

ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

For Blinded British Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen

No. 265—VOLUME XXV [NEW SERIES]

JULY, 1940

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

Our Difficulties: How We Are Meeting Them

ON July 10th I wrote a letter to all St. Dunstaners in the United Kingdom. I feel sure Overseas St. Dunstaners will be interested to read it for it shows them some of the difficulties we are having to meet with here in the old country, and how we are overcoming them. I hope also it will be of use to St. Dunstaners here to have the letter in print for reference.

This is what I said:—

Dear St. Dunstaner,

Owing to the changes in the character of the war, St. Dunstan's has had to make certain new arrangements.

The building at Ovingdean, Brighton, will remain St. Dunstan's Hospital for serious eye or head injuries requiring operative treatment arising out of the present war, or for old St. Dunstaners suffering from similar conditions.

The training of blinded soldiers has been moved to a moderate-sized Hotel, which we have taken, called The Longmynd Hotel, Church Stretton, Shropshire. Great War St. Dunstaners who have only recently gone blind, and the convalescent casualties from the new war, have been moved there. These include some who have been totally blinded in the recent fighting, some who have been temporarily or partially blinded, and others who are recovering.

The bed-ridden and similar cases who lived permanently at Ovingdean have been transferred to a small, quiet country house, called Melplash Court, Nr. Beaminster, Dorset.

A small Hotel has been taken in Blackpool, called the Concord Hotel, 1 Wimbourne Crescent, South Shore, Blackpool, for a convalescent home.

An office has been opened at Blackpool, from which the whole of the After-Care Services for St. Dunstaners who live in the Midlands and the North will be conducted.

(To St. Dunstaners in the Midlands and the North: From now on you should write to Mr. Swain or Miss Wilson, at 556 Lytham Road, South Shore, Blackpool, about all welfare matters, and all children's and other allowances, payments and communications about welfare matters will come to you from Blackpool).

The Brighton Office, at Portland Place, Kemp Town, Brighton, will remain open, and Mr. Askew will attend to all official and general matters from there. Mr. H. M. Day and Mrs. Paul will remain at Brighton in charge of all welfare matters for those in the South.

(To St. Dunstaners in the Southern Area: You should continue to address all communications to Mr. Day and Mrs. Paul, at Brighton, as before, about all welfare matters, and all children's and other allowances, payments and communications about welfare matters will continue to come to you from Brighton.)

The Message, Poultry Farm, and Estate Offices will all remain at Brighton.

The Chairman's Office and the Appeals Office remain in London, at Regent's Park, and I shall continue to work from there. Raglan Street will continue to function as usual.

The reason for these changes is obvious enough. We do not know what turn the war may take, and we want to be prepared for everything, and I am particularly anxious to keep in touch with all St. Dunstaners throughout the country in all circumstances.

My advice to all St. Dunstaners is: Carry on with a stout heart and set a good example, as you always have done. And if you get into any trouble let us know and we will do all we can to help you.

The best of luck,

Yours sincerely,
IAN FRASER, *Chairman.*

St. Dunstan's and Newington House

St. Dunstan's, London, and Newington House, Edinburgh, have entered into an agreement to work together in this war.

St. Dunstan's has looked after practically all the men of the Home and Dominion Forces who were blinded in the Great War and about half the Scotsmen. The other Scotsmen went to Newington House, Edinburgh, in the main because they lived in or near Edinburgh and wished to be near their folk at the time when they were blinded. St. Dunstan's and Newington House have both appealed for funds in Scotland, and from time to time this has led to overlapping and waste of effort. Our appeals have also clashed to some extent in the Overseas Colonies.

With the advent of a new war it seemed desirable to come to some better arrangement. As the head of the greater of the two organisations, I opened up negotiations and these have now led to a very happy and successful conclusion. The points of the arrangement are as follows:—

1. Scottish St. Dunstaners who live in Scotland will remain members of St. Dunstan's, and no change whatever will be made in their position. Newington House men will remain under the care of Newington House.

2. St. Dunstan's and Newington House will issue a joint appeal instead of competing appeals, and the monies arising will be divided according to the responsibilities of the two organisations.

