

The Hon. James Allen, Minister for Defence has received the following letter from Mr. H. Hands, Mayor of Cape Town:—

"I desire to thank you very sincerely for your letter of February 16, in which you are good enough to express appreciation of what has been done to show some little hospitality to the New Zealand troops calling here. On behalf of the various committees concerned, viz., the Red Cross Society, the Gifts and Comforts Organisation Committee, and the Visiting Troops Entertainment Committee, and, I may add, the whole of the citizens of Cape Town, I can only assure you that it has been a pleasure to welcome our New Zealand brothers to endeavour to relieve the tedium of the long voyage, and to make them as comfortable as possible while they are with us. There will be no relaxation of our efforts in this direction, as we regard it a privilege to be able in some small way to show gratitude for and appreciation of all that New Zealand has done to help the Empire in this struggle against the forces of lawless iniquity."

Waterspouts are uncommon things on the New Zealand coast, but on the last trip of the steamer Tasman from Whakatane to Tauranga one was seen by the passengers. The sea at the base of the column was violently agitated, and the water was whirling in a remarkable manner, but the vessel did not come within range of the movement.

Featherston has a beautiful Anzac Club, which was erected by the residents of that district (remarks the 'Wellington Times'). Quite a number of wealthy young settlers contributed £500 each towards the institution. There are separate rooms for privates, non-coms., and officers. The same rule applies to their wives, and a private's wife cannot go into the officer's rooms unless accompanied by an officer's wife. There is now in camp as a private one of the squatters who contributed £500, but he is not allowed to wander at will through the building he so materially helped to build, but he is confined to the privates' quarters. He is also acting as officers' orderly, and is each day obliged to groom the horse he generously gave a while ago.

It has been decided to commemorate the jubilee of the opening of the Thames goldfields, which falls on August 1 next, with a quiet function, and arrangements are now in hand. The combined celebration carnival has been postponed until after the war.

For failing to give notice of change of address to the Government Statistician, as required under the Military Service Act, George William Barnett and Frank Oakley Skelton were each fined 10s. at Wellington recently.

The Rotorua "Chronicle" reports that two anglers, Mr. and Mrs. Millar, of Tauranga, who had been in camp at Rotorua for some time, were successful in placing in their baskets 940 trout, the largest weighing 6½lb. Among those landed were ten of 6lb each and six of 6½lb each. The average of the 940 was 2½lb. The trout were in fine condition, and demonstrated that the fish in Lake Rotorua are improving.

Railway passengers in England need no longer pull down the carriage blinds after dark. Sir George Cave, the Home Secretary, recently issued an order, revoking the previous orders, which were regarded as a necessary safeguard against enemy aerial attacks. These provided that, except in case of necessity in a station, carriage windows must be kept covered from half an hour after sunset till half an hour before sunrise.

"There is far more fellowship in the bar or smoke-room of a public house than in the average Christian Church," said the Rev. Bernard Snell chairman of the Congregational Union, at a recent conference in England.

The medal of merit was recently awarded to Scout Marshall, of Mackaytown, Upper Thames, by the London Headquarters Scout Council. Some months ago the lad noticed a large block of stone which had fallen from one of the high cuttings on the Waihi railway line, and, being unable to remove it, he gave the alarm and brought a resident to remove the obstacle, which otherwise might have caused a serious accident. The Home authorities forwarded the medal through His Excellency the Governor.

Some sportsmen in South Canterbury have this season shot ducks which they believe to be a cross between the native grey and the mallard. The hybrid is a bigger bird than the grey duck but it is not so good for table purposes from the point of view of quality.

In preparing synthetic drugs, aspirin, phenacetin, antipyrin, and many others, practically a German monopoly before the war, British monopoly before the war, British gress that prices are coming down rapidly. Drugs which remain dear are those containing opium, which came largely from Turkey, and liquorice, of which a great deal came from Mesopotamia and Syria.

