

WEATHER REPORT.

WELLINGTON This Day. The indications are for variable and strong winds but south easterly prevailing. The weather appears likely to be cloudy and unsettled at times. Barometer unsteady. Seas and tides moderate.

Thames Barometer THIS DAY at 2.30.



Barometer 30.10 (steady). Temperature 81.

NOTES FOR THE MONTH FEBRUARY.

PHASES OF THE MOON. Last quarter, 12th, 8.19 a.m. New moon, 20th, 9.5 a.m. First quarter, 27th, 11.19 a.m.

Table with columns: HIGH WATER, Day, Morn., Even. Rows include Friday 13, Saturday 14, Monday 16, Sunday 15, Tuesday 17, Wednesday 18, Thursday 19, Friday 20, Saturday 21, Sunday 22, Monday 23.

TO-DAY'S CONTENTS

PAGE 1. Theatre Amusements, etc. In The Early Days (new series). PAGE 4. Wanted For Sale A Ton of Gold (our new Serial).

LOCAL AND GENERAL

The Government is asking 71s a ton for South African coal.

A dance will be held in St. George's Hall tomorrow night.

The Southland coalminers are to speed up as the result of increased pay.

A motor mail cart near Nelson overturned, five passengers being injured.

A slight shock of earthquake was experienced at Wellington early on Tuesday morning.

A Government caucus will take place on Saturday to discuss Cabinet appointments.

A bathing fatality is reported in the Wanganui River, a youth and girl being drowned.

Hetheringtons Ltd. give notice that extraordinary specials are now showing in their windows.

Freezing companies are to confer about securing ships when the requisition ends in June.

Better facilities are to be given Auckland motorists for 'parking' cars in the streets.

The Public Health Department are advertising for military hospital women cooks. Further particulars are given in the advt.

The Thames Borough Council gives notice that 10 per cent will be added to all rates remaining unpaid after Monday, Feb. 16.

Sign posts erected by the Auckland Automobile Association are to be removed to have the mileage to the destinations indicated.

Advice has been received that the Paeroa bowlers are unable to make the trip to Thames to-morrow for the inter-club game.

Messrs. Lewis and Adams, directors of the Tararu Quarries Co., are at present on a visit to Thames. Work is to be started at Tararu at once.

The conference in Waikato of the mine owners and the Engineworkers and Winders' Union has resulted in an agreement being arrived at.

A final reminder is given of the meeting to form a Thames Boxing and Athletic Association, which takes place in St. James' Hall to-night.

The Railway Department has decided that excursion tickets issued during Christmas holidays are to be available up to and including Saturday 21st inst.

The full normal service of the Auckland trams commenced this morning in the city. The management has secured a considerable quantity of coal which together with the saving made during the cut, justifies a return to full services.

High prices are still being paid for land in Taranaki. Last week an offer of £200 per acre for a farm of 100 acres was refused, and in another instance a farm was sold at £175 per acre which cost less than £88 per acre 18 months ago.

In the relay race, Town v. Club, at the Ladies' Swimming Carnival, a noteworthy fact is that all the winning swimmers were under 14 years of age, and all these girls are constant swimmers at the local baths. If their swimming ability increases with their age a bright future is assured for Thames in championships for several years.

The tallest race in Europe is to be found in the United Kingdom, in the south-western corner of Scotland, where the average height is 5ft 10in. Scotsmen, on the whole, are a tall race and on the average measure about 5ft 9in. This height is equalled only by the tall Polynesian and American races.

The fishing in the Gulf is still very poor owing to the presence of jellyfish, and a number of fishermen have been compelled to seek casual employment till a clearance takes place. The Fisheries are experiencing the greatest difficulty in keeping their retail shops going. Line fishermen from the coast report that fish are plentiful and biting freely, but that the abundant 'jelly' prevents netting.

We direct attention to the advt. with regard to the Chandler Six car, for which Mr. H. H. Shaw, Hamilton, is the South Auckland distributor. Local enquiries may be made at Murray's garage, before investing in a new car it would be well to inspect the Chandler car. Advice is also given that the present is the time to buy a new car, as it is increasing in price. Mr. H. H. Shaw will be at Thames for the week-end with a new Chandler and will be pleased to demonstrate this fine car.