3. All soldiers, sailors and airmen of all the Home and Dominion Forces who may be blinded in this war will go to St. Dunstan's Hospital for surgical and medical treatment, and to learn to be blind during their early days. But as soon as they are fit enough for serious training, the Scotsmen who intend to live in Scotland will go to Newington House for training, and those from England and Wales and the Dominions will pass from the Hospital side of St. Dunstan's into the Training Establishment.

I think that this arrangement safeguards the independence and tradition of the two places, safeguards the interests of the veteran Scottish St. Dunstaners, and provides a sensible and friendly way of working for the future, avoiding competition in appeals or argument as to which organisation a man should go to.

I should just mention one exception: Where a blinded soldier wishes to undertake some occupation which is only taught at one of the Institutions he will go to that one for his training, no matter where he may intend to live.

I thought St. Dunstaners as a whole would like to know of this constructive proposal, though it is only of special interest to St. Dunstaners in Scotland. I ask all of them to help forward a good relationship between St. Dunstan's and Newington House now that we have entered upon this friendly arrangement.

Children for the Dominions

A number of St. Dunstaners have applied for their children of school age to go to one of the Dominions under the Government scheme. I have made a number of inquiries from Ministers to see if some special St. Dunstan's scheme could be arranged. The result of my inquiries is as follows:—

The Government is bound to confine the scheme to children between 5 and 16 years of age. The reasons for this are that the offers made by Dominion Governments are confined to hospitality for children of these ages, and also limitation of shipping.

The Government scheme does not extend to adults.

No private organisation like St. Dunstan's can organise an emigration scheme at the present time.

Colonel Edwin Baker, our representative in Canada, and Mrs. Bates, our representative in South Africa, have both very kindly cabled me that they will do anything they can to help any St. Dunstaners' children who go to those Dominions, and I am sure that our friends in Australia and New Zealand will do the same.

Will any St. Dunstaners whose children are accepted for transfer to one of the Dominions write at once and tell me, giving the full name, age, and sex of the children, and any details they may have as to where they may be going. I will then ask our Overseas friends to get in touch and send us reports.

IAN FRASER.

M.C. for St. Dunstan's Son Now Prisoner of War

OUR heartiest congratulations to Second Lieut. Robert J. Hyde-Thomson, of the Durham Light Infantry, on being awarded the Military Cross for his bravery, initiative and resourcefulness when in charge of a post in the front line in France.

The official record gives the following facts:—

"On May 13th this officer was in charge of a post when the enemy attacked. All the men in the post were killed or wounded, and the enemy, who had approached close to the post, called on him to surrender. Second Lieut. Hyde-Thomson shot the enemy leader, dispersed the remainder by throwing a hand grenade at them, and managed to escape to a flank, whence he was able to be of great assistance in organising a counter attack. Later in the same day this officer brought in a wounded man under heavy fire."

Unhappily, this gallant young officer was subsequently taken prisoner, but his parents have heard that he is being well treated.

Second Lieut. Hyde-Thomson is a son of Lieut. R. H. Hyde-Thomson, who served in the 9th Batt. Rifle Brigade (Special Reserve), and was wounded near Delville Wood in 1916, when he lost the sight of both eyes. On leaving St. Dunstan's he studied law, was called to the Bar, and is also a director on the Board of several companies.

Twice Burgled

IT was fortunate that someone—a member of the general public, too—had the good sense to take the number of a motor car at High Wycombe a few days ago, which was acting mysteriously in the region of Ronald Stanner's tobacco warehouse, for it led to two men being charged at the local police-court with alleged breaking into the store and stealing goods to the value of £192.

"Ron" Stanners is one of St. Dunstan's energetic and successful business men. He had the sight of his eyes destroyed by a sniper's bullet at Hebuterne, in August, 1916.

Like a number of other St. Dunstaners he entered the retail tobacco trade with a small shop at High Wycombe. That modest beginning has developed into a successful wholesale business, with a wide connection in the country.

Mrs. Stanners, although she modestly disclaims the title, is head cashier and assistant manager, and Geoffrey, the son, has now left school and is a member of the firm.

It is understood that Mr. Stanner's loss is covered by insurance.

Thousands of pounds' worth of gifts were sold at Christie's recently, in aid of the Lord Mayor's Red Cross Fund. H. Abbey, of Lightwater, one of our old St. Dunstaners, sent a fancy mat.

