

Mr. A. J. Flanagan, who has managed the grain and produce department of Messrs. Leary and Co., Ltd., Wellington, has resigned his position to enlist. He will enter camp this month.

Mr. R. Lea Wright, travelling representative of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, has been on a visit to Christchurch, and has now left for the West Coast.

Fishing in the Rangitata river recently in daylight, Mr. James Pringle caught a beautiful quinnat salmon, weighing just on 25lb. It was caught from a small minnow, and took half an hour to land. The fish was in splendid condition.

Cats, dogs, rabbits and chickens have been killed in such numbers by the electrified wires protecting the Dutch-Belgian frontier, that the German soldiers have had to be set to work to bury them.

The Hon. J. Drysdale Brown, M.L.C., of New South Wales, brother to Mr. J. Vigor Brown, M.P. for Napier, left Sydney last week by the Moeraki on a holiday to be spent in New Zealand. Mr. Brown intends visiting Napier before returning to Australia.

A private cable message received in Nelson states that Sub-Lieutenant D. E. Harkness, of the Royal Naval Flying Service, has had his commission confirmed, and has proceeded to France. The young airman is a son of Mr. G. A. Harkness, of Nelson.

An eel was discovered in an unusual place in New Plymouth the other day (states the "News"). Whilst sinking foundation holes for the new theatre, next the Criterion Hotel, the contractor struck an 8-inch eel, 11 feet down. In the old days a stream passed through the section, which, like most of the middle of the town, has been filled in. Whence did the eel come? That is a question which is puzzling the contractors.

Mr. Ernest Gillon, locomotive engineer in the head office of the Railway Department, is acting as locomotive engineer for the Auckland district during the absence of Mr. F. Morrison on his annual leave.

The Auckland City Council has expended within the last four years the following amounts from loan upon the purchase of parks inside the city boundaries:—Point Erin, £20,000; Gillies', Parnell, £16,500; Kilbryde, £5000; city expenditure on formation of Myers' Park, £4500—total, £46,000.

Mr. A. C. R. Perrin, for the past two years assistant sub-editor of the Christchurch "News," has joined the non-commissioned officers' camp at Featherston. Prior to his departure for Wellington he was presented with a wristlet watch from members of the "Press" staff. His father is Mr. A. Perrin, of Kilbirnie, Wellington.

Mr. Malcolm Niccol, Grand Secretary of New Zealand Freemasonry, is at present in Auckland, making preliminary arrangements for the transfer from Christchurch of his head office, which will, under the Masonic peripatetic system, be stationed in Auckland for two years from May next.

Tourist traffic is a traffic that leaves many sovereigns in its trail, and countries that before the war did a profitable trade in catering for tourists are now suffering severely from the great falling off in their particular business. It is officially estimated that the absence of tourist traffic owing to the war has cost the Isle of Man an actual loss of revenue of £1,000,000, and another million in respect of goods ordered by tradespeople and boardinghouse-keepers for which there is now no demand.

The greatest monument in the world is the Great Pyramid of Egypt, which was built nearly 6000 years ago. It was built by Cheops, King

of Egypt, who, following the example of previous kings, wished to have a magnificent tombstone, so that he would be remembered. He is remembered, but not at all as he would have wished, for it is certain that the thousands of men who were engaged in building it worked under the lash. The result is Cheops is always put down as a tyrant. According to Herodotus, the ancient Greek historian, 100,000 men were at work on it for 20 years. It covers an area of 13½ acres, and contains 7,000,000 tons of masonry. It was built in layers—over 200 in number—and then the edges were filled in to make the sides smooth. The stone used varied in weight from two tons to sixty tons. When it was built it was about 480 feet high, and the sides were each 775 feet long. Passages led to the centre of the pyramid.

Australia, with its vast timber resources, is unable to supply the military camps with tent pegs and poles. "Most people will say with the Minister, that such a thing is nonsensical," says the Melbourne "Herald." "The Defence Department, however, is of that opinion, and as it is the buyer it is important that its opinion should be changed. Australian hardwoods are good enough for sleepers for our railways, piles for our piers, and blocks for our street pavements, and our soft woods are suitable for house construction and railway and tramcar panelling; yet when a few pegs and poles for military tents are required, it is said by the Defence Department that it is necessary to go to America for them. Australia possesses an immense quantity of marketable timbers of every variety suitable for all requirements. What is lacking in one State is procurable in another."

Sergeant Reg. Fear, of Wellington, who went away as a member of the N.Z.M.C., writes from London on January 10 to the effect that the Weymouth Camp (where the colon-

ials reassembled after their furlough at Home) was being abandoned, owing to its alleged unhealthy condition, and in consequence the New Zealanders were reassembling at Hornchurch, occupying the huts recently occupied by the Sportsmen's Battalion. The place belonged to a wealthy gentleman who had given his home and grounds to the War Office, had built and fitted the huts, and provided everything in readiness for the reception of the troops. The house, one of the fine old English types, covered with Virginia creeper, is ages old, and is known as "The Grey Towers." The place is considered to be one of the best camps in England. When he wrote, Sergeant Fear was N.C.O. in charge of the hospital, with a staff of eight under him. Sergeant Fear is a passenger to New Zealand by the Arawa, which is due here shortly.

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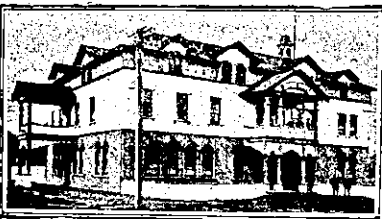
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