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ALBERT HINES.

Table with 4 columns: Day, High Water, Low Water, etc. for Thames.

The Thames Star. Our Star Motto: 'With malice towards none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right—let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up this nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and orphan; to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace.'

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1917.

CALL OF THE BLOOD

Recent cablegrams indicated the possibilities of the South American Republics joining in the world war, if the United States enter the conflict. The provocation will be the same, the sinking of South American ships carrying the produce of the country to Britain. A recent number of 'United Empire' shows that even now a large percentage of British residents in Argentina have responded to the Mother Country's call. Over 8,000, had up to the end of last year, gone to England at their own expense to join the forces. It is estimated that 75 per cent. of the population of men of military age have offered their services. Nearly all coming from South America are 'fighting men.' A considerable number of the men, born of British parents, have been conscripted to serve in the Argentine Army. But this has in no way dampened their ardour, or affected their resolution to offer to the Mother Country the best services at their command. Neither distance from the nearest port nor difficulties of travel seem to have altered the decision of the men to present themselves. The call was heard alike by the lonely settler on the far away shores of Lake Nahuel-Huapi, hidden away in the Southern Andes, by the shepherd of the wind-swept Patagonian upland, and by the employees of the sugar estates in the tropical regions of Tucuman, Jujurg, and Corrientes. Those who took ships at the earliest opportunity included railway managers, engineers, cattle-ranchers, and bank clerks, both of British and Argentine origin. This being the position while the Argentine is neutral, what may be expected if that country enters the war?

COLONIAL CASE AGAINST GERMAN

German colonising methods are of the rough and brutal order. Evidence is readily available showing that the atrocities perpetrated in Belgium and Serbia have been exceeded in Germany's African colonies. A traveller, Mr Freeman, writing in 'Land and Water' last September gives details of what he saw as far back as 1912, the treatment of natives in South West Africa, and also in East Africa, transcending on the score of brutality anything that went on in Belgium. But little was heard by the outside world of the indescribable inhumanities practised by the Germans. Even the details of their campaign against the Hereros were not known until General Botha discovered archives bearing upon them when he captured Windhuk. Von Trotha's terrible proclamation somehow escaped the censorship, and that was sufficient to brand the nation responsible for it with infamy for all time. It read: 'Within German borders every Herero, with or without rifle, with or without cattle, will be shot. I will take no more women and children. I will drive them back or have them fired on.' The question as to whether Germany should have her colonies returned to her after the war is to be decided by the Imperial Committee shortly to assemble in London, and the accumulating evidence as to Germany's unfitness to rule a native population should decide against her claims, even if there were no other considerations. And there are others. Mr Freeman draws the following conclusions from his observations:—'As to the future of what were once German African colonies, every consideration, both of humanity and expediency, would seem to dictate their retention by the powers that have

conquered them. The state of the native in the British and French colonies, on the one hand, contrasted with those in the once German colonies, on the other, is sufficient to weigh down the humanity scale. As for expediency—no one, after seeing what Germany will do with her submarines, if given the chance, can seriously believe that it would do to allow that nation to establish a strong naval base at a point dominating the trade routes to South East Africa, Australia, or even India.' Every friend of the native will agree with these conclusions. All the reports go to show that the restoration of these territories to Germany is unthinkable.

CURRENT TOPICS

CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT FARM. The following statement has been made by the Minister of Agriculture (the Hon. W. D. S. MacDonald):—'The whole of the operations of the Weraoa experimental farm are being reorganised to make it the centre for the agricultural development of the Dominion, and for this reason the institution will in future be known as the central development farm. Another important feature will be the training of a number of suitably educated students as agricultural experts, whether for the service of the Department of Agriculture or for the teaching of agriculture in secondary schools. A number of bursaries are being offered by the Education Department of a value of £50, or equivalent, to enable young men to take a course at the central development farm. In addition, my own Department is advertising for student assistants at a commencing salary equal to £50 per annum. It is hoped by these two means a group of suitable young men will be obtained, and that as a result there will be available a few years hence a supply of men highly trained to deal with New Zealand's special agricultural problem. This it is expected, will have a far-reaching effect upon farming of the Dominion in years to come.'

WHAT A GERMAN IS.