'The Summer sun makes sadness seem so small.'—Stanzas. True perhaps, yet 'glorious summer' is a happy hunting season for coughs and colds. It is so easy to neglect the simple sniffle and sneeze, and the result is a severe cough or cold.

Don't take chances with your health, even in summer. For that cough or cold take 'Baxter's Lung Preserver.' The 'summer sun' won't remedy the trouble—but 'Baxter's' will. It has been doing so for the past 53 summers and this one will be no exception.

Have 'Baxter's' handy. A sterling remedy for coughs, colds, sore throat, chest and bronchial troubles. 2s 6d large bottle.—Advt.

Readers are invited by advt. on page 1 for the purchase of the property known as the Waitaweta Homestead Block of 244 acres. Full particulars may be obtained from Cullen and Harris, Waikato P.O. Tenders close on March 1.

INFLUENZA

NONE AT THAMES.

Although there have been numerous cases of influenza in the larger centres of the Dominion this district has been remarkably free. A Star representative was informed this morning that in the past three weeks only three cases have been notified in the whole hospital district, none of these being at Thames. Medical opinion is to the effect that the wave has passed through the Dominion, missing this district, and that there will be no recurrence of influenza here.

While this is very satisfactory news, it will still be wise to neglect no precautions. The last visitation was so severe that every family should adopt the motto 'Take no chances.'

WHAKATANE HOSPITAL

SUBSCRIPTION TO THE FUND.

The request of the Bay of Plenty Hospital Board that the residents of the Whakatane district raise another £1000 toward the cost of the Whakatane District Hospital was introduced at last meeting of the Chamber of Commerce by Mr. L. Buddle, as the Whakatane Borough representative on the board. He explained that in the first case the board had anticipated that the hospital would cost from £5000 to £7000, but the architect's estimate for the up to date building to be erected was about £13,000, and the board was applying for a loan of this amount plus £2000 for furnishing the building. However, it was apparent that £2000 would not be sufficient for this purpose, when the size, etc., of the building was considered; therefore, the board had decided to ask the people of the Whakatane district to subscribe another £1000, which, together with the Government subsidy thereon, would give it adequate funds for the furnishing. A very considerable number of people in the district had not yet subscribed to the funds for the hospital, and he would suggest that to raise the £1000 there should be a systematic canvass of the district. The president, Mr. R. Lloyd-Les, expressed the opinion that as Borough residents were mostly the ones who had subscribed to provide the money for the purchase of the site, there should be no difficulty in raising £1000 from the country residents toward the cost of furnishing the building. He expressed the opinion that the Farmers' Union branches in the district should be asked to raise the money. This was endorsed by Mr. C. A. Suckling. Ultimately, the president and Messrs. Buddle, Suckling and Beckett were appointed a committee to deal with the matter.—Whakatane Press.

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

LABOUR COUNCIL

REJECTS PROHIBITION.

SYDNEY, This Day.

The Labour Council by 69 votes to 48 rejected a motion in support of prohibition.

THE WHEAT ENQUIRY.

SYDNEY, This Day.

Replying to the intimation by Mr. Storey that Mr. Georgetown had been spirited away in order to close the wheat inquiry, Mr. Holtman, Premier, agreed to have Mr. Georgetown examined by two doctors nominated by Mr. Storey.

ROSS-SMITH'S PROGRESS.

SYDNEY, This Day.

Sir Ross-Smith arrived at Bourke after an uneventful flight of 4 hours.

REFRIGERATED SPACE.

FOR FRUIT AND POTATOES.

A NEW DISCOVERY.

SYDNEY, This Day.

The Customs Department is notified from West Australia of a discovery of a solution which it is claimed will do away with the necessity for refrigerated space for the export of fruit and potatoes. It is stated that if the fruit is dipped in this solution it will be preserved for long periods without need of refrigeration. A cargo of apples was treated and sent as a general cargo from West Australia to Singapore and back, the trip lasting 6 weeks. When opened the apples were in perfect condition. The cost of the treatment was a shilling a case.

