

A Waitaki rod, recently caught 18 fish, the heaviest being 11lb, and the average 6lb for the catch. One fish caught was a 16½ pounder. All the fish with the exception of one seven pounder, were in splendid condition. The 11lb fish caught contained 226 "silveries," which must be something of a record.

Colonel E. B. Blennerhasset and Mr. Charles Stoddart, who come from England every year for the New Zealand trout fishing season, have arrived in Auckland.

Fishing is reported to be remarkably good in the vicinity of Taumarunui this year. The trout are very plentiful, it is reported and in excellent condition.

Russian railway cars have been constructed for many years in such a way that they can, at need, be used on the German railway lines which are of a narrower gauge (the German narrower gauge cars could not be enlarged, and, moreover, there are not sufficient railways in Russia.)

Transylvania, which the Russians are invading, presents the most curious intermixture of races of any province of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. There are, all living in close proximity, Wallachs, Szekehs, Magyars, Saxons, Armenians, and Jews, six distinct nationalities, speaking five different languages, and professing five different forms of religion, compelled to mingle every day in the course of commercial and civil life, and yet each maintaining, even in the the smallest fragments, its own distinct individuality.

When the Gurkhas were told that they were wanted to fight in the great war they asked, "Shall we all be killed?" And the officer said, "Not all." They inquired, "Shall a great many be killed?" He replied, "Possibly." Then they asked, "Will a hundred come back?" "Perhaps so." "That will be enough," they said. "Our people will know that we have fought well."

Holland suffers from the war in many ways. In Zealand, which has only 300,000 inhabitants, there are 400,000 refugees, Flushing with ordinarily 20,000 people has 30,000 refugees Aardeburg and Vreslyke have 5000 added to their own 15000, while Hansweert with usually only 1200 has 2000 in its village and no fewer than 15,000 accommodated in great distress and discomfort in boats on the canal!

"India has surprised me," says an English naval officer writing from that country. "God help the poor Germans when some of them get among them. While in Calcutta I saw one of the most terrible yet solemn affairs one could wish to witness. It was the departure of the Ghurka regiments from here to the front. The men paraded before the C.O. of the province, their arms were all piled in a heap. Their priests then led in about a dozen cattle. These were slaughtered and the blood ran into troughs. As each man's number was called he advanced and dipped his side arm (a queer looking knife) into the blood. This went on until all the men had done the same. Well to put it in a nutshell, they all took oaths never to return till the British army was victorious, and to a man to stand by their holy traditions and regimental standards. After them came squadrons of Bengal Lancers supposed to be equal to our own cavalry regiments. One read business in every man's face. Britain could have raised an army itself out of India. The flow in of cars and thousands of horses given by the native princes to the Government made one feel proud to be a Briton."

You come upon a patch of dazzling scarlet—half an acre of begonias planted by a flower-seller who sells his wares in Ghent, states a correspondent at the front—and you find a mutilated corpse in grey tunic lying face downwards among the flowers.

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