In The Church Quarterly Review for October there are some interesting notes under the heading 'The War.' The writer says he was talking to a friend and was suggesting that we should try to come to some arrangement with Germany, and thought reasonable and just terms should be offered. The answer came: 'If you knew the Germans half as well as I do, you would not talk like that. A German is quite convinced that his own opinions are right. He will not listen to your arguments. If you yield to him, he will bully you. If you oppose him he will lose his temper. If you knock him down he will begin to pay attention to what you say.' The moral is, we must defeat the Germans before we talk. The Germans do not think themselves defeated. Why should they? Look at Belgium, the north of France, Serbia, Montenegro, Roumania, perhaps Greece, and the Russian coastline to Riga. The Balkan express runs to and fro from Berlin to Constantinople, and apparently will soon run from Berlin to Baghdad. The Germans dream of world-power, and as far as they can see it is only our Empire that stands in the way, and in their opinion submarines and Zeppelins will soon remove our power to act on the offensive. 'The German officers who are well treated at Donington Hall show no gratitude; they do not ascribe what they receive to any generosity or chivalry on our part; they think that we do it because we are afraid of Zeppelins.' The writer says we must win the war, and then warns us not to talk too much in certain ways. There is no use winning victories on paper.

CUSTOMS DIE HARD.

A business man writes to the London Daily Mail: 'There are two wasteful customs in business and clubland that the war has not killed. One of them is the complimentary lunch or dinner, the other is the testimonial subscription.' Hardly a week goes in which I, as a business man or clubman, am not invited (it is more in the nature of a command performance) to some time-wasting, food-wasting, money-wasting public banquet or luncheon. The other custom that goes merrily on is the 'testimonial subscription.' I have had three circulars this week asking me for my cheque—limited to one guinea—for testimonials to (a) a man I do not know, (b) a man I nod to in my club, (c) a man who owes me 30s. The self-advertiser who get up these black-mailing 'testimonials' then proceed in war time to spend the sums realised on some entirely useless gift. No—we are not awake yet.'

Ladies! Cullen's Great Summer Sale is now in full swing. Look at the prices listed on page 2; then come to Cullen's and secure the bargains.—Advt.

At Cullen's Sale—Seriettes, Towels, Tray Cloths, Hemmed-stitched Embroidered Pillow Slips (linen finish), and Supper Cloths—all being sacrificed at this sale. A splendid chance to secure something dainty for the home at little cost.—Advt.

LOCAL AND GENERAL

Thought for to-day:—He who can take advice is sometimes superior to him who can give it.

A late cablegram states that the price of bread has been raised to 11d in London.

On page 8 will be found an article dealing with the Returned Soldiers' Association.

The break on the line between Te Aroha and Paeroa has now been repaired.

An Association cablegram advises that Mr Arthur Richardson, an ex-Commoner, has been elected unopposed for Rotherham, vice Mr Pease.

The Thames division of St. John's Ambulance Association has to-day forwarded a further £50 to the Motor Ambulance Fund.

We are pleased to learn that Mr R. R. McGregor, who has been an inmate of the local hospital for some time, is now very much better. Yesterday he was sufficiently recovered to be out on the verandah in the afternoon.

Military police are to be appointed in Auckland. Their duties will give them power to deal with offences committed by soldiers, including territorial and returned soldiers. They will also help in finding men who have failed to answer the call under the Military Service Act, and they will be able to take action in cases where the King's uniform is wrongly worn.

The band of the 6th (Hauraki) Regiment will play the undermentioned programme of music in Victoria Park this evening, commencing at 8 p.m.: 'March, "Queen of the North"; Selection, "Tasmania"; Cake Walk, "In Rag Town"; March, "Kia Ora"; Waltz, "Gold and Silver"; Moorish Serenade, "In Morocco"; Serenade, "Twilight Shadows"; Waltz, "Faithful Lovers"; March, "Colonel Bogey"; God Save the King.

Recruiting officials have been instructed that they should not accept recruits who live in towns where there is a Defence Office outside the Auckland district. A case has been mentioned from Auckland where a recruit came from Thames, though the local recruiting office is in the main street. If the Auckland station accepted recruits from other areas, it would mean a considerable increase in the amount of work to be done by the staff of the Defence Office.

The Board of Trade, as the result of enquiries, has fixed the maximum prices for wheat and flour as follows: Wheat prices for delivery in February, March and April will be: Pearl and velvet, 5s 9d per bushel; hunters, 5s 8d; Tuscan and others, 5s 7d. There will be a halfpenny rise for delivery in May, and another halfpenny in June and succeeding months. The maximum price of flour is fixed at £15 l.o.b. at Southern ports. The price of bran is fixed at £4 10s per ton, and oatmeal at £6 per ton.

