

George Frederic HAAR

Star. 15 July 1915 (page 4) [09 August 2015]

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

Private Haar, a member of the Zealand Forces at the Dardanelles, evidently found himself short of writing material, for his last message to his mother, Mrs Haar, of Winchester, was written on a playing card—the two of hearts. Besides the address he has managed to get in a line or two to the effect that he is well and enjoying a few days' rest behind the firing line. At the bottom the censor, in this case Lieutenant R. A. R. Lawry, has writ ten his certificate, and the card is duly stamped as having been passed.

Press. 28 August 1916 (page 9) [06 August 2015]

THE ROLL OF HONOUR.

THE FALLEN AND WOUNDED

PERSONAL NOTES.

Mr Conrad Haar, of Winchester, has received word from the High Comissioner that his son, Corporal George Frederick Haar, who is in the Military Hospital, Walton-on-Thames, has been suffering from valvular disease of the heart for some time. Corporal Haar left with the Main Body. He was taken ill with pleurisy on Gallipoli last year and was also wounded, from which he has never quite recovered. Mr Haar has also another son in France, who left with the Tenth Reinforcements. Letters from his companions state that he was removed from the trenches with creeping paralysis, but so far there has been no word about the matter from the authorities.

Press. 30 September 1916 (page 12) [09 August 2015] (George)

THE COUNTRY.

NOTES AND NEWS.

TEMUKA.

While Temuka has sent to the front the bulk of its young men, very few have so far returned, but as they arrive every one is given a hearty welcome, and the return of Corporal Haar, on Thursday, proved no exception to the rule. Although rain was falling heavily a large number of residents assembled at the station, and on the soldier stepping from the train he was besieged by old friends. Mr T. Gunnion and other members of the Patriotic Committee, together with the Municipal Band, under Bandmaster Jackson, were present, and, after the first reception, Corporal Haar was escorted to a waiting car. A procession was then formed, and, headed by the band, proceeded to the Post Office steps, where the Mayor (Mr A. Frew), on behalf of the town, welcomed Corporal Haar back. Corporal Haar thanked the people of Temuka for giving him such a hearty welcome. He did not, he said, deserve it, as he had only done his duty, but he was proud to be a New Zealander, and the Dominion need never be ashamed of the men she had sent to the front.

GOVERNMENT'S GRATITUDE RETURNED SOLDIER'S APPEAL. "IF WE WERE SQUATTERS"

The "Dominion," the leading Tory newspaper in New Zealand, published the following letter on Saturday last, May. 11th:— Sir,— I will be very much obliged if you will put the contents of this letter before the public through the medium of your valuable paper. There have: been several letters lately about all the New Zealand Government are doing, to assist returned soldiers on the ed [sic] that we are well supplied with land, and it is usually taken for granted everything we require within reason. I do not know how the soldier settlers are faring on other settlements, but if they are treated in the same way as we here, I pity them. This block was bought by the Government about a year ago, and it was balloted for last June, and the unimproved value is £40 per acre. I arrived here with two other section holders on July 11 last, and we had quite a picnic, and had it not been for the assistance of a neighbouring farmer we would have had to carry all we possessed through mud to our knees, as there was neither road nor track, and we had to pick our way through mud holes and rushes and over stumps and logs. We pitched camp, and things went well for a week, or so, and then our real trouble started, and I may as well mention here that it still continues. Those of us who had ordered cows through the Government were forced to take delivery of them in the first week in August and most of us had twenty cows each. We had also ordered wire for our fences through the same channel, and we were informed from time to time that wire was unprocurable, and the result was that we had no fences and the cows held a roaming commission, and many a morning myself and my mate were out long before daylight, wet, fine or frosty, to round up our cows, or as many of them as we could find amongst the bushes and tall ferns. Well this game went on month after month, and at last we bought wire in Wanganui for £5 less per ton than the Government could buy it in Wellington, or as we were informed.

I will now state that our sections are weighted to supply roads and water to our holdings. The Government's idea was to put in a high water pressure scheme, and it was started several months ago in a

gully about 1½ miles away, where there was supposed to be a permanent spring, but after spending a considerable sum of money they have abandoned the idea, and it is what soldiers term "a washout." The sections on the top flat had no water at all, with the exception of one small dam of stinking water, and the unlucky holders of these sections were compelled to drive their cows to neighbouring farmers places and milk them there, where they could get water until they were short of feed through being overstocked. Things got so bad that at last the Department installed an engine to pump water up a steep bank 170 ft. high, and pipes were laid to the sections on the top flat. It is a pity that piping is so dear, otherwise these men may have had the water on their sections where they could get it, but instead they have to cart all the water they require for their sheds and other uses, as the pipes are stuck in some out-of-the-way corner in each section.

