and we had to climb up it. The officers and crew, assisted by the men, and even by the ladies, set to work to cut a roadway up the bush, and then an extensive clearing was made, and a camp was prepared. By means of boats, luggage, baggage, and bedding was conveyed from the Waikare to the shore, and then it was passed from hand to hand up to where our camp was pitched. The ladies again helped in passing up the luggage, and not one complained, although we had to walk through mud, which came right over our boots, and our skirts were all bedraggled. Meanwhile the sun was shining. We had experienced shocking weather previously, and it was hard luck that our first fine day was signalled by the accident. But we were all thankful that we had fine weather for our enforced inspection of Stop Island. The cooks soon got fires going at the camp, and our hearts throbbed with pleasure when we saw the billy boiling. Within half an hour of the completion of the transfer of baggage and other things from the boat, tea was awaiting us, in itself a testimony to the way our comfort was studied. The ladies were first provided for, and then the men paid attention to their encampment. Not a grumbling voice to be heard, and although it rained hard in the night, we ladies had a most comfortable rest. In the morning tea was brought to us at five a.m., and then the fun began in the performance of our toilet, for all we could muster for hairdressing purposes was two hand mirrors and a couple of combs. Having dressed under difficulties, we partook of breakfast at seven o'clock, and we had a substantial meal of ham and eggs. Indeed, all thought that we had never tasted such nice ham, but possibly our appetites were keen and we relished it all the more. About 9.30 a.m. the captain suggested that all the unmarried ladies should go to Pigeon Island, where he had been informed there was a house, which could be utilised for living in until a relief boat arrived. So an hour later," said Miss Duckworth, "I and 16 other ladies got into a launch

and the captain took charge of it. A cook and four stewards and a stewardess went with us, and we took food and provisions. It took about an hour to get to Pigeon Island; there we discovered the house of which the captain had received information. It was a lovely spot, and the house was situated on the top of a hill not far from the shore. As we approached the shore we found a beautiful sandy cove and a boathouse in it. We landed and proceeded to the house, of which the captain forced the door. We were told that the house belonged to the ranger of Resolution Island, and around it was a picturesque garden. Soon after entering the house we swept out the rooms and prepared for an enjoyable time. Within the house there were tables and chairs, so with the bedding and other things we had brought with us we should have wanted for nothing. The launch went away to fetch some more ladies (some 25 of whom were to have been brought to us; we were expecting their arrival when the launch reappeared about four o'clock with the news that the Pioneer had come to our assistance. We all joyfully re-embarked on the launch and our hearts were indeed glad when we trod the deck of the Pioneer. As we steamed away from the ill-fated Waikare and saw her precarious condition we for the first time realised how near we had been to a fatal disaster, and the sight of the ship and the thought of what might have been affected many of us, and some tears were even shed. On board the Pioneer we again wanted for nothing, and the arrangements were admirable in the extreme."

Compulsory Militarism.

HOW THE NEW ACT APPLIES.

Within three months every man in the Dominion eligible for compulsory military training must apply for registration. All male inhabitants between the ages of 14 and 55 come within the scope of the Act, which is to be brought into active operation before the end of the year. The Defence Bill did not receive as much consideration when before Parliament as it might have done, and the result is that the majority of those people whom it vitally affects are not aware of what is really in store for them. There are no exemptions; rich man and poor man, employer and employee, all must fulfil their obligations according to the conditions of the Act. There is no waiting for an officer to come round and ask your name and age. The onus lies with the recruit himself to register for service, and to register within a prescribed time, or take the consequences.

Under the Act there are four divisions of military service. For the effective defence of New Zealand, not less than 30,000 thoroughly trained men are required. There will be coastal and mobile defence forces, and once the new Act is in operation, a great scheme of internal defence will be perfected. The law just placed on the Statute Book provides for a strong permanent force, a territorial force, a militia force, and a force on which falls universal obligation to be trained.

WHERE COMPULSION APPLIES.

Those subject to compulsory training are all male inhabitants between the ages of twelve and thirty years. This part of the Act provides for the training of those between 12 and 14 years of age in the junior cadets; 14 and 18 in the senior cadets; 18 to 21 in the general training section, and from 21 to 30 in the reserve force. The junior cadets must put in not less than 52 hours' training. The senior cadets shall in each year spend six whole days, twelve half-days in training and 24 nights in drilling.

