

Surgeon-Captain Hartgill, son of Mr. W. H. Hartgill, of Dannevirke, has been awarded the Military Cross for his conduct on the field in France.

Some good catches of fish have been recorded recently at Paekakariki. The other evening Mr. Coulter, a resident, secured a net-haul of 93 snapper and between 30 and 40 kahawai. A substantial bundle was forwarded to the Trentham Camp.

Mr. C. E. Laycock, for many years shipping reporter on the Auckland "Herald," and latterly on the staff of the "New Zealand Yachtsman," goes into camp this month.

Mr. W. Dewdney Drew, member of the Legislative Assembly of the South African Union has been spending a holiday of eight weeks in New Plymouth, after an absence from New Zealand of 27 years.

Mr. E. W. Cave, Clerk of the Magistrate's and Warden's Courts, Grey-mouth, has received notice of his transfer to Palmerston North. He will be succeeded by Mr. J. McIndoe of Westport.

The coast around Napier is known as an excellent fishing ground. Fish must be more plentiful than ever

shearing is 260 sheep, for the hop, step, and jump 44ft 9in., and high jump 5ft 6½in. At the last Palmerston show his services as a rider were in such keen demand that he rode eight out of 14 horses in one competition, and throughout the jumping contests he rode over 296 fences without accident.

Sergeant F. Kennedy, eldest son of Mr. A. A. Kennedy, of Napier, who recently received the Military Medal, has now been awarded a bar to be worn with it.

Lieutenant Graham Cruickshank, formerly of Auckland (son of the late Mr. William Cruickshank), who is serving with the Canadian forces, has been promoted to the rank of Captain.

Mr. W. Welch, F.R.G.S., and Mrs. Welch, formerly residents of Palmerston North, but now of Sydney, spent a few days in Wellington on their return home after a visit to the United States of America.

The War Office is taking over Buckingham Palace Hotel, near Buckingham Palace, as a convalescent home for wounded soldiers. This is the sixth London Hotel to be taken over by the Government, the others being

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Mr. C. Webb, Field Inspector at Masterton, has been transferred to Wellington.

Canon and Mrs. Rupert Farbrother, of Tamworth, N.S.W., are visiting New Zealand after an absence of eight years.

The Palmerston North Fire Brigade has a unique war record, no less than three of its members having been awarded the Military Medal for distinguished conduct at the front. Their names are Sergeants Dredge and Gilshnan, and Farrier C. G. Durrant.

Mr William Epps, secretary of the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, is visiting New Zealand with a view to making investigations into the system of hospital methods of management in the Dominion.

Excellent sport was found recently at the kingfish grounds in the vicinity of the Bay of Islands by an expedition of which Mr. W. H. Hazard, of Auckland, and Mr. R. Acton Adams, of Dunedin, were the principal members. Fish were very plentiful and the take included about a dozen large ones, ranging in weight from 45lb to 80lb (says the Mail).

Cabinet has decided to sanction the expenditure of £5000 in extending the present hospital accommodation at the military camp at Featherston.

Mr. and Mrs. Aldworth of Sydney, are visitors to Wellington. Mr. Aldworth was formerly a director of the Sydney Referee and Sunday Times Company. It is their intention to pay a visit to Tahiti before returning to Australia.

Mr Charles Holdsworth, managing director of the Union Steamship Company, is on his way to Honolulu, accompanied by Mrs. Holdsworth and Miss Holdsworth.

Mr John Harper, senr., who died recently at the age of ninety years, left four generations of descendants. Mr Harper, sen., was one of the Canterbury Pilgrims. He came out in the Randolph, one of the first four ships, with his wife and two little sons, a third being born on the voyage. He and his family lived first in a cave in the hillside of the Heathcote Valley, but subsequently moved to a sod hut on the bank of the river. He engaged in farming in what is now the Woolston district, and is said to have been the first in Canterbury to use a horse-driven threshing plant. Later on he drove the Ferry Road coach. He lived for many years on the Ferry Road, at the spot known as Harper's Siding. Mr Harper has left six sons and four daughters, sixty grandchildren, seventy-two great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. Ten of his grandsons are at the front or in camp.



WITH THE ALLIED ARMIES AT SALONIKA.—GUNS AND SHELLS ABANDONED BY THE BULGARIANS.

there at present judging from the following paragraph from the "Hawke's Bay Herald":—"Last week large sharks were very plentiful in the bay, and worked havoc among the trawlers' nets. In some instances the trawling crews replaced the nets by hand lines and hundreds of snapper were caught. Each man had three lines, and the fish were hauled up two at a time continuously. One fisherman's record was over two hundred in one day. At present by the western pier at the entrance to the Inner Harbour small sharks can be seen making their way up the channel by the score."

It is reported that deer, once so plentiful in the South Wairarapa, particularly in the neighbourhood of Martinborough, show deterioration. Seldom is a good head seen. In fact, followers of the sport contemplate visiting other districts this season.

M. E. de Baillou, general manager in Australia and Noumea of the Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes, whose death occurred in Sydney at the age of 58 years, entered the service of the M.M. Company when 16 years of age. He subsequently represented the company in many parts of the world. He acted at different times as agent of the company at Zanzibar, Port Said, Bombay, Saigan, Noumea, and Australia. During his residence in Sydney M. de Baillou took an active interest in the promotion of the cordial feeling of friendship that exists between the French and Australian residents of the city. He left six children—three sons and three daughters. All his sons are at the war in the French army and one was recently decorated with the French War Cross.

One of the recruits of the 24th Reinforcements, who enlisted at Fielding, is Mr. G. Smith, the well-known athlete, rider, and shot. His record for

the Metropole, Carter's (Albemarle street), De Keyser's, the Salisbury, and the Grand (Trafalgar-square).

Captain J. B. Rogers, of the 4th, Waikato, Mounted Rifles, who is by profession a solicitor, has been appointed as a military representative at the sittings of the military service boards in the Auckland district.

Dr. Morice, who was Acting-Superintendent of Wellington Hospital during Dr. Barclay's absence at the front, is at present in the Manawatu district on holiday leave. On his return he will take charge of Victoria Military Hospital, Wellington South.

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Whichever British warship is most active in the Mediterranean will become possessor of a magnificent silver cup. It is the gift of the Duke of Abruzzi, who has presented it to Admiral Jellicoe for final conferment.

The well-known oarsman, Mr. Tom Sullivan, is one of the New Zealand prisoners of war in the Ruhleben Camp, who will be released under the recently-arranged prisoner exchange. He has a son who is also in the camp but who, being under the required age, will remain a prisoner until the termination of the war.

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