



Soon There May Be A Blanket Shortage!

LISTEN TO THIS! The average soldier consumes about 50lbs. of new wool a year in Clothing and Blankets. Take then the enormous Allied Armies of England, France, America, Belgium, Italy, and even Japan, and you will see why the wool is scarce.

Suppose, for argument sake, there are 15,000,000 Allied soldiers, each using up 50lbs. of wool yearly; that ties up 750,000,000 lbs. of wool for the armies alone—two-thirds of the World's production.

Most Blankets Made Are For The Army!

And we are lucky that in New Zealand we have big mills to help supply our home needs. So the Blanket Shortage doesn't affect us so much as it does other people, and we therefore submit

BIG BLANKET VALUES.

EIDERDOWN QUILTS

Keep out the cold at night. Our New Season's Stock is now open for your inspection.

HETHERINGTONS LTD.,

THE DRAPERS :: "Where The Good Values Are"

POLLEN STREET, THAMES.

A Grain of Prevention in the care of the teeth at the proper time—when there are only minor defects—is better than...

LONDON DENTAL Corner Pollen St. & Mary St. THAMES. PLEASE NOTE: We close at 1 o'clock on Saturdays; open all day Thursdays.

E. F. A D A M S, CONSULTING AND MINING ENGINEER. LICENSED SURVEYOR. QUEEN STREET THAMES. P.O. Box 5. Phone 143.

JOHN PRATT, BRICKLAYER AND CONTRACTOR Corner of Pollen and Sealey Sts. ALL KINDS OF BRICK, STONE OR CONCRETE WORK Faithfully Carried Out. Agent for John Bouskill's Monumental Works, Auckland ENCOURAGE LOCAL INDUSTRY. Lime, Cement, Bricks and Drainage Pipes Stocked for Sale. Design and Price Lists for Cemetery Work on Hand.

REGISTERED ARCHITECT. THAMES, TE AROHA, AND PAERUA. Thames office at Mr A. Christie's, land agent, Pollen St. South. PHONE 178.

Table with 3 columns: Date, High Water at Thames, and Phases of the Moon for April.

When you feel a cold coming on, don't wait until it has gripped you, take NAXOL at once—Advt. "No Rubbing" Laundry Soap and thirty wives inseparable. No Rubbing banishes washboard slavery in packets—J. Galloway—Advt. For Progressive People! "Golden Rule" Soap; "Golden Rule" Candles; "Gold on Blue" Writing Tablets; "No Rubbing" Laundry Soap—A. J. ENTRICAN and Co., Ltd., wholesale agents for "No Rubbing" and "Golden Rule" Brands—Advt.

The Thames Star.

Our War Motto: "With malice towards none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right" —LINCOLN. FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 1918.

FLOOD COMMISSION REPORT

The report of the commission appointed to enquire into flood damage, and the best means of preventing future floods in Thames, is a voluminous document, covering many pages of closely-typed matter. We have already culled from it the essential recommendations, and these are of an extremely satisfactory point of view so far as the Borough is concerned. The Borough Council has gained substantially all that it asked for, the only difference being that the proposal to lay upon the County the cost of two-thirds of the protective works has been altered to one-half. But this alteration stands for naught in view of the fact that if the hill area and Parawai are amalgamated with the Borough, the County will have nothing to pay. The commissioners are very emphatic in recommending this change. They say that Block 27 is closely settled, and the people residing there have had all the advantages of a Borough without having to contribute substantially to its expenses. All their drainage is passed on to the Borough, and this is a menace to health. The properties derive their value from proximity to the Borough, and there is no just reason why it should not be joined to the Borough. As regards Parawai this is a residential area of a slightly more suburban nature, but the town is gradually growing in that direction. The commissioners propose legislation to bring about the desired change, and this will include provision for a joint poll of Borough, hill and Parawai residents. This is a wise proviso, for if only the portion of the County affected were to vote, as the County suggested, a handful of people might upset a scheme eminently calculated to promote the prosperity of the whole community. The commissioners impose a condition which should go far towards removing objections to the amalgamation upon the part of those affected. They recommend that before taking the poll the Borough should clearly indicate what public improvements are to be provided for the added area, what they will cost, and when they will be commenced, also what representation the added area is to have in the Borough Council. This lays upon the Borough an obligation to greatly improve conditions in the added portion, and to give substantial compensatory advantages for any additional rates it may be found necessary to impose.