The general training section is the one in which most interest centres. It applies to all males between the ages of 18 and 21, the prescribed training for whom is 14 days per year in the training camp, and 12 half days, except in the case of the Artillery and Engineer branches, in which the training shall be 14 days in training camp, and 20 half days. All persons so trained are under control of the Council of Defence, which means strict military law. While three years' compulsory training is nominally stated as sufficient, those undergoing the course must each year pass an "efficiency" standard, otherwise they will be liable for an additional for each year that they are non-efficient.

The reserve force, consisting of men between 21 and 30 years of age, must put in two muster parades in each year.

MILITIA AND TERRITORIAL FORCES.

All the male inhabitants of New Zealand between the ages of 17 and 55, with a few specified exceptions, are liable to be trained and serve in the militia. The militia is divided into the following classes:—

Class I: Unmarried men between 17 and 30 years of age.

Class II: Married men between 17 and 30 years of age, and unmarried men between 30 and 40 years of age.

Class III: Married men between 30 and 55 years of age, and unmarried men 40 and 55 years of age.

In time of war it shall be lawful for the Governor to call upon persons liable to serve in the militia to enrol in the militia. The persons so liable shall be enrolled only after the persons specified in each preceding class are called out.

Under the scheme for a Territorial Force, it is lawful for the Governor to raise and maintain a body of men, and to transfer from the General Training Section any number of men necessary to make up that establishment. On a day to be notified by Proclamation, all volunteer corps at present in existence will cease to exist, and any member of such corps shall be entitled to be enrolled in the Territorial Force in the same rank as that which he held in the volunteer force. Prescribed training is laid down for each year, and here, also, if a member of the Territorial Force fails to be classified as "efficient" his training will be prolonged. Every person under the age of 30 years who has been classified as "efficient" for three years, shall be drafted into the Reserve Force, unless he prefers to remain in the Territorial ranks.

150,000 TRAINED MEN.

Any employer attempting to prevent any person in his employ from serving in the senior cadets, General Training Section, or Territorial Force, as required by the Act, or attempts to penalise him, reduce his wages, or dismiss him from employment, will be liable to a fine of £10.

Those compelled to spend 14 days in camp will receive free rations and ammunition, and 3/ per day. Employers will not be called upon to pay the men for the time they are away from work.

The population the bill will affect will be 87,600, of whom 38,142 are between 14 and 18 years of age, and 31,022 between 18 and 21. Within ten years it is expected that the Reserve Force, of men over 21 years of age, will be built up to 60,000. In a few years' time it is anticipated that there will be between 100,000 and 150,000 in the Dominion with some military training, and a knowledge of how to use a rifle.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Miss Kinder, who has been on an extended visit to England, arrived in Sydney by the R.M.S. Orvieto, and expects to return to Auckland in a few weeks' time.

Mr and Mrs F. Withy and Miss Withy arrived from Rotorua last week, and put up at the Grand Hotel.

Mr. W. O. Haybittle, of Feilding, arrived by the express last week, and is staying at the Central Hotel for a few days.

Mr. W. H. Triggs, editor of the Christchurch "Press," has been granted eight months' leave, and will proceed to the Old Country in March.

Messrs. Oliver and G. Prouse, of Wellington, who have been up for the tennis tournament, returned home by the Main Trunk train last week.

Among the visitors who are at present stopping at the Central Hotel are Messrs L. C. Horton, of Wellington, C. H. Walker and D. Manson, of Christchurch. Messrs. F. G. Dalziel, of Wellington, and Frank E. Nelson, of Hastings, arriver from the South by train on Wednesday, and are stopping at the Grand Hotel.

Captain (pay and quartermaster) Joseph C. Spinley, of the Auckland division of New Zealand Garrison Artillery Volunteers, has been awarded the colonial auxiliary officers' decorations.

The wedding took place at St. Mark's Church, Remuera, last week, of Miss Alice Court, third daughter of Mr. Geo. Court, Remuera, to Mr. Chas. H. Richardson, third son of Captain Richardson.

