

*Southland Times.* 24 February 1916 (Papers Past) [08 August 2021]

In the Magistrate's Court yesterday morning, before Mr G. Cruickshank, S.M., Sergeant James Edward Stokes made application for exemption from the annual training camp. Mr W. J. Hawley, Collector of Customs, appeared in support of the application, and Sergeant-Major Laffey in opposition to it. The Sergeant-Major stated that the application was based on the allegation that the absence of the applicant from the Customs Office would cause inefficiency in the service of the public, and undue hardships to such officers as were left to carry on the work. The applicant in the box gave evidence that he personally desired to go to camp, but had to apply for exemption by order of the Customs Department, by which he is employed. He had had annual leave in November for two weeks, and his absence had not then greatly affected the work of the officer. Mr Hawley gave evidence that the staff was much smaller than it had been before the war, and the position had been worse since November. Sergeant-Major Laffey pointed out that if the application were granted it would be quite competent for any local firm suffering equal hardships through the camp to make similar applications. His Worship said that it was rather strange that the matter should have been referred to him. He would have thought that the Government could manage the affair. It was a fight between the Customs Department and the Defence Department. The application had better stand over till Wednesday next in order that some arrangement might be arrived at. Failing such arrangement the question would have to be settled by the Court.

*Evening Post.* 29 December 1925 (Papers Past) [08 August 2021]

The wedding of Miss Roma Rhys Blake, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Blake, of Crawford road, Wellington, to Mr. James Edward Stokes, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Stokes, of South Canterbury, was recently solemnised at the Kilbirnie Presbyterian Church, the ceremony being performed by the Rev. W. Shirer. Appropriate music was played by the organist. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a charming gown of palest pink satin and silver lace, and an embroidered tulle veil, and carried a beautiful shower bouquet. Misses Erica Matthews and Rosa Beggs (Wanganui) were bridesmaids, in pretty frocks of powder blue georgette over satin. Their hats were of black georgette with blue and pink posies, and the bouquets were to tone. Mr. Harry Stokes (Hawarden) was best man, and Mr. Gordon Blake was groomsman. After the ceremony a reception was held by the bride's parents at their residence in Crawford road, and later the bride and bridegroom left for the South, the bride wearing a China blue and fawn ensemble suit and hat to match.