SHORTAGE OF FLOUR.

BREAD TICKETS BEING ISSUED.

BRISBANE, Feb. 13.

Intense privations are felt in the Northern towns owing to flour shortage, caused by the shipping strike. Bread tickets are being issued at Cairns.

THURSDAY ISLAND FLU.

24 DEATHS REPORTED.

BRISBANE, Feb. 13.

Twenty-four deaths are reported from Thursday Island. Only two of the victims are whites.

PROSPECTING

In conversation with a gentleman interested in mining, he remarked that there were more men out prospecting than people were aware of. The increased price of gold, especially will induce mining areas to be worked which in the past were not payable. Mining operations are being commenced at the Tararu Creek, and a large capital has been subscribed, and works of some magnitude are contemplated. If the Government will initiate a vigorous policy, and afford assistance, there is nothing to prevent a revival of mining in this district and in others throughout the Dominion.

FOR RETURNED SOLDIERS

SALVATION ARMY SOCIAL.

There was a very large gathering of returned soldiers and their friends in the Salvation Army Hall last night at the social evening arranged by the Salvation Army and the ladies of Thames. In addition to the returned men, Sister Hawker, R.A.M.C., had numerous representatives of the patriotic societies, were present. Mr. F. M. Claxton presided in the admirable absence of the Mayor (Mr. E. N. Miller) who had been called away to Auckland. An apology was also received from Dr. T. B. Higgins, who was called away. The hall was very prettily decorated with flags and greenery and looked most attractive.

Captain Pratt in the opening speech welcomed those present, basing his remarks on the text 'Offer unto God thanksgiving.' Captain Pratt read the following letter from Commissioner Hodder, commanding the Salvation Army of New Zealand: 'I congratulate you on the event of the evening and trust that the occasion will be made a blessing both spiritually and socially to the men who made great sacrifices on behalf of the Empire. I sincerely hope that God will come first in all their lives.'

Mr. Claxton welcomed the guests and offered congratulations and a hearty welcome to the war brides.

The musical programme which followed was a capital one, every item receiving well-merited applause. A Maori dance by Commandant and Mrs. Armstrong, of the Putaruru Bay's Farm, and a solo, excellently played by Master Dickson, were especially well received.

The concert programme was as follows: Opening march, Regimental Band; solo, Miss Tonge; recitation, Mr. Pratt; solo, Miss A. Hardman; diet, Commandant; Mrs. Armstrong; solo, Miss A. Hardman; Scotch hymn, Mr. McIlroy; solo, Pedro A. Mitchell; violin, Mr. Ross; solo, Mr. Giddie; recitation, Phoebe; solo, Mr. E. Watson; recitation, Regimental Band; Mrs. J. Lamb was an efficient accompanist.

About thirty-two lady workers under the able direction of the Mayresses presided over the distribution of a very tasty supper. The Mayresses presented a statement to each returned man from the Salvation Army, the wording on the ticket being: 'With deep appreciation for every effort put forth to secure Peace, Liberty and Justice.—George H. Pratt, Thames (N.Z.), 12th February, 1920.'

Mr. W. Johnston, secretary of the Hauraki Returned Soldiers' Association, spoke on behalf of the returned men, expressing their appreciation of the pleasant evening.

A vote of thanks to the Salvation Army and the lady workers was received by Mr. W. J. McCormick, Chairman of the Hospital Board, seconded by Mr. W. Danby, President of the Chamber of Commerce, and passed by acclamation. The proceedings terminated at 10.15 after a very pleasant social evening, thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

KING'S THEATRE

"LURE OF THE BUSH."

