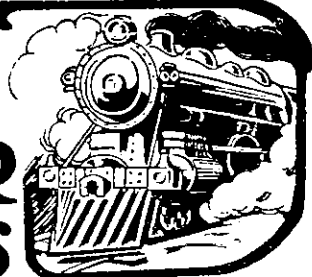


TOURIST AND TRAVELLER



HERE AND THERE.

Mr. W. Downie Stewart, M.P., of Dunedin, is on a visit to Auckland.

In a speech at Helensville, Sir James Allen said that New Zealand to date had sent away 95,000 soldiers and over 22,000 had returned.

Lieutenant E. R. Black, youngest son of Mr. G. J. Black, of Gisborne, has been awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in Palestine, and is returning to New Zealand on duty. Lieutenant Black left with the 2nd Reinforcement in 1914, and has seen service in Egypt, Gallipoli and France, being severely wounded at Armentieres.

Dr. H. Ick-Hewins, of Manaia, has been appointed resident surgeon to the Dunstan Hospital. Among the applications for the position were three lady doctors.

Mr. R. G. Robinson, superintendent of State forestry operations in the South Island, is resigning from the Department after nineteen years' service.

Lieutenant Ezra A. Dobbie, of the Black Watch, is at present in Dunedin on leave for six months to recuperate from wounds and general debility as the result of active service. He has served with the British forces in Egypt, Macedonia and France, and also in Ireland.

Shooting on the New River on Sunday (says the "Southland Times"), Messrs. Charles Mumford and J. Thomson secured a fine bag of 31 grey ducks. A number were also lost to the shootists because of the flooded state of the country.

Mr. W. P. Archibald, a well-known breeder, has resigned the management of the Karamu station (Hastings), with which he has been connected for many years, in order to take up farming on his own account.

The Wellington Savage Club sent a handsome wreath to the grave of Captain Dave Kenny, one of the prominent members of the club, who died recently at Walton Hospital.

Speaking at a meeting of the Christchurch Technical College Board of Governors, Mr. C. H. Opie, who is chairman of the Canterbury Education Board, stated that out of the 130,000 children in the Dominion, 60,000 never went beyond the fourth standard in the schools.

If the scarcity of typewriters becomes more acute, one will probably find these helpful contrivances only in the British Museum (says the London correspondent of the "New York Herald"). They are as expensive as motor cars were before the war, and the end is not yet. The reasons for the big rise in price are the prohibition of manufacture here, the restriction on importations, and the enormous increase in the clerical forces of London due to the war. The United States may prepare for the biggest typewriter export business after the war it has ever known. "We have had to ration ourselves in machines for a long time," says the sales manager of a typewriter company. "If you were to put down £100 for a new machine we could not supply you. Even our remodelled machines fetch as much as £30. These cost about £8 before the war. A man wrote us the other day offering a second-hand machine for £100."

A farmer who was appealing for his son, who had just come to military age, told the Military Service Board at New Plymouth that he had 16 children, nine of whom were sons, and four of them had gone to the front. The Board adjourned the appeal sine die, adding its congratulations to the appellant for his family's record.

Mr. G. F. Wright, of the well-known Sydney firm of Maten and Wright, stock and station agents, has returned to Sydney after a business trip to New Zealand.

With regard to the ploughing up of grassland, of which one hears so much nowadays, it is not generally realised how long such land takes to form, says an English journal. At Oxford some of the colleges are proud of their ancient lawns. A rich American, touring round the place, was much struck by the velvety turf of these "quads," and he made minute enquiries of the gardener of one college as to the method of laying down and maintaining the grass. "That's all, is it?" he exclaimed, when the whole process had been carefully described. "Yes, sir," replied the gardener, with a twinkle in his eye, "that's all, but we generally leave it three or four hundred years to settle in!"

Mr. R. G. Robinson, Superintendent of State Forestry in the South Island, has resigned, after 19 years' service, to accept the position of Superintendent of Selwyn Reserves, Canterbury.