The Hospital Board met for the first time last night in the new offices, opposite the old building. The new quarters are a decided improvement upon those they have superseded, but at present the Board room is unfurnished, and the meeting was held in the secretary's office. The building comprises a spacious Board room, an office for the secretary, and a spare room. There is also a vestibule, which is fitted as a waiting room. The walls, ceilings, and walls have been finished off in beaver board, which presents a very neat appearance. The architect was Mr Gillman and the contractor Mr Marshall, and each is to be congratulated upon the excellent character of the work.

The New Zealand Government is finding it necessary to control the coal consumption. 'In future,' says Mr Myers, 'no person will be able, without permit, to deliver or consign the delivery of any coal, except such as is required for domestic purposes and other uses, in quantities not exceeding five tons, at any one time, or twenty tons in any one period of twenty-eight days. Likewise no person will be able to import coal into New Zealand, except in pursuance of a permit issued by myself, as Minister in Charge. Also, no certificate of clearance for ports beyond the seas, or otherwise, will be granted under the Customs Act, 1913, to any collier, without the consent of the Minister in Charge.'

Gahagan's clean-sweep specials for this week. Few only remnants of linoleum 1 1/2 yards to 4 yards lengths, going at selling-off prices. Ladies' dust coats 3s 11d and 5s 11d, ladies' white skirts 3s 11d, 4s 11d and 5s 11d to clear. Come early and have first pick at Gahagan's (late Wylies).—Advt.

'To be safe cover feel sure.'—Old Proverb.

In time of peace prepare for war in time of health prepare to ward off the enemy disease! In summer weather most people are susceptible to chills and the resulting coughs and colds, therefore a bottle of Baxter's Lung Preserver should be kept handy in home, shop, or office. 'Baxter's' has stood the test of 50 years, and is still the favourite with people who recognise real merit. Large bottles, 1s 10d, sold everywhere.—Advt.

THAMES HOSPITAL BOARD.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7. Present: The chairman (Mr McCormick), Messrs Baker, Hosking, Law, Brennan, Lloyd, Hale, Horne, and Franklin.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

CORRESPONDENCE. The outward correspondence was read and approved.

Amongst the inward correspondence were the following letters: From Dr. Valentine, advising that Dr. Leatham had been appointed to visit the various hospitals, for the purpose of inquiring into the X-ray plants used in those institutions. Dr. Valentine suggested that if the board had any intention of installing a plant, or extending the X-ray work at the Thames Hospital, they should await Dr. Leatham's visit before doing anything.—Received.

From the Assistant Director of Education, stating that Ruby Rolton, who was committed to the Auckland Industrial School from Thames on December 11, 1911, was now a pupil of the special school for girls of feeble mind at Richmond, near Nelson.—Received.

From Dr. Valentine, forwarding replies of Crown Solicitor to questions submitted to him in respect of payments by hospital and charitable aid boards for maintenance of industrial school children. The boards were liable for 8s per week, and the Education Department was not authorised by law to increase the cost to 10s.—Received.

From Dr. Valentine, stating that no subsidy was payable on account of Christmas or other gifts to hospitals.—Received.

From Commissioner of Pensions, stating that he had received a claim for £10 for burial expenses of F. J. Lipey, who died in the institution on December 8 last, and asking if the board gave the order for burial or whether relatives or others undertook the arrangements; also what amount the board usually paid for burials.—Information furnished.

From Walter McConnell, an ex-patient, asking for a reduction of his account in view of the assistance he rendered the staff during his convalescence.—The board, after consideration, decided to grant the request.

From Jas. Gibson, applying for an increase of 6d per load for manure delivered at the Homes.—Granted.

From town clerk, Paeroa, expressing his intention to visit the beneficiaries of the board in this district, and report as early as possible.—Received.

REPORTS. The medical officer reported the number of inmates last month were 24 males and 12 females; admitted since, 37 males, 31 females; deaths, 3 males, 2 females; discharged, 39 males, 19 females; remaining, 24 males, 22 females; out patients, 32 males, 11 females; attendances, 137 males, 58 females; operations, 25.—Received.

Nurse McKivven reported having attended and advised six Europeans, and seven Maoris. There were no cases of infectious disease amongst the natives, and their general health was good.—Received.

The superintendent of the Homes reported the men's conduct as being excellent. The number in the Home at the commencement of the month was 15 males and 4 females; admitted since, 1 male, 1 female; discharged, 1 male, 1 female; remaining, 15 males, 4 females.—Received.

The matron reported the conduct of the women as being very good.—Received.

The superintendent also reported that the farm boy had left the horse and cart unsecured outside the railway station. The horse bolted, and collided with a post, smashing the cart.—The report was received.