Mr. Edgar W. Walker, of the New Zealand Insurance Company, who, with his daughter has been on a visit to Rotorua, returned last week, and has again taken up his quarters at the Grand Hotel.

Mr. Walter L. Nathan and Miss Na-

than, of Wellington, arrived from Rotorua last week, and are staying at the Grand Hotel till to-night, when they leave by the express on their return home.

Amongst the New Year honours conferred by the President of the French Republic, we are pleased to notice the nomination of Mr. R. Bouefve, Consul for France in New Zealand, as Knight of the Legion of Honour.

Sir Geo. Clifford, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Lowry, of Hawke's Bay, and Messrs Mark Davis, of Christchurch, W. Raymond, of Timaru, S. G. Nathan, and Trevor Holmden, of Wellington, all of whom have been staying at the Grand Hotel during the holidays, left for home last week by the Main Trunk express.

The many Wellington friends of Mr. P. J. Ewing, formerly an officer on the Tutanekei and the Lady Roberts, and some of the Union Company's steamers, will be interested to learn that he is now in the Mediterranean trade. A letter just received in Wellington states that he is on the Clydehead Navigation Company's steamer "Greatham," running from West Hartlepool to the Levant and North African ports.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Giffidan returned from a visit to the Old Country, via Sydney, by the s.s. Maheno on Sunday last.

Dr. J. M. Mason, late Chief Health Officer for New Zealand, has completed his legal studies in London, and has been called to the Bar.

The Hon. T. Mackenzie, Minister for Agriculture, has arranged to visit the North of Auckland district and the Franz Joseph glacier district on the West Coast this month.

Owing to Lord Kitchener's arrival in the middle of February, his Excellency the Governor has been obliged to postpone his trip to the West Coast of the South Island until March.—Press Association.

Dr. McArthur, S.M., will probably not go on the six months' leave of absence which has been granted him until March (says the "Dominion"). He is at present spending a brief holiday in the Rotorua district.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Carr and family, of Epsom, returned from a trip to Europe, last week. They travelled by the P. and O. steamer Mooltan to Sydney, thence by the Moeaki to Wellington, and came North by the Main Trunk train.

Mr. C. W. Hart, who for two years past has been the chief worker assisting Mr. A. P. Cowie in the Auckland branch of the Mission to Seamen, was a passenger by the Atua last week on his way to take up duties under the Tongan Government.

Mr. H. K. Seddon, the first New Zealand student to enter the Veterinary College at Melbourne University, has passed his "first year" examinations, and in addition secured the gold medal presented by the Hon. G. Graham, Minister for Agriculture, Victoria, for the best first year student.

Dramoel Trauets, of Spokane, Washington, U.S.A., has reached Dunedin. He is cycling round the world for a wager of £3,000. The tour began in Turin, Italy, in December, 1908, since when he has traversed Italy, India, Ceylon, West and South Australia, Victoria, and Tasmania. Trauets has until December, 1913, to complete his task.

Many reminiscences were exchanged at Colonel Gorton's funeral (says the "Advocate"). The presence of the Rangitikei Royal Rifles, the oldest corps now existing in New Zealand, brought reminiscences from Mr. John Stevens and Mr. James Bull as to the still earlier corps. The first cavalry troop was under Captain A. F. Halcombe, and Messrs. Stevens and Bull were members of the second corps, and of the third, the "Alfred" Company of Rangitikei Cavalry Volunteers. Mr. Donald Frazer was lieutenant elect, Mr. Stevens cornet. Major Harris swore them in. Lieutenant Remington Richardson took command, and he was succeeded by Mr. John Stevens as captain. The Rangitikei Royal Rifles is the only survivor of the Corps of those days.

Mr. E. J. Hyams, of Wellington, is at present in Auckland, staying at the Grand Hotel.

Mr. R. W. Dyer, S.M., who has been on a flying visit to Auckland, left for Rotorua by Friday's express.

Captain E. F. Allen, of Samoa, left for Rotorua on Friday, and will proceed thence to Wellington, returning in a fortnight.

Dr. McArthur, S.M., of Wellington, and Mrs. McArthur, arrived in Auckland on