The greatest kangaroo drive in the history of Australia is a feature of 'The Lure of the Bush,' the magnificent picture of bush life to be screened at the King's to-night and to-morrow. Literally hundreds of trees of all sizes are to be plainly seen in the wonderful landscape in which many of the finest fishermen and horsemen of New South Wales have participated. Never since the advent of the Australian picture has there been such a wonderful display of bush life as is to be seen in 'The Lure of the Bush,' which is being shown at the King's to-night and to-morrow. Of course there is a girl and a very beautiful one in the person of Rita Ross, a real girl of the outdoors, whose fine acting and wonderful riding will prove a sensation. All lovers of the great outdoors—and their name is legion—will revel in the glorious bush scenes with which 'The Lure of the Bush' abounds. The picture is redolent of the bush, and withal has a dash of sensation and romance that will grip the most blasé picture fan.

Geo's Cullen and Co.'s Great Sale is now in full swing.—Advt.

'Thinker' Brand Writing Tablets, 'Thinker' Pictorial School Exercise Books, and 'Thinker' Note Books—ideal stationery for every home and child. All stationers and storekeepers.—Advt.

SWIMMER INJURED

BY FALLING FROM BALCONY.

(Press Association.)

AUCKLAND, This Day. Douglas Davidson, a member of the Canterbury swimming team, was sitting on the balustrade of the second floor balcony of the board- inghouse when he overbalanced and fell into the garden. He was removed to the hospital, and is suffering severely from shock.

GO-SLOW POLICY

POSTING EXCESS WAGES

TO COMMON FUND

(Press Association.)

AUCKLAND, This Day. It is stated that some coal miners in the Auckland district have been refusing for some time to post the wages earned in excess of 15s a day into the common fund in connection with the 'go-slow' policy.

RAILWAY EXCURSION TICKETS

EXTENSION OF TIME.

(Press Association.)

WELLINGTON, This Day. In consequence of dislocation and influenza, the Christmas holiday railway excursion tickets expiring on 18th February will be available up to and including 21st February.

DISCHARGING MEAT CARGOES

AN AUSTRALIAN COMPANY'S COMPLAINT.

IRRITATION GROWING.

(A. and N.Z. Cable.)

LONDON, Feb. 11. The owners of steamers carrying Australian meat have protested to the Board of Trade against the priority given to steamers from River Plate in discharging meat at London and Liverpool. The average time of discharging Australian cargoes is now six weeks, while River Plate boats are discharging in ten days.

In several recent instances River Plate steamers commenced discharging meat directly they arrived, while Australian vessels waited two months for a berth. It is understood that the River Plate steamers had preference because their meat was privately owned, its owners being willing to pay a much higher price for storage than the Board of Trade will pay for Government-owned meat. Irritation is growing against the retention of control, which is maintaining the high price of meat while enormous quantities are choking stores and delaying steamers at huge expense.

The steamer Zealandia, from New Zealand, is one of the steamers laden with foodstuffs which have been delayed. She arrived on December 7, and docked on January 3, but has not yet commenced to unload her meat.

RACING.

SECOND DAY'S RESULTS

(Press Association.)

HAWERA, Thursday. Waimate Headc: Lord Kenilworth 1, Esthonia 2, Wainania 3. Scratch: Madam Ristori. Time: 1.14.

Maiden Hack (Scurry): Quirino 1, Listolph 2, Jiori 3. Scratch: Complex, Empress. Won by half a length. Time: 1.31 1-5.

Atkinson Memorial: Taihanga 1, Perfect Day 2, Kilmoun 3. Scratch: Starland, Guineo, Rose Queen. Won by a length. Time: 2.7.

Farmers' Plate: Army Service 1, Diamond Nap 2, Applaud 3. Scratch: Yocopolos. Won by 1 1/2 lengths. Time: 1.59.

Hawera Stakes: Hyemstra 1, Mouta Iweanova 2, Rose Green 3. Also started: Guizek, Bonnie Maid, Gordon Bubble, Ermina. Won by three quarters of a length. Time: 1.4 3-5.

Maori Hack: Egmont Park 1, Pasmir 2, Prio Formby 3. Also started: Neahine, Hollow, Royal Park, Kilkour, Flying Master, Incey Marble Bar, Tamo Fox, Euro Hares, Enyapinar, Crystal Palace, Lady Paula, Some Boy, Master Curran, Kapiti, Encircle. Won by a head. Time: 1.6.

