

Wanganui District Junior Debating Competition

A. R. DINGWALL, Instructor in Agriculture, Wanganui.

A CONTEST in the Junior Section of the District Debating Competition was held in St. Andrew's Hall, Marton, on the evening of Thursday, October 9, the teams competing being representatives of the Bulls and Mangaweka Young Farmers' Clubs. The District Secretary presided, and Mr. S. G. Laurenson, Marton, acted as adjudicator, and Mr. S. G. V. Avery as timekeeper.

The teams were as follows:—

Bulls.—W. Bowen (leader), and W. Anderson and P. Anderson.

Mangaweka.—J. Murphy (leader), and D. Murphy and N. Weston.

The subject for debate was: "That the Young Farmer of Today has Greater Opportunities than his Grandfather." The Mangaweka team took the affirmative.

The chairman, in opening the meeting, extended a welcome to members of teams and their supporters, and intimated that the present function was the first of the activities arranged by the District Committee for junior competition only. He pointed out that the District Committee had recently given serious consideration to the need of catering for and fostering the interests of the younger members of Y.F. clubs, more especially at the present time, when the maintenance of club membership largely depended upon the support given by and the enthusiasm of the younger members.

Credit to Juniors

The debate was opened strongly and confidently by the leader of the affirmative, and his opening address replied to as confidently by the leader of the negative. Thereafter it was soon apparent that, contrary to what might have been expected in view of the difficulty experienced by most clubs in getting junior members to participate in activities that involve speaking before an audience, the juniors were not lacking in confidence, and were out to acquit themselves in no uncertain manner. Poor old grandfather must have been subjected to a pretty tough and unenviable time in the "good old days," according to the convincing arguments put forward by the affirmative speakers, and his opportunities appeared to have been conspicuous by their absence.

However, those speakers in support of the negative of the subject were quick to his aid in pointing out the delinquencies of these modern times in comparison with those of a generation or so ago, and in stoutly maintaining

that the rosy picture of modern opportunities as portrayed by the opposition was not all that it might have been in comparison with those of earlier times. In fact, it would almost seem that granddad must have had a particularly care-free and prosperous, if not exactly hectic, time with his firestick by which he set his little world

Roll of Honour

It is intended to compile a Y.F.C. Roll of Honour, to be published in the "Journal of Agriculture," commencing with the December issue, with additions appearing at regular intervals.

It is desirable that the Roll should be a complete record, as far as possible, and to that end Club Secretaries are requested to send in at an early date particulars relating to members who are already serving overseas, or are in active training for any of the fighting services. Details and particulars should be given as fully as possible; Regimental Number, Rank, Division, Unit, etc. Should be included. It should also be stated if a member has been "killed in action," "wounded," died of wounds, or is a "prisoner of war," or "missing." Any decorations or promotions should also be detailed.

The fullest co-operation of clubs is solicited in the compiling of this Roll of Honour, and it would be appreciated if the information is sent to me as soon as possible. Further information should be forwarded from time to time as it is available.

S. FREEMAN.

Organising Secretary.

alight, and by his freedom from all the cares and woes that have followed in the train of so-called amenities of modern life. Further, in vindication of grandfather's honour, it was adroitly pointed out by one speaker for the negative that "forty" rhymes more aptly than "ninety" with "naughty."

However, despite all that the advocates of grandfather's time had to say, the supporters of the present era and its opportunities were not to be outdone, and they proved sufficiently convincing to carry off the honours of a very closely contested and interesting debate by the narrow margin of two points. The judge's final summing up accorded a win to the affirmative (Mangaweka team) by 326 points to the 324 points scored by its opponents (Bulls team).

Judge's Comments

In his very constructive comments and criticism of the debate given after the announcement of the results, Mr. Laurenson congratulated both teams on their manner of debating, and expressed pleasure in finding that the juniors had evidenced a good deal more confidence than had been expected. Both teams had made a good all-round approach to the subject, and had shown equally good teamwork throughout. There had been a little hesitancy on the part of one or two speakers, and both leaders had failed to pay sufficient attention to the point of adequately summarising the arguments in favour of their respective sides of the debate when making their closing addresses, though their criticisms of opponents' arguments had been quite good. The judge concluded by giving some useful guidance on some of the finer points of debating.

The chairman congratulated the members of both teams upon the confident, able, and interesting manner in which they participated in the evening's event, and expressed the opinion that the standard of debating shown was little, if at all, below that of the recently-held Senior Section finals, on which occasion the judges concerned had both commented most favourably upon the standard shown. On behalf of the District Committee and the teams and other Y.F. club members present, he conveyed thanks

S. OPPENHEIMER & CO., INC.

(Incorporated in U.S.A. as a Limited Liability Company)
Established 1868 in New York, 1892 in New Zealand.

SAUSAGE CASINGS

Manufacturers and Exporters of
New Zealand Casings. Importers
of American Hog Casings.

Office: 38-42 The Terrace,
WELLINGTON.

P.O. Box 350. Telephone 43-373