Mr Hosking on behalf of the visiting committee, reported that everything was satisfactory at the Homes. They recommended that the piano should be tuned in view of concerts being held.—Adopted.

The engineer reported that everything was running smoothly. He detailed various repairs he had effected during the month. The coal consumption for the month was about 19 tons. He had a stock on hand of about 25 tons. He asked if the board would consider a rise in wages for himself and assistant.—Mr Law thought a 10 per cent increase should be given as a war bonus.—The chairman suggested holding the matter over till next meeting for consideration. He moved to that effect.—Mr Lloyd seconded.—Carried.

The relieving officer's report was adopted.

Mr Law reported that everything was satisfactory at the hospital.

ACCOUNTS. Accounts amounting to £206 12s 2d were passed for payment.

GENERAL BUSINESS. A 12 months' account from the Waikato Hospital for treating patients from Thames district was presented, the amount being £114 15s.—The Chairman said that Waikato should only take urgent cases from this district, and not patients that could just as easily come to Thames. Mr Law agreed. People could just as well come here from Karangahake as go to Waikato. Mr Lloyd thought accounts should be rendered more frequently. Such lengthy delay was not fair to the board. Mr Franklin moved that the account be paid as soon as the secretary had gone into it. The Chairman seconded.—Carried.

Mr Lloyd moved that the Waikato Hospital Board be informed that Thames would only be responsible for urgent cases in future. Mr Law seconded.—Carried.

The Chairman referred to the architect's suggestion to cover the kitchen with decorative flooring. He and the doctor had gone into the matter, and they had decided that as the flooring suggested would be merely an experiment they did not feel justified in recommending it. He moved that the architect be so informed.—Carried.

The Chairman congratulated the board upon having got into the new offices, which were a great improvement upon the old ones. There was certain furnishing required for the board room, and he moved that it be left with the visiting committee and the secretary to obtain.—Mr Horne seconded.—Carried.

The Chairman moved and Mr Horne seconded, that a report be obtained from the architect as to the progress of the hospital improvements, and the extension of time he had granted the contractor.—Carried.

Messrs Franklin and Law were appointed visitors for the district homes, and Messrs Horne and Hosking for the hospital.

THAMES COUNTY COUNCIL

ENGINEER'S REPORT.

The County Engineer, Mr R. H. Muir, presented the following report to the Council on the work carried out during the various riding during January.

During the month considerable time was again devoted to the clearing of the slips off the Thames to Waikawaiti road. In the early part of the month the slip near Tapani came forward, necessitating two men being continuously employed at this work. The fence at the Waikawaiti has been removed back and one man was engaged throughout the month repairing the worst portions of the road between Puna and Rocky Point. Work is likely to be continued removing the slips throughout the coming month. In the Waitohi, Kaueranga, and Parawai districts general repairs have been carried out to a number of the roads and bridges. In the Tararu district repairs were carried out to the Tararu Road and the Ohio Creek crossing made passable for traffic. The tar and sanding of the footpaths was commenced, but has been somewhat delayed on account of the bad weather. The Waitohi road has been completed, and a start made with the Karaka road and Standes street. The cleaning of drains and the repairs to the roads were carried out on the Hape Creek Road, Rolleston street, Sandes street, Bowen street, Alfred street, Grafton Road, and Kaueranga Valley Road. Repairs were also carried out to the Mount Sea and Cemetery Road bridges. During the month very little work was done at the stone breaker. The quarry has, however, been cleaned out, the best of the stone being utilised to repair the Kaueranga Valley Road. Now that Davis has completed his contract and carts are available metal will be sent for the Matatoki and Creamery North Road repairs. In the Totara, Puriri, and Hikutaia districts work was confined to the carrying out of repairs to the roads and bridges. The roads to receive special attention are as follows: Main Road, Matatoki, Maratoto, Omahu, Cemetery, Puriri Valley, Warahoe East, Creamery North, and Neavesville track. The Kopeta bridge was repaired and the Puriri Wharf Road was levelled up ready to receive the coating of metal. In the Turua district the foreman has been busy attending to the contracts, and as time permitted carrying out general repairs to the Huirau, Turua, Netherton, Ngatapu East, and Orchard East Road. On account of the bad weather the report for the Turua district has not come to hand.