Normanby Hurley: Bonmeter 1, Hushman 2, Werry-Up 3. Also started: Pretty Bobby, Old Gold, Wanga, Signorella, Havelock, Clavis. Won by a length. Time: 1.49 4-5.

The totalisator receipts were £47,369.

QUEEN'S THEATRE

"FOR HUSBANDS ONLY."

The Queen's was crowded to excess last night to see Lois Weber's latest and greatest production, 'For Husbands Only.' Featuring the ex-Quintilla Mrs. Charles Chapman, by special request the management will screen this picture again to-night, so that the hundreds who wish to see it, may do so, replacing it on Saturday night by a Paramount production 'A New O'Clock Romance,' with Charles Ray as the popular hero. 'For Husbands Only' fully lives up to its reputation; it affords excellent entertainment and is altogether a delightful offering. The surprising ending contributes to the small amount of brilliant success of the picture.

BIG REDUCTIONS

ARE BEING MADE IN ALL Summer Drapery Millinery Mercery & Clothing ALL NEW GOODS

GEO. MARTIN

CORNER OF POLEN AND COCHRANE STS.

BROWN TOILET PARLOUR

POLEN ST. CENTRAL. BEG to announce that I have taken over the above well-known ParLOUR and solicit a fair share of public patronage.

J. HAWKES

COAL MERCHANT AND CONTRACTOR. Brown Street, Thames. BEST WAIKATO COAL.

ROYAL MOTOR GARAGE

WE will Overhaul your Car for you, and put it in Perfect Running Order for the Summer Months. OILS, BENZINE, TYRES, AND ACCESSORIES ALWAYS IN STOCK.

A local grocer says:

'My advertisement in your paper was the means of a large turnover last month. It was a very good investment for me.'

THAMES STAR

Stationer and Bookseller, near King's Theatre, Polen Street. Geo. Cullen and Co.'s Great Sale is now in full swing.—Advt.

LEGAL NOTICE

MR A. BRYAN. (Late of the N.Z.E.F., and more recently with Messrs Neumege and Mowlem, Solicitors, Auckland)

BEGS TO ANNOUNCE that he has commenced Practice as a Solicitor at Thames in offices over the Bank of New Zealand (Shortland Branch)

E. F. A DAMS. CONSULTING AND MINING ENGINEER.

LICENSED SURVEYOR. QUEEN STREET, THAMES P.O. Box 5 PHONE 143

Office No. 19a Paeroa Private Res. No. 12b.

E. E. GILLMAN, REGISTERED ARCHITECT, THAMES, TE AROHA, AND PAEROA.

Thames office at Mr. A. Christie's Land Agent, Polen St. South, PHONE 178

ROBT. McLEAN, TURUA. LIVERY STABLES, CARTER AND

AGENT for New Zealand Insurance Company, J. B. MacEwan Ltd., L.K.G. Milking Machine, and MacEwan Releaser.

Spare Machinery Parts, Inflatables, Brushware, etc., in stock. Telephone No. 7, TURUA.

JAMES HAWKES. COAL MERCHANT AND CONTRACTOR. Brown Street, Thames. BEST WAIKATO COAL.

Also Newcastle, House, and Smiddy Coal. Coke, Firewood, and Mining Timber, Saddle Horses, Conches, and Buggies on Hire.

Anything from a Package to a Boiler Shifted on Shortest Notice Covered Vans for Furniture. Business as Usual at.

ROYAL MOTOR GARAGE. PHONE 191.

WE will Overhaul your Car for you, and put it in Perfect Running Order for the Summer Months. OILS, BENZINE, TYRES, AND ACCESSORIES ALWAYS IN STOCK.

NOTICE. I BEG to announce that I have taken over the Stationery Business lately carried on by Mr C. J. Redwood and Solicit a Fair Share of the Public Patronage. All the stock is new and right up-to-date. Rubber Stamps a Speciality. Pictures framed and unframed. All periodicals, sporting, fashion and trade papers stocked. A. C. OLLARD (late Main Body A.M.R.)

