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LOCAL AND GENERAL

Reporting on unemployed work on farms the Taranaki county inspector told the council on Monday that the supervision exercised by a few farmers was not all that could be desired. He had reported the matter to Mr. C. P. Smith of the Labour Department. The chairman of the council, Mr. W. C. Green, said the position mentioned was not general as it was one of the conditions laid down by the council in granting relief workers to farmers that proper supervision must be provided.

LOCAL AND GENERAL

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At the inauguration meeting of the Municipal Hall on Tuesday evening, Municipal Hall on Thursday evening, Mr. Cato expressed the opinion that it was a mistake to call the Te Kuiti district the King Country. The Te Kuiti district was the pick of the 12,000 square miles that went to make up the King Country. The Te Kuiti district was good, but some of the King Country, embracing as it did so large an area, undoubtedly was not, and this caused confusion detrimental to this district. Mr. G. B. Johnson suggested that "Te Kuiti district" sounded too much like a town affair. He suggested the Waitomo district.

Interesting information in connection with the price of ambergris which at one time was very valuable and of which fairly large quantities have been found on Stewart Island beaches, has been received by Mr. G. I. Moffett from his London brokers (says the News). "There is no demand for this article at the present time, and there has not been for a long time past," his letter stated. "All the trade is overstocked, and will not take any more. It will be some time yet before there is any improvement." Apparently in some grades of scent a substitute known as musk anbrine is used, but the higher grades still contain ambergris.

"There is the same need for armed forces now as there was in 1914," said Colonel M. M. Gardner at a smoke concert in Christchurch the other night, under the auspices of the 10th and 16th Batteries. "I hope you have learned something of the record of the New Zealand gunners," he added, "for they had a record of which we should be proud." Another speaker, in appealing for interest in the volunteer movement, said that the people of Christchurch were more "anti-military" than those of Dunedin, in that they did not support local units to an equal extent.

A good story is told by Mr. G. M. Keys, the Canterbury vocational officer, of the self-reliance exhibited by one of the many boys on his register, whom he is constantly in contact with in street, in office, and in the Technical College. Meeting this boy carrying an extension ladder the other day, he said: "Hello, where are you going with that?" And the reply was: "I am in the window cleaning business now. I have got enough regular customers to keep me going all the year round, and I am making £2 a week." Another case of self-reliance (says the Christchurch Star) was told Mr. Keys by one of the leading business men of the city. Two boys came to him for work. One of them said: "If you please, sir, I think I would rather wait until you have a vacancy in the office." The other said: "I'll take any job you have going, sir, no matter what it is." The second boy not only got the job, but he got himself a character with it, and Mr. Keys says that the reaction of employers to willingness of this nature is not to be under-estimated.

"That wasn't a fair go," commented a Waikato district settler when referring to the suspension of the No. 4a scheme by the Unemployment Board. When he was told that the suspension was undoubtedly the result of abuse of the scheme by so many farmers, he said: "That's what I say—and it serves those farmers jolly well right. They want a privilege that I cannot get. Put us on the same footing. If some farmers are entitled to cheap labour, all farmers should be. Otherwise, put the men back on the job of road improvement; or, better still, put them on to improve a lump of Crown land to a stage where a living can be made of it. Thus the Government would be getting an advantage."

At the initial meeting of the Te Kuiti Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, Mr. W. S. Cato stressed the need of scope for the activities of the Chamber if the interest was to be maintained. He hoped that the country districts would use the Chamber and provide this interest, for the town's progress lay in the country. He agreed with Mr. W. A. Lee that something should be done to derate farm lands.

Resourcefulness was displayed by two young men at the Waikato Hunt Club's meet at Fencourt the other day. They were following the hounds in a gig, and found themselves in a paddock with only one exit. To have gone back would have involved a journey of two miles before they could have caught up with the hunt. To avoid this, they unharnessed the horse, and jumped him over the fence. They then lifted the vehicle over bodily, reharnessed the horse, and continued on their way.

The manner in which the Audit Department is carrying out its audit of public body books was commented on by the chairman of the Ashburton County Council (Mr. J. Moore, jun.), who stated that the council's balance sheet for last year had not yet been audited. Considerable inconvenience was thus caused to the staff. The department might be economising, said Mr. Moore, but it was not a wise policy when the general working of public offices was upset. Mr. W. G. Gallagher (chairman of the Ashburton Hospital Board) said the same trouble was experienced at the board's office. The Audit Department was about two years behind with some of its work.

Probably the most remarkable cow in New Zealand to-day is a 25-year-old Jersey grade, Grannie, whose claim to the world's longevity championship can be strongly advocated, states a North Auckland paper. She is the property of Mr. W. S. McEwan, Pukeroro, Cambridge, and is still perfectly sound, but has lost her teeth. At Te Puke, Mr. McEwan has a herd of 70 high-class grade cows consisting entirely of daughters, granddaughters, great daughters and so on of the wonderful old cow. Grannie was by a pedigree Jersey bull from a grade Jersey cow. She is giving 40lb. of milk a day—eight months after calving.