Water Race.—During the month the usual attention has been given to the water race. On the No. 1 section repairs were carried out to the iron flumings at various places. Sunday work was devoted to the repairing of Dunn's, McGuinn's, and Hudson's tunnels and to repairing the Karaka South fluming and renewing the sets in the ditching near the Karaka South tunnel. A number of concrete sets were made and those sufficiently seasoned were removed up to McCollum's tunnel. The levels of the race have been taken and work will be commenced during the month placing the concrete slabs, etc., in position. On the No. 2 section the head tunnel was cleaned and the fluming lengthened at Nixon's. The floodgate (concrete) has been completed and preparations are now being made for the renewing in concrete of the overflow and floodgate near the headworks. Week days were devoted to cutting scrub, regulating the water supply, preparing for Sunday work, etc.

Contracts.—During the month the following contracts were completed, subject to in some cases, inspection: Tararu Road, Puriri Wharf Road, and Hikutaia-Whangamata. Satisfactory progress is being made (with exception of Goodwin's) with the remaining contracts.

The report was adopted.

All odd remnants to be sacrificed to make room for New Goods. Come along and see the wonderful values we have to offer you. Courts', Pollen St.—Advt.

SPIRITUAL HEALING

A Christian Science journal says: since the healing work of Christian Science in America has become a matter of such common knowledge as it is to-day, there has been increasing evidence that the older Christian denominations are under great stress to provide some means by which the healing work done by Christ Jesus and the early Christians will again become a part of the official work of the ministry of these denominations. As an example of the effort which is being made to meet this need, we quote from the parish newspaper of one of the most prominent churches in the State of New York, as follows:—'A class for the study of spiritual healing, conducted by _____, will be organised shortly, to be continued as long as the interest and attendance warrant. By spiritual healing, whether of body, mind, or spirit, is meant "the pouring in of the grace of God through prayer or sacraments, through faith and silence and meditation, through the charged atmosphere of common worship, through human intercession and religious benediction." That there is a growing need for this ministry of healing is manifested by the many inquiries upon the subject, and by the loss of church members in increasing numbers to Christian Science, New Thought, and other healing cults. It is to meet this need, and to prove that within the church are to be found some means of healing as are sought elsewhere, that the class is planned.

Right here let us say that we are glad that in this instance the reason given for forming this class is not primarily to prevent "the loss of church members in increasing numbers to Christian Science," but to meet the need of those who are distressed in mind, body, and estate, those who have a right to expect and do expect that the complete gospel of Christ Jesus, as set forth in the New Testament, will be preached and practised within the Christian church with which they have allied themselves.

ANNUAL TERRITORIAL CAMP

THE LABOUR SHORTAGE.

Colonel Patterson, officer commanding the Auckland district, has written to Mr T. W. Rhodes, M.P., explaining the requirements of the Defence Department with regard to territorial camps, and the arrangements which have been authorised for meeting, as far as possible, the labour shortage. Colonel Patterson writes as follows:—

I beg to put before you the following explanation of the requirements of the Defence Department, and the arrangements which have been authorised for meeting, as far as possible, the labour shortage. On account of the war, it is considered essential to maintain the territorial training, and especially so for lads of 18 and 19 years of age, so that upon attaining the balloting age of 20, they may proceed to the Expeditionary Force Camps with a sufficient knowledge of discipline and military training to enable them to benefit to the highest degree by the training given there. It is only fair to those liable for service at the front that they should receive the maximum amount of training that can be given there. To abandon the territorial camps—even for a year—would be a very retrograde step and would possibly endanger the future of the territorial force.

In order to meet the wishes of employers of labour so far as it is possible to do so, the most specific instructions are being issued to the local Defence authorities throughout the Auckland District. These instructions are based on orders received from Headquarters, N.Z. Military Forces, Wellington, and comprise the following points:—Where necessary all the employees of one firm are not to be called out at the same time; the camps are spread over a period of four months, February to May, and even into June is required to enable men to train in turn. It is therefore possible for employers to arrange with local Defence Officers the date when their men can best be spared from camp; in some instances it may be necessary to exempt men from attendance this year, such as: actual coal-miners, sailors, dockhands, where transports are being fitted out, and special cases where the conditions of employment justify exemption.

Group Commanders have been entrusted with certain discretionary powers where time is urgent, and it is not now necessary for all applications for exemption to be referred direct to the Officer Commanding the District. Applications for exemption or partial exemption, or for taking only a percentage at a time, should be made to a Group Commander, Area Officer, or Unit Commander at the earliest possible date. The Officer concerned will then do his best to meet the needs of the employer.

SICK HEADACHE.

This is usually caused by a disorder of the stomach. Take a good dose of Chamberlain's Tablets for the stomach and liver and to-morrow you will feel alright. Sold everywhere.—Advt.

A Big Odd lot of Men's Soiled Shirts all to be cleared at 1s 14d at our Great Oddment Sale. Courts'—Advt.