If Germany had not completed her nitrate manufacturing preparation before the war broke out she would have had to sue for peace, it was said at the National Society of Dyers and Colourists at Manchester. With out nitrates she could not have continued to fight.

A War Regulation has been gazetted which prohibits the hoisting on a flag pole or other display of the white ensign or the blue ensign, with or without any distinguishing mark, unless with the permission of a military authority. An exception is made in favour of the New Zealand flag, which is a blue ensign with a certain distinguishing mark.



MISS CONSTANCE CAYLEY, as Prince Regent in the J. C. Williamson pantomime "The House That Jack Built," opening in Auckland on June 30th.

"We are feeding 20,000 of London's poor quite apart from our war work," stated Adjutant A. E. Hosking, of the Salvation Army, at a meeting of the Wellington Patriotic Society. He added that the army also provided accommodation for thousands of munition workers.

Guests of honour at the recent reunion of the Wanganui section of the New Zealand Post and Telegraph Officers' Association were Mr. G. W. Sampson, ex-Chief Postmaster at Wanganui (53 years' service), and Mr. M. C. Corliss, formerly Superintendent of Telegraphs in that district (47½ years' service). Mr. Sampson was presented with a gold Albert and Mr. Corliss with a case of pipes and other small mementoes.

A Tiritea (Manawatu) settler reports the presence of the komako or bell bird. Its clear call may be heard each morning and evening. This is said to be the first evidence of its presence in Manawatu for many years.

Arrivals at the Grosvenor Hotel, Timaru, last week included:—Mr. T. G. Young, Mr. R. C. McNeillage, Mr. P. Todd, Mr. A. C. Ross, Mr. N. A. Nash, Mr. H. W. Macdonald, Mr. A. W. Dawson, Mr. F. Leitch, Mr. W. G. Hurley, Mr. H. Clark, Mr. Erskine Nicol, Dunedin; Mr. H. Andersen, Mrs. E. Narbey, Mr. C. Clarke, Mr. A. Turner, Mr. T. V. Crease, Mr. C. McIntosh, Mr. S. Jacobs, Mr. H. W. Clarke, Mr. R. King, Mr. J. G. Longuet, Mr. N. R. Macbeth, Mr. J. F. Browning, Mr. E. Button, Mr. C. W. Sanders, Mr. C. M. Madden, Mr. J. D. McGregor, Mr. W. J. Trusttun, Mr. A. C. Johnson, Mr. H. W. Palmer, Mr. J. Clayton, Mr. A. P. Hopkins, Mr. H. Wood, Mr. J. Moffatt, Mr. J. A. P. Philp, Mr. H. Foley, Mr. C. W. Anderson, Mr. D. Ronayne, Mr. Jas. Amess, Mr. R. Nettleton, Mr. N. Andrews, Mr. F. W. Kirk, Mr. T. H. Baker, Mr. G. W. Hargreaves, Mr. H. Hargreaves, Mr. W. H. Skinner, Mr. F. W. Hunt, Mr. R. Carrick, Mr. Selby Lucas, Mr. A. W. Cramp, Mr. H. W. Clarke, Christchurch; Mr. H. C. Best, Melbourne; Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Clegg, Mr. H. Blackman, Mr. D. A. Fay, Wellington; Mr. S. Gillingham, Fairlie; Mr. H. S. Fenn, Cave; Mr. R. Milligan, Mr. R. K. Ireland, Oamaru; Mr. R. Gardner, Cust; Mr. C. Archer, Southbrook; Mr. J. Ford, Foxdown; Mr. B. Hale, Sydney; Mr. J. D. McGruer, Invercargill; Mr. and Mrs. L. Sillas, Miss Sillas, Vancouver.

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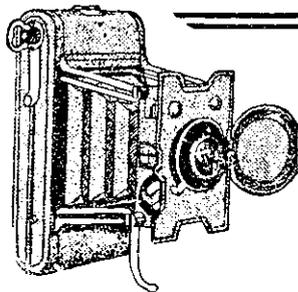
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