Recent reports from American railroads indicate that approximately 70,000 men have left railway service to join the colours. Inquiries addressed to all lines 100 miles in length or over brought replies from 119 railroads with a combined operated mileage of 201,081, or about 77 per cent. of the mileage of the country, says the "Railway Age." These roads reported that 54,381 officers and employees had joined the armed forces of the United States since the declaration of war, of whom 1417 received commissions.

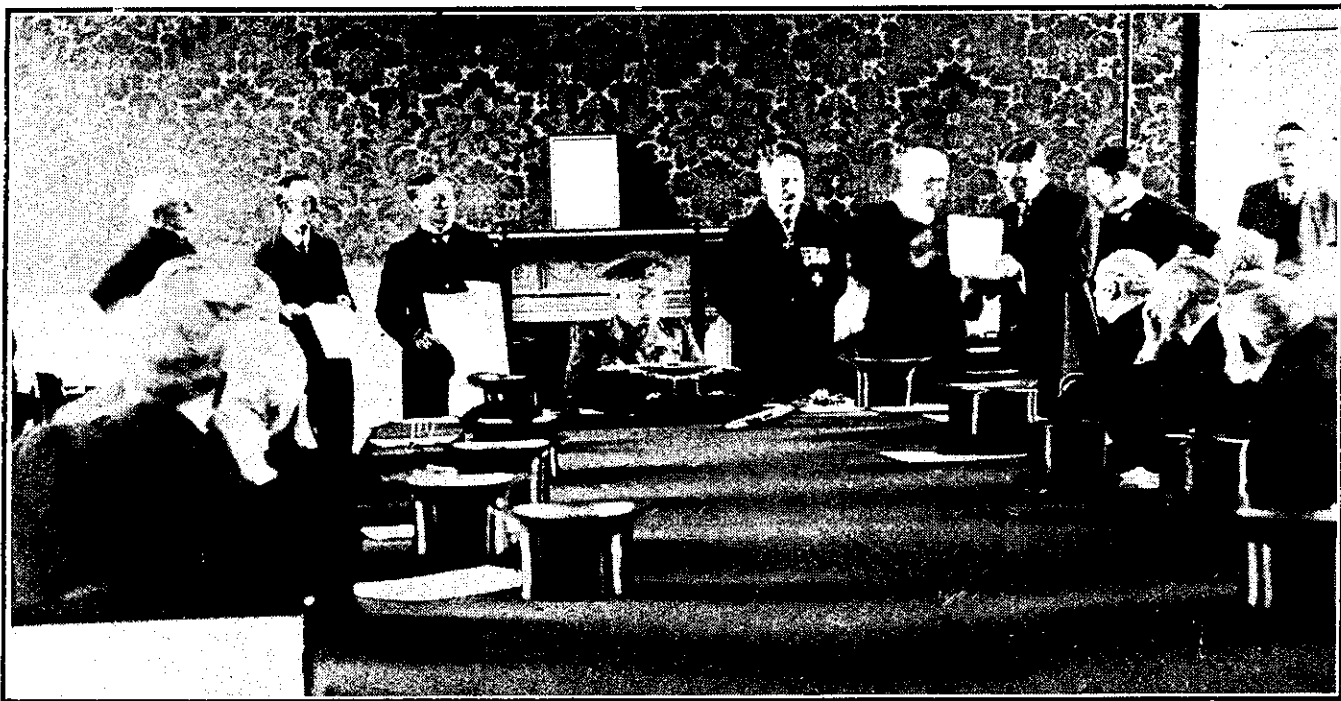
"I know a man who had 8000 sheep and 800 head of cattle, who went into camp and left only his shepherd in charge," said Captain Macdonnell at the Appeal Court, at Palmerston North, endeavouring to convince a hesitating appellant of the practicability of one man running two small farms.

