

**CONDITIONS IN CAMP
PRAISED**

**Troops Well Fed, Well
Clothed, Well Paid**

Tribute to the excellent conditions provided for training the troops in New Zealand before sending them overseas was paid by Colonel J. Hargest, officer commanding the 5th Infantry Brigade, addressing a party of Southland farmers at the Exhibition recently.

The Government had certainly done its part, he said. He believed no counsellor had put its troops into camp in better conditions. There was no extravagance in buildings, cooking, or the supply of food, yet the men were fed well that food was not even a topic of conversation—a most unusual state of affairs. The men were well clothed, well housed, and well paid.

He believed the soldiers of the present force were better fitted to do what they had to do than their predecessors of 25 years ago. They were a force to be proud of, the flower of the country's manhood. They were coming up to the colours, and recruiting was progressing splendidly, though there was not the incentive to join up while no actual war was being fought in New Zealand troops overseas.

The Minister said that it had been decided to assist to a reasonable extent in the case of policies taken out immediately before or subsequent to the date of enlistment. Special circumstances would always be taken into consideration and, subject to the prescribed conditions, each case would be treated as generously as possible upon its merits.

"I wish to make it clear," said Mr. Nash, "that assistance for this or for any other purpose will always be granted by the board in accordance with the financial circumstances of the applicant, having regard to his ability to meet from his military pay and other resources commitments entered into.

"The principles which the board has been directed to observe provide also that in each case the commitment should be reasonable in relation to the applicant's obligations and general circumstances. In connection with life insurance policies which have been taken out immediately prior or subsequent to the date of enlistment, it has been decided to assist in such cases to a reasonable extent.

"The provision of insurance is undoubtedly a sound policy, and the board has accordingly been authorised to consider applications for assistance in respect of new policies up to a maximum of £200 of insurance cover. There is an important proviso that the financial circumstances of the soldier must be such that the measure of assistance through the medium of the Board is justified.

"The policy being followed is along the same lines as that adopted in 1916-18, when the Soldiers' Financial Assistance Board considered the payment of insurance premiums on new policies up to a maximum cover of £200."

**Aiding Soldiers
Assistance with Life
Insurance**

The principles which the Soldiers' Financial Assistance Board has been directed to observe in granting assistance toward the payment of life insurance premiums was explained by Minister of Finance, the Hon. W. Massey.

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REAL THING.

Private: May I have a week's leave to get married, sir?

Captain: But I thought you had a week off last year for the same purpose?

Private: I'm afraid I did, sir, but this time it's the truth.

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THRILLING.

The man who had just returned from France was relating a thrilling experience.

"Yes," he said, "an Apache sprang at me in one of the streets of Paris, snatched my pocket-case of notes, and bolted. The gendarmes chased him, and when cornered he leapt into the river—"

"Ah!" said a listener. "Guilty but in Seine."

* * * *

An old soldier had been brought before his officer for the crime of having a dirty rifle. "A man of your service ought to know better," said the C.O. severely. "You are an old soldier, and know quite well what is expected of you. By the way, what was your last crime?"

"Having a dirty bow and arrow, sir," replied the man.

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MIGHT BE WORSE.

At the Army and Navy Rugger match a big spectator with a very loud voice kept shouting: "Up the Navy!" at frequent intervals to the discomfort of a little man in front.

During a lull, the latter turned round and said: "Pardon my asking, sir. You've served in the Navy, I suppose?"

"Lumme, yes!" bellowed the loud-voiced one. "I served in one of those 'hush-hush' ships."

"Ah," murmured the other. "Thank goodness you didn't serve in H.M.S. 'Thunderer!'"

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HER CHOICE.

Soldier: Which one of these pictures of me do you like the best?

Girl: The one with the gas mask on.

* * * *

"I beg your pardon, ma'am," said the newly-arrived Irish maid to the officer's wife, "but is it Colonel or Major I should be calling the Captain?"

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