Well, so much for the water; now for the roads. They were started about two months ago, and now they have been metalled on the top flat, but there is a big cutting to be made down a bank 150 ft. high or thereabouts, and the contractor who metalled the road has this cutting to put through, but, to our misfortune, he has left to finish some other work which he says will take three weeks if the weather holds good, but if otherwise he may be away six weeks. I have been here now over eight months, and two other men have been here the same time and our only outlet is up an old track, the grade of which is about 1 in 10 and in places 1 in 5, and needless to say it is as much as any horse can do to pull an empty cart up, without a can of cream weighing over 80lb. The metal for the road was taken from the top of this track, and the contractor left it in such a condition, that we had to clear the track with shovels to enable us to get up with our cream and bring down our stores. There were several officials of the Lands Department and other bodies on this block less than a week ago, but they could not spare the time to see if we five section holders on the river flat had any means of getting our cream out. I suppose the road was too bad for them, but good enough for us. We have no road, but at the same time we are expected to pay our rent in advance, and only yesterday I received notice to pay £72 13s. 6d., a half-year's rent, and

unless- this is paid I am liable to have my lease cancelled. I consider it quite time enough for the second half-year's rent to be paid when we have a road to our sections, and I think it is only a fair, square deal that those responsible for our present circumstances should see that we get some consideration. It is true we have the Rangitikei River to get a drink of water, but we want water for our houses and cow-sheds; we will have to pump it ourselves or carry it the best way we can but we will have to install a powerful plant as our houses and sheds are well over 100 feet from the river level.

We have sent in several petitions, especially about having this year's rent added to the capital value of our sections, but they have simply been treated as scraps of paper..

There are patriotic societies in practically every town and township, and they, like the Government, make believe that they have our interests at heart, but I can say with safety that not a single member of any society has called or written to me to find out how things are going. We have now come to the conclusion that we will have to carry on the best way we can under the present circumstances for there cannot possibly be much alteration for at least three months, and only then if the weather holds good. If we had been squatters instead of soldiers this cutting would have been put through months ago, but as we are of no importance they do not trouble to assist us. It is cases such as this that make men lose heart and throw in their sections sooner than put up with this red tape. It must also be remembered that we have been discharged from the Army as unfit for further service for various reason, and there are times when many of us feel more like going to bed than trying to improve our sections in some shape or form, but if we go to bed, who will do our work or pay our rent? And the latter the Lands Department say they insist have whether we are well or otherwise.

I have no complaints to make about the Crown Lands ranger, for I take it that he simply carries out his instructions, and what I know of him he is a man willing to assist us in any way within his power. I think I have written enough to let the general public see that a soldier settler's lot is not all sunshine, and I hope that some persons who believe in a fair deal will try and assist us in some way and not let this one-sided business continue much longer. I am etc.,

GEORGE F. HAAR.

Such is the appeal of a returned soldier to the people of New Zealand against the Fusion Government's treatment of himself and his mates. The electors of Grey will not, we believe, turn a deaf ear to this appeal. They will respond to it by electing the Labour candidate on May 29th. Mr. Holland and the Labour Party, to which he is pledged, stands for fair and generous treatment for returned soldiers, for a scientific scheme of soldiers' settlements, and for Trade Union rates of wages for returned men, who are incapacitated, and for the widows and orphans of men killed at the front. Mr. Holland is pledged to fight for the best possible treatment for the men who have faced death in the trenches. He has already worked hard for them on the platform and in the Press. Mr. Coates, as the Fusion candidate, supports the Government, and its administration, including its scandalous treatment of men returned from the front. The Labour Party wrung concessions for the soldiers and their dependents, from an unwilling, grudging and reluctant Government composed of the worst elements of Toryism and Liberalism. The soldiers know this. A vote of the returned soldiers, of those in the training camps, and of the boys in the trenches, would give a good majority for Labour. The great majority of the soldiers, returned soldiers, and naval men, who voted in Wellington North, voted for Mr. Holland and Labour. Electors of Grey!, think over the sample of GOVERNMENTAL GROSS INGRATITUDE to men, who faced death for their native country, given, above by one of these men. If you do, you MUST condemn such callous neglect. You MUST vote on .polling day AGAINST the GOVERNMENT and ILL-TREATMENT of returned soldiers; and FOR HOLLAND and a FAIR DEAL for RETURNED SOLDIERS.

Why did not the Government take over the scheelite mines and supply the Home Government at pre-war rates plus any extra cost of production? Why not give the owners pre-war profits and NO MORE? Why? Because the Government is the Profiteers' Government.

Temuka Leader. 13 February 1932 (Papers Past) [06 February 2017] (father)

OBITUARY

MR CONRAD HAAR

An early settler of the Temuka district, in the person of Mr Conrad Haar, died at his son's residence, Hayhurst street, Temuka, on Wednesday.

The late Mr Haar, who was widely known and respected in the district, was born in London nearly 71 years ago, and came to New Zealand as a child with his parents in the ship "Victory," landing at Lyttelton, Mr Haar's parents first settled at West Eyreton, but after a few years removed to Rangitata Island, where deceased later engaged in farming together with his trade as a blacksmith. In 1887 he married Miss Mary Ann Coughlan, of Christchurch, subsequently joining his brother in a blacksmith's business at Winchester, which they carried on for some years.

Deceased had been in indifferent health for the past two years. He leaves a widow, three sons and two daughters. The sons are Messrs George Frederick Haar (Rata, North Island), John Dedrick (Temuka), and Frederick Francis (Mamakau, North Island); and the daughters, Mesdames D. O'Connor (Temuka) and B. Jones (Fairlie).

The funeral took place yesterday at the Temuka Cemetery, the service being conducted by the Rev. G. N. Watson, and the pall-bearers being Messrs George and John Haar and B. Jones and D. O'Connor.