Mr. Lloyd George and the Overseas Prime Ministers are attending the War Council at Versailles.

Lieutenant W. Cecil Leys, who has been on active service for the last two or three years, in connection with motor-transport operations on the Salonika, French, and Mesopotamia fronts, returned to Auckland last week.

M. Chayet, late Consul-General for France in Australasia, has, after six and a-half years' residence in Sydney, been transferred to Guatemala, in Central America. M. Chayet, who has been spending a short time in New Zealand en route, was given a civic welcome in Wellington.

Major F. G. Massey, son of Mr. W. F. Massey, Prime Minister of New Zealand, has been awarded the D.S.O.



FIELD-MARSHAL LORD FRENCH BEING SWORN IN AS VICEROY OF IRELAND. VISCOUNT FRENCH, THE NEW LORD LIEUTENANT OF IRELAND, IS NOW DULY AND FORMALLY INSTALLED IN HIS HIGH OFFICE. The ceremonies by which he became invested with full authority as Viceroy in Ireland were simple but impressive.

Mr. J. Meek, managing director of the Vacuum Oil Company, left Wellington last week on a trip to Sydney.

It was reported at a meeting of the Auckland Acclimatisation Society that since July 1, 1600 beaks had been brought to the office of the Auckland Society, and a reward of sixpence per beak paid. Hawks were very easily trapped and large numbers could be secured.

Surviving passengers of the Wimmera who left for Sydney by the Huddart-Parker Company's Riverina last week included Mrs. Croft and her six children, Mrs. and Miss Browning, Mrs. White, Miss Alice Durn, and Mrs. Burt.

It is stated amongst those who should know (says the Otago "Daily Times") that there is likely to be a severe shortage of seamen and firemen in New Zealand in the near future. The reason for this possibility is said to be consequent on the number of men who are deserting from New Zealand ships on each of their trips to America and Canada. The wages for both seamen and firemen are considerably higher in America to-day than those ruling here, and this is put forward as the chief reason for the men thus taking the opportunity to leave their vessels illicitly for the purpose of signing on on American steamers. For instance, the rate for firemen on the Pacific coast of America is 75 dollars a month, as compared with the award rate in the Dominion of about £13. One seaman was asked how the New Zealand vessels returning from America made up their crews. He replied that "anybody" was signed on, the majority of them certainly not being expert seamen or firemen.

There are now about a dozen different means of communication in the Army—lamp, flag, heliograph, shutter, telephone, telegraph, power buzzer, contact-aeroplane, despatch rider, carrier pigeon, and messenger dogs. Round the last-named there is gathering a wealth of romance, for the dog's value as a messenger is being daily proved in the Army. There has been formed in this country a dog school for training dogs in the arduous and important work of message-carrying under fire. The messages are fastened in a pouch on the dog's collar; and, judging from the excellent results the animals are giving, the time should not be far distant when the names of certain heroic dogs will be as well known to the public as the names of our greater generals. There is an amazing interest attached to the daily life of a messenger dog. Each animal has a kennel of its own, which it is taught to regard as its own private property; and this kennel is taken with the dog to its final destination over-seas. Moreover, the keeper of a kennel of dogs is never changed; thus the dogs regard one man, and one man only, as their master. This is an important factor when the animals are taken to the trenches and liberated with a despatch in the pouch. As soon as the dog returns with a message it is rewarded with food. This reward always takes the same form—either meat, or bones, or some other delicacy—so that immediately a dog is released with a message it dashes off home in anticipation of the customary tit-bit which awaits it. To this end the soldiers in the trenches have orders not to pet the dogs or to give them any food whatever. The idea is that the messenger dogs should have a very "thin" time of it, so that when they are unleashed with a message their earnestness to get "home" will be stimulated.—Augustus Muir, in the "Daily Mail."



VISCOUNT FRENCH, the famous Field-Marshal, who is now His Majesty's representative in Ireland, having been appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in place of Lord Wimborne, who recently resigned.