

"The farmer is not only the backbone of the country," said Mr. E. Macdonald at the Upper Hutt, "but he is the flesh that clothes the backbone."

Lieutenant Eric Rhodes, youngest son of Mr. C. Rhodes, of Remuera, who has been serving abroad with the Australian Imperial Forces since 1915, returned by the Maheno.

A record bullock, tipping the beam at 1198lb. dressed weight, was handled last week at a Pahiataua butchery. The animal is believed to be the biggest known in the district.

Some interesting history with reference to the appointment of Marshal Foch as Generalissimo of the Allied Forces was related to the members of the Royal Colonial Institute by the Hon. W. H. Triggs (says the Christchurch "Press"). It was Sir Henry Wilson, he was told, who first laid down the proposition that it was absolutely necessary to appoint a Generalissimo in supreme command of the Allied Forces. He soon converted Mr. Lloyd George to that view, but great difficulties were met with, some of them in unexpected quarters. The credit of finally bringing about the appointment of General Foch, Mr. Triggs believed, belonged to Lord Milner, a still, strong man in public life, of whom very little was heard. Lord Milner not only brought the English Government as a whole to see that the appointment of a Generalissimo was necessary, but he it was, Mr. Triggs was assured, who convinced the French Government that General Foch was the right man for the position. "I think you will agree with me," said the speaker, "that the work he did in connection with the appointment of General Foch entitles him to undying gratitude. We in the Dominion have every reason to be proud and grateful for the fact that he is Secretary of State for the Colonies."

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Mr. L. B. Campbell, A.M.I.C.E., of the Public Works Department, who lately returned from a six months' tour through Canada and the United States, has been appointed district engineer at Stratford.

While speaking at the Wellington Garrison Officers' Club regarding the reorganisation of the New Zealand territorial force, Brigadier-General Richardson stated that the scheme of reorganisation must provide for ample equipment and ammunition, a complete and highly-trained staff, ample supply of well-trained officers with adequate reserves to replace wastages, and well-trained non-commissioned officers. He also stated that the small force to be mobilised must be ready trained and properly equipped to take the field at once. If the remainder of the manhood of the nation were properly classified, and had passed through a short intensive course of training as cadets and learnt to use a rifle, they could be quickly trained and made efficient as reinforcements.



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