Warm Blankets for the Cold Winter—the kind that keep you warm and cosy—sold by Geo. Cullen and Co., Pollen St.—Advt.

LOCAL AND GENERAL

Nominations for the Auckland Racing Club's winter meeting close at 9 p.m.

Eleven men for taking part in a strike at Kaiti freezing works were fined £5 each at Gisborne.

Rifeman E. Arthur, Pipiroa, and Lance Corp. Chassonnan, Kirikirii, are reported wounded.

A story is told of a New Zealander who is wounded slightly every time he goes into the trenches.

The claim of the Maoris to the lakes in the Rotorua district will be heard in the Native Land Court, Rotorua, on June 12.

There was a rush of orders when the Government coal depot at Christchurch resumed sales yesterday, after having been shut down for three weeks.

All interested in the re-formation of the Fishermen's Union are requested to meet at Burns' Buildings at 7.30 this evening.

The Australians' gallant stand at the battle of Dernancourt is widely acknowledged. They fought great masses to a standstill. The Manchester Guardian says: "They have established another of the war's greatest records."

During the past year the pupils at the Napier West School made over 600 articles for men at the front, this splendid result being achieved by the formation of a knitting club under the auspices of the Keop-on-League.

The householders' meeting at Wharepoua was held on Monday evening. Several settlers attended, and Mr Bell was elected to the chair. Before proceeding with the election of a school committee a motion of condolence was passed to the parents of a former scholar, Trooper Thomas Handley, who had been killed in action. The committee's report showed that the number on the roll was 83, and the average attendance 73. The committee urged parents to send children as regularly as possible. The inspector's reports were very favourable. The school had gained two proficiency and three competency certificates in Standard VI. The Board of Education, after a great deal of persuasion, had erected two new shelter sheds, and these added greatly to the comfort of the children. The committee considered the spending power should be increased for the supply of writing material, etc., thereby assisting parents having to get extra books for children. During the year the teachers and children by concerts and entertainments had raised the sum of £10 5s 3d towards the purchase of a piano for the school use. They hoped to add to this amount during the current year. The children had also contributed very liberally to the various patriotic funds. Various resolutions were endorsed for the betterment of school education. The late committee were reported: Messrs E. Elliot (chairman), W. Hansen (secretary), O. Croyer, S. Lancaster, A. Percy.

Someone has been taking liberties with the National Anthem. The printed hymn sheet used at the united service yesterday contained a new second verse. It does not express any desire that the politics of the enemy may be confounded, or its knavish tricks frustrated, but it substitutes for these vigorous phrases the namby-pamby doggerel—"Keep us from plague and death, Turn Thou our woes to mirth." An alteration has also been made in the beginning of this verse, which has been made to read—"O Lord Our God Arise, Scatter 'his' enemies." This may be poetry, but it is certainly not grammar.

SUFFERER FROM BRONCHITIS AND ASTHMA RELIEVED.

"For many years I had been a terrible sufferer from bronchitis and asthma, and had to keep in bed for weeks at a time. Last winter Baxter's Lung Preserver was recommended to me and I am grateful to say both asthma and bronchitis have now left me." So writes a grateful woman from Newtown, Wellington.

Thousands testify to the remarkable curative value of "Baxter's." Large bottles cost only 2s.

LOCAL AND GENERAL

The Auckland Grammar School has decided to impress on the Education Department the urgent need for boarding-houses for country pupils attending the boys' and girls' schools in Auckland.