Stationer and Bookseller, near King's Theatre, Polen Street.

Geo. Cullen and Co.'s Great Sale is now in full swing.—Advt.

MY PEOPLE OF THAMES.

Adhere to your promise to stick to CHAMPION MUSCLE-RAISER FLOUR and STANDARD OATMEAL, ROLLED OATS and GRUEL MEAL, and you will have no difficulty in finding the precious metal and butterfat, impervious to moths and rust but not to 'evaporation.'

V. AUCKLAND.

The Highest Quality in Men's Wear.

AUCKLAND'S LEADING HABERDASHERY BROUGHT TO YOUR DOOR.

High Quality, Good Service, and Value for Money are the main features which have built up the mail-order business done by Kemp's 'Shop for Men' in all parts of the Province.

Country Customers find that the car buy from Kemp's through the post with every confidence that they will receive satisfaction.

Important lines such as suits, overcoats, underclothing, hats, collars, ties, boots and other haberdashery items are ordered by letter constantly. Simply state your requirements concisely and we do the rest. Thus an expensive visit to town is saved.

There are men in this district who have not yet tried the Service which this old established House for Men's Wear gives to Country Customers, and we want them to try us and get the benefit of smart city styles and moderate prices.

Write as long and as often as you like; we are always glad to correspond with and do our utmost to please our large and growing list of Country friends. We make friends of all our customers, because we lay ourselves out to please them in every way.

WRITE US TO-DAY! B. J. M. KEMP, 'Auckland's Oldest Outfitters,' Queen & Swanson Streets, (Kemp's Corner.)

'No Rubbing' Laundry Help makes Happy Housewives. Is packet sufficient for seven weeks' washings.—L. Evans, Paerahi.—Advt.

Wanted Column Page 4. Imperfect digestion of food produces acidity, flatulence, and sick headache. Shiland's Magnesia corrects the acidity, relieves the flatulence and removes the headache. Sold everywhere.—Advt.

Thames Star.

'With malice towards none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right.'—LINCOLN.

PURIRI BRIDGE

There has been some comment in connection with the Harbour Board's opposition to the present design of the Puriri bridge, some favourable, some otherwise. The Board, as trustee for the riparian people, has objected to the 30-foot opening span in the present bridge design as inadequate and their attitude seems to be justified. It should be clearly understood that there is no opposition from anyone to a suitable bridge for the river. The more bridges on the river the better for everyone and the less likelihood there will be of unsound speculations and prejudices. The whole district is crying out for better means of communication; bridges on the river will be a wonderful help to the people and all sections should help in securing the structures. No Puriri is concerned every reasonable man will admire the pluck and enterprise of the Puriri residents in shouldering the burden, and setting an example which we hope to see other parts of the district follow. The point is however, that the bridge contemplated is a steel truss structure with concrete piles will last at least fifty years and in its design the river traffic is fully taken into consideration. The Harbour Board has been advised by competent engineers that the thirty-foot opening span is inadequate for the present class of vessels, would not be positively dangerous to them under even slightly adverse conditions. A similar class of vessel navigating a similar opening in the Whangarei harbour, where the currents would be much less difficult to manage both herself and the bridge. We look forward to the day when heavy draught, power-driven barges will bring the produce of the valley of the Waikato for shipment at this port, taking back the imports from Sydney, Montreal, and Bristol for the towns and farmlands up the river. If the opening span is inadequate for present needs, it will be better together to serve the traffic that must inevitably follow the development of the district and the transport outlet for its trade. The Board therefore did the wise thing in regarding the navigation of the river and we believe that the Puriri people will be the first to admit the wisdom of the attitude adopted. Judging by their independence and enterprise, they would be the last people who would desire to secure their ends at the expense of other people, so that we fully expect to see them moving to increase the width of the boat passage in the proposed Puriri bridge.

Readers are invited by advt. on page 1 for the purchase of the property known as the Waitaweta Homestead Block of 244 acres. Full particulars may be obtained from Cullen and Harris, Waikato P.O. Tenders close on March 1.