Nelson blends an atmosphere of learning with heritage of naval nomenclature. Culture and science (writes a contributor to the "New Zealand Railway Magazine") are associated in Nelson's fine colleges, its School of Music, its art gallery, and more recently its Cawthron Institute of Scientific Research. "The names Nelson and Trafalgar and many another name of town and surroundings give a strong patriotic colour to the place. It is distinctly a Royal Navy town in its nomenclature, a perpetual reminder of England's glorious history on the sea. So we find streets named Nile, St. Vincent, Victory, Vanguard, Collingwood, and Hardy. In an account of the selection of local names by a committee of settlers in 1842 we find Fort Bastia, Fort Calvi, Aboukir Battery, and The Heights of Agamemnon. The last was perhaps rather too much of a mouthful, for it does not seem to have been retained. England's great writers are remembered; there are Shakespeare Walk and Milton Grove."

“One hears a lot and reads a lot of the negligent motorist,” said the president of the North Island Motor Union (Mr. W. A. O’Callaghan) at the annual conference of the union in Palmerston on Tuesday, “but very little is heard of the negligent pedestrian. Unfortunately there is present in our midst what our American cousins call the ‘jay-walker’—that is, the man or woman who walks across the road without looking up and down the street to see that it is clear. Thanks to some extent to our school safety propaganda and to the school safety lessons that are regularly given in the schools, the children in this country are not the worst offenders in the matter of carelessness in using the roads.”

"Does the speaker practise Communism in his own home?" was a question asked at the close of the Rev. I. Sargison's lecture on "The Passing of Democracy" to the Christchurch Workers' Educational Association the other evening. Mr. Sargison replied: "When you ask such a question you do not know what you are asking. Can any man or woman in this audience think of any home of, say, five or six members, in which there is not some one person imposed on? I say there is no home in which every member is equal in all things. I say that in every home you will find one person, generally a patient, ever-smiling mother, or a daughter, who is the one to whom the innumerable irksome tasks fall. And since in our own homes this is true do you think it is probable, do you think it possible, that the whole world, the teeming millions, can be welded into a great, good, equal brotherhood?" It was futile to think of world Communism, he said, when its principles were not acted upon in individual homes.

Mr. P. C. Tarrant, of Pio Pio, met with a painful accident yesterday when carrying out fencing operations. A staple flew up while being driven into a post, the sharp end entering Mr. Tarrant's eye. It is hoped that the sight will be saved, but only time will prove this.

The trader who sells on credit without knowing anything about the man to whom he is giving credit is looking for trouble," remarked Mr. E. C. Levvey, S.M., at Invercargill last week when a judgment summons case was being heard. "It is surprising how persuasive some clients are," replied counsel. "Yes, and how foolish some tradespeople are," added His Worship.

At the inauguration meeting of the Te Kuiti Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday evening, Mr. C. E. Middleton expressed the opinion that the slump was not all bad. "It will do the country good," he said, "for it has brought upon us the realisation that we must work harder."

"Mortgagees have been taking a large share of worry of late," said Mr. W. Machin, of Christchurch, when addressing a gathering of Wanganui business men. "The other day a mortgagee wrote to his mortgagor saying, 'You haven't paid me any interest for two years. If you don't pay me this week you will have to go.' The mortgagor replied, 'Dear Mr. Brown, I remain. Yours faithfully.'"

Notice has been given by several members of the Parliamentary Labour Party making definite proposals and calling on the party to define its attitude on the monetary question, and according to Mr. D. G. Sullivan, M.P., one of the party Whips, this will be the most important business to be discussed at the caucus to be held before the session of Parliament opens on 22nd September. "The lack of any uniform policy on the monetary question has been a handicap to members of the Labour Party during the recess," says the Christchurch Star, and the matter has been given priority among the business to be dealt with at the caucus.

The General Manager of Railways (Mr. P. G. Roussell) has advised the New Zealand Farmers' Union that, while the Department is desirous of affording primary producers every assistance within its power to meet the difficult economic conditions existing at the present time, its finances are not sufficiently buoyant to concede a general reduction in its freight rates for wool. Mr. Roussell points out that the Department, operating under the disability of conditions imposed by competitive road services, is definitely not in a position to bear the further loss in revenue which would be involved if a general reduction in freight charges for wool were conceded.

It was stated at a meeting of the Masterton relief workers' section of the Labour movement last week that a sum of £1 5s. 1d. had been received from Wellington as a result of a levy of 3d. per man struck on Wellington relief workers to assist the Masterton men who were refusing to accept work under the Masterton County's farm scheme. The response from Wellington (says the Dominion) was considered very disappointing. "Out of 1100 members they could only raise £1 5s. 1d. It is only about a farthing per head," observed one member.

Government interference with business was roundly condemned by Mr. W. Machin, of Christchurch, when he addressed a gathering of Wanganui business men. He said that he had been amazed recently when he had seen the new transport regulations imposed on small proprietors of passenger vehicles. He could not see why on earth it should be necessary to make such involved restrictions, adding: "Whatever the motive is it seems to me that with the continued hanging of shackles upon the small and large industries a primary tax is being imposed on industry."