The Anzac commemorative service in the Auckland Town Hall was presided over by the Mayor, and the speakers were Bishop Averill, the Rev. Steele Craik, and Commissioner Hodder of the Salvation Army.

At the Police Court this morning, before Mr A. Burns, J.P., an old man named John Doherty, an inmate of the District Homes, was charged with drunkenness in Queen St. the previous day. He was convicted and discharged.

A young boy named Hilary Curin was cantering from the Shortland wharf to Pollen St. on Wednesday when his horse fell, throwing the boy to the ground. Luckily he only sustained a severe shaking.

A stirring call to the United States and Japan was made by General Foch, the Allied generalissimo on the Western front in an interview with a representative of the New York Life on February 26. He referred particularly to the menace in the East.

The food commissioners suggest on the representation of the Mayor, that a dumping ground be provided for the Borough by the Railway Department handing over to the Borough 30 acres of mud flat west of Thames Railway Station.

We have received from Lieut. Clarke, bandmaster of the Regimental Band, a song, both the words and music of which are his own composition. It is entitled "Love's Memories," and is a pleasing conception, and is written in a key suitable for a voice of medium range. It should become very popular in musical circles.

The Allies have made new calls upon America for men. Since the great drive began there have been pressing clamours for more men. More ships are being sought, and maybe it will be necessary to cut into the already shortened rations for Europe to provide space for soldiers.

The new Browning machine rifle adopted by the United States War Department fires 350 shots a minute from the shoulder, and can be reloaded in less than three seconds after firing 40 shots. The relative merits of the Browning and Lewis guns were the subject of a heated discussion in Congress.

Large numbers of Indians continue to travel about these days. Among the passengers of a vessel which recently left Auckland were Chinamen, Japanese, and Indians. All were well seasoned travellers, and appeared well versed in the War Regulations affecting the departure of vessels.

At the united service yesterday the Rev. J. F. Jones spoke very strongly against the holding of sports on Anzac Day, which he considered were in exceedingly bad taste. While they were commemorating the heroic deeds of those who had given their lives for their country, the holding of sports was a cruel shame.

A correspondent to the Wellington Post, who states that he has knowledge of the inside working of the Defence Department, says it would be interesting to know what is paid by way of overtime, more especially in the Record and Munitions and Supplies branch. The salaries paid to the officials prior to and since August, 1914, he adds would be excellent food for consideration by the public.

Inquiries and experiments are in progress, states the Hon. A. M. Myers, to ascertain whether fuel alcohol can be produced economically in New Zealand. According to Mr T. W. Rhodes, the member for Thames, who questioned the Minister on this subject during the short session of Parliament, alcohol can be produced from waste products by the Claus process at a cost of eightpence a gallon.

"The public does not know the powers and privileges of school committees," said Mr A. Burns at the meeting of the Auckland Education Board, "and this accounts for a great deal of the lack of interest displayed. Many people, including members of school committees, have an idea that the usefulness of committees begins and ends with having the schools cleaned." He suggested that the secretary should prepare a guide for committees as a means of obtaining greater and better interest in the work of schools generally. The suggestion was adopted.

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LOCAL AND GENERAL

The Hauraki Brass Band will play a programme of music in the Victoria Park on Sunday evening after church service.

Mr and Mrs Curin thank Mr and Mrs Sheaf, Shortland Hotel, and Mr W. Dafty and his mates for kindness and care shown to their son Hilary in the late accident.

In our advertising columns "Motor" says he has for sale a five-seater touring Ford, 1914 model, French grey finish, fitted with road smoothies, and in good running order.

Our Auckland correspondent forwards the latest share quotations as follows: Sales: Talisman 8s 2d, Buyers: Waio-tahi 5d, Crown 4d, Komata Reef 1s, Rising Sun 3s 3d, Talisman 8s, Waio-tahi 5d, Junction 14s.

Notice is given that a meeting of Class B Reservists of the Second Division, who were called in the ballot yesterday, and those who are to be called in three weeks' time, will be held in the engineers' hall, over A. Burns' store, on Monday evening at 7 o'clock.

The weather forecast is as follows:—The indications are for variable and moderate breezes, but northerly prevailing and freshening. Fair to cloudy weather with increasing haze and cloudiness. Barometer falling after 20 hours. Seas moderate, tides good.

The subscriptions to the Church Army patriotic fund have now reached £248 15s 7d. Amongst the leading amounts are £446 0s 9d for the Napier District Church Army Hut, £300 from Ormondville district, and £200 from the Southland War Fund Association.

The following will represent Waikato-morrow in the hockey match at Waikato against the K.P.S.: Bully, B. Lowrie; wings, Field, Morgan; inside, Truscott, Westlake; halves, Brunton, Oates, Sibbey; full-backs, Cherry, Lowrie; goal, Dunstan.

Mr John Jas. Wilson, who died at his residence, Mercury Bay, recently, in his 78th year, was one of the old colonists, having arrived in the year 1862. He was sent out from England with a collection of English birds, being the first to bring the common sparrow to these shores. He is survived by a widow, four sons, three daughters, several grandchildren, four of whom are on active service, and two great-grandchildren.

The annual meeting of the Thames Hockey Association will be held in St. James' school room on Monday evening at 7.15, when it is hoped there will be a large attendance of the followers of the game of the crooked stick. It is not generally known that only delegates of the club should have a vote at these meetings. Usually all players have a vote, but it would be as well for the club to appoint delegates.

"What is the attitude of the P.P.A. to the denominational schools formed by the Church of England and the Presbyterian Church?" was a question put at the Wellington meeting of the P.P.A. The Rev. H. Elliott replied by reading the following plank of the P.P.A. platform: "To maintain the national system of free, denominational, and compulsory education without endowment, concession, or privilege in any form to any denominational school." The P.P.A. was not opposed to the establishment of denominational schools, but it would resist the granting of concessions to any of them.

The right note was struck by the Rev. Father McCarthy, Marist missioner, at the Anzac service in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Auckland. The preacher said there was room for all in the community, and there was no need for religious strife. Religious convictions were sacred things between man and his God. A man could worship the moon or the sun provided he did not offend against the common weal. They were all the children of an insulated mother (the British Empire). Laying them, aside their own petty differences, with one heart and one mind, with but one purpose to avenge her and vindicate her honour, they should stand hand in hand.

Wairapa has now in hand a proposal for the establishment of a training farm for soldiers. The land has already been secured, 700 acres being a gift from Mr W. Perry and 400 acres having been purchased. The farm is to cost some £30,000 in all. A deputation from the district interviewed the Prime Minister and Sir Joseph Ward, and suggested that the Government should provide £15,000 required for buildings and development work, and also contribute towards the maintenance of the farm on the understanding that when the property is no longer required for the instruction of returned soldiers it shall be handed over to the Government to be used in conjunction with an agricultural college. The Ministers asked for some further information, and this is to be supplied and the proposal submitted to Cabinet.

Says the Dunedin Star: It is not generally known, we think, that Government grants in the shape of scholarship allowances, are now being paid to denominational schools under the control of at least two or three different religious denominations. If this fact were as widely known as from its importance it ought to be, school committees, education boards, technical school managers, boards of governors of secondary schools, and university councils, to say nothing of Labour associations—to whose members it is of more vital importance than to any of the before-mentioned bodies—would immediately, and emphatically protest against the continuance of a practice the extension of which must inevitably lead to the breakdown not only of our National secondary system, but also of our primary system.

UKRAINE FOOD SUPPLIES

AMSTERDAM, April 25. German papers state that Ukrainian peasants are offering armed resistance to German troops, making impossible the export of food stuffs to Germany.—A. and N.Z. Cable.

OBITUARY

HANNAH GWILLIAM. Another old Thames resident in the person of Mrs J. W. Gwilliam died at her late residence, Queen Street, to-day after a long illness. The late Mrs Gwilliam came out from England with her parents when five years old in the Lancashire Witch. She lived in Auckland for two years, and then came to Thames, where she has resided since. She leaves a husband, five daughters, four sons, and nineteen grandchildren to mourn their loss.

DOROTHY REDWOOD. We regret to report the death of Mrs D. Redwood, Karaka Road, at the age of 57 years, Mrs Redwood, who was the wife of the well known old gold miner Dan Redwood, has been in failing health for some time.

SOUTH AFRICAN AFFAIRS

NATIONALISM DENOUNCED. Mr Burton, South African Minister for Finance, while on a visit to the wheat lands of Moorreesburg, exhorted increased production, and delivered a vehement speech against the Republican propaganda, which, he emphasised, was beginning to show itself again owing to the present conditions in the great struggle in Europe. He affirmed that the Government would not change their war policy, even if they stood alone as ten men. There had been talk by the Nationalists which was treachery to the Constitution and the flag. There were many indications that all who valued the Constitutional and national honour should close up the ranks against treason and dishonour. It was their duty to show "the utmost vigilance, and be prepared to cast out this thing neck and crop if necessary." South Africa had no cause for dissatisfaction with Great Britain, who had carried out her promises to the full. The Nationalists, like the Sinn Feiners, stood for nothing but egotistical isolation. "Hands off our Constitution and flag," he concluded. "This is a sacred ground."

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

ADELAIDE, April 25. The Governor, Lieut.-Colonel Sir H. L. Galway, has offered to the Imperial Government his services for war work in any capacity. The Secretary for the Colonies has replied, thanking Lieut.-Colonel Galway, but stating that he would best serve his country by remaining in his present position.—A. and N.Z. Cable.

MELBOURNE, April 25. In the House of Representatives, Mr Tudor absolutely denied allegations made against him by Mr Nash in his evidence at a bankruptcy case bearing Mr Tudor said no one has presented jewellery to his wife in the past twenty years. He first met Nash in connection with rowing and football. The whole conversation at luncheon concerned football or war. Nash requested him to accept a present for advice given in football matters, which he declined. At the following Christmas someone, presumably Nash, forwarded Mr Tudor's two daughters a bracelet watch and chain and locket as Christmas presents. The whole connection with Nash concerned sports. Customs matters were never mentioned.—A. and N.Z. Cable.

THE RAETIHI FIRES

Gratifying Recovery. WELLINGTON, April 25. The Hon. D. H. Guthrie, Minister of Lands, returned yesterday after a visit to the Raetihi fire area, where he consulted with the Fire Relief Committee in connection with the method adopted for the distribution of relief, and examined the accounts. He also visited parts of the district which suffered most severely from the fire. He was pleased to find that generally there was a decided improvement in the appearance of the country since his visit a few weeks ago. The settlers had received supplies of grass seed, and in the majority of cases had reseeded the burnt area. The recent warm rains had been most beneficial, and in some places the grass was quite discernible.—Press Association.

SAMOAN TRADE

LARGE COPRA OUTPUT. The copra season just ended has been a record in Tutuila, Samoa. Some 1195 tons have been cut on the island of Tutuila; the highest number of tons ever cut before being 1093, in 1911. The season which is now beginning starts in record form, as the contract let on March 1, 1918, to John Rothschild and Co., of San Francisco, is for over 237 per ton of 2240lb; the previous record price was £21 in the year 1914. The price to be paid the natives per pound when the copra is delivered at the sheds is also a new record; 3d per pound is to be paid for each pound of copra delivered; the previous record price per pound at the time of delivery was 2d. With this island's product bringing such a price it is hoped that a still greater crop may be produced this season. The islands of the Manua group have not produced any copra for sale since the hurricane of 1915; but it is expected that they may cut a little this year.

A DOCK CATASTROPHE

NEW YORK, April 25. The American liner Saunt Paul overturned in dock, and sank. Five hundred labourers who were aboard escaped unharmed.—A. and N.Z. Cable.

DECIMAL COINAGE

LONDON, April 25. In the House of Lords the Decimal Coinage Bill has been read a first time.—A. and N.Z. Cable.

A RAID ON PARIS

LONDON, April 24. A French official report says:—Enemy aeroplanes attempting to raid Paris last night were violently fired on. One of them, a tri-plane, was forced to land near Nogent-le-Rotrou. The crew of three were taken prisoners.—A. and N.Z. Cable.

AEROPLANE GIFT SUGGESTION

A South Canterbury proposal that New Zealand should try to place an order in America for a thousand aeroplanes was brought under the Government's notice by Mr. J. Craigie, who has been informed by Sir James Allen that the matter had been under Cabinet's consideration. "As it appears that the United States are doing all they can in the production of aeroplanes, it would seem that no good purpose would be served by New Zealand trying to place orders in America for a thousand machines."

RACING

HAWKE'S BAY AUTUMN MEETING. HASTINGS, April 26. The weather is fine for the autumn meeting of the Hawke's Bay Racing Club. The attendance is very good. The course is in good order. Results are as follows:—

Longlands Hack—Golden Glade 1, Coalition 2, Oara 3. Scratched: Nicumar, Lord Ainalia Toki. Won by four lengths. Time, 2.48.

Mangaratua Handicap.—Furceller 1, Bon Revs 2, Record 3. Won by a length. Time, 3.15.

Nursery.—Cyrusian 1, Karo 2, Cherry Mar 3. Scratched: Killowen, Malau, Brown Aater. Won by three quarters of a length. Time, 1.2.

A DECOY ARMADA

"THE SUICIDE SQUADRON." The Daily Express correspondent at New York tells the following queer story:—The amazing and jealously guarded secret of how a British squadron of 14 wooden battleships, armed only with wooden guns, deceived the Germans for seven months in the North Sea and decoyed them into the Dogger Bank disaster is now disclosed here for the first time. The story is told by an officer of the Royal Naval Reserve, who was actually on board the "flagship" of the squadron, and the New York Times, in giving the astonishing narrative to the world, describes the conception and execution of this idea of the "Suicide Fleet" as the "biggest trick" of the war.

A brief foreword states: "British censors kept the secret of the dummy fleet until a few days ago, when a cablegram brought word that the Admiralty no longer objected to publication of the facts."

The officer eye-witness says: From a White Star liner to the flagship of the British "Suicide Squadron"—the grey Armada which never mounted a single gun or fired a shot, yet patrolled the North Sea keeping the German Navy huddled behind its minefields, and played an important role in the battle of the Dogger Bank—this was my experience in doing my bit for the Allies.

A COLOSSAL JEST.

No such colossal jest has been played on an enemy since the days of the Trojan horse. The British Admiral (taunted the German Navy with mysterious manoeuvres of a wooden squadron, some of the vessels made of barn lumber, and the Germans were completely baffled for months by the unexpected number of their enemies.

The wooden ships without a single real weapon aboard—the British Navy-men called them "mock turtles"—helped Britain to rule the waves during the first year of the war, and the Germans never once suspected that they were caught but what they seemed. The foe did not catch on to the joke even when one of their submarines sank a dummy at the Dardanelles, where it was serving as a mail ship for the Allied Fleets.

They announced and rejoiced that "A British battleship of the — Class was sunk by one of our submarines," although the huge guns and turrets of the Dreadnought floated for days!

I never dreamed that I was soon to serve in the flagship of the squadron. The whole secret came to me through the company depot officer when he offered to transfer me to that service. I accepted, and was ordered to report for duty at a tiny Scotch town on the North Sea.

SENT 2000 MILES FOR BAXTER'S LUNG PRESERVER.

A man had such faith in Baxter's Lung Preserver that he wrote from Western Australia as follows:—"Enclosed find £1. Please send me some bottles of your Lung Preserver as soon as possible as I have a rather bad cough, and your remedy cured me of asthma when I was in New Zealand 14 years ago."

You can obtain Baxter's Lung Preserver at your chemist or store. Big bottles 2s.