Sons and Daughters in the Services

BATTY, A/c. L. D. (Killamarsh), R.A.F.
 BROWN, Driver A. E. (Nuneaton), R.A.S.C.
 BURTONSHAW, Gdsmn. I. G. (Walthamstow), Coldstream Guards.
 BYRNE, Pte. J.
 CARTER, Pte. K. (Haughton-le-Sherne, Darlington), D.L.I.
 CARTER, Pte. K. (Darlington), D.L.I.
 CAREY, Pte. D. (Tottenham), R. Fusiliers.
 CAREY, Pte. F. (Tottenham), R.E.
 CHARLES, J. F. C. (Sudbury), R.A.F.
 CHAMBERS, Volunteer D. L. (daughter of W. Chambers, Wythenshawe, Manchester), E. Lancs. A.T.S.
 CLARK, Pte. J. M. (London), The Buffs.
 COLIN, — (Duke Street, London), R.A.F.
 COLLINS, Driver A. R. (Potto), R.A.
 COLLINS, Signaller Herbert (Jarrow-on-Tyne), R.A.
 COX, Gunner F. B. (Redhampton, Hants), R.A.
 DAIRS, C. (Gloucester), H.M.S. *Carlisle*.
 EMERY, Fusilier A., Royal Fusiliers.
 FOWLER, Pte. F. (Heworth, Yorks), West Yorks.
 GREEN, A/c.1 H. (Sunderland), R.A.F.
 GRIFFITHS, R. W. (Northampton), R.E.
 HARRIS, Signaller C. C. (Maidstone), Signallers.
 HENDERSON, Rifleman A. E. (City Road), K.R.R.C.
 HICKS, Gunner A. L. (London), R.A.
 HICKS, Gunner A. L. (New Southgate), R.A.
 HILL, Trooper J. C. (Gloucester), R.G.A.
 HINTON, Driver R. J. (Malvern), R.A.S.C.
 HORNSBY, Cpl. A. J. (Pitsmoor, Sheffield), West Yorks.
 HORNSBY, Sapper C. A. (Pitsmoor, Sheffield), R.E.
 HORNSBY, Pte. F. O. (Pitsmoor, Sheffield), Royal Scots.
 KEMPE, Sapper Philip (Redruth), No. 1 R.T.C., R.E.
 KEMP, Sapper S. P. (Redruth), R.E.
 LEWIS, A.
 LOMAS, Sapper J. A. (Walthamstow), R.E.
 MCLEOD, L./Cpl. J. (Cricklade), Queen's Royal Regt.
 MILLARD, Pte. T. (Tredegar), R.A.S.C.
 NOLAN, R. (Hinstock), R.A.F.
 ORROW, (Chingford), A.F.S.
 ORROW, Cpl. G. H. (Chingford), L.R.B.
 ORROW, Pte. (Chingford), M.G.T.C.
 OWEN, —, R.A.F.
 OWEN, Fusilier A. (N. Wales), Royal Welsh Fusiliers.
 OWEN, Fusilier A. (Bethesda, N. Wales), R.W.F.
 OWEN, Sapper G. (Bethesda, N. Wales), R.A.F.
 OWEN, Enid (Bethesda, N. Wales), N.A.A.F.I.
 PULLEN, A/c.1 V. (Woking), R.A.F.
 PULLEN, Seaman F.G. (Woking), H.M.S. *Wild Swan*.
 PULLEN, Pte. A. J. (Woking), R.A.S.C.
 SALTER, A/A. F. L. (Battersea), R.A.F.
 SCALLY, Marine J. C. (Corringham), Royal Marines.
 SIM, G., H.M.S. *Jackal*.
 SMITH, J. T. (Leicester), Leicester Regt.
 SMITH, Pte. J. T. (Leicester), Leicester Regt.
 TATTON, E. (Gloucester), H.M.S. *Drake*.
 THORNTON, Sapper G. C. (Camden Town), R.E.
 TRIGGS, Pte. L. J. (Ashford), The Buffs.

(Continued at foot of next column)

Comforts

The Committee send a message to the Fathers of Sons in the Forces. Several boys, due for a parcel, are still waiting because we have not got the latest address.

There has been so much troop movement throughout the country that it is only possible to depend on an address of recent date.

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The silver teapot, given by Mr. "H.," for the Comforts Fund, realised the sum of £4 2s. 6d.

The draw took place on Tuesday, June 11th, and was won by R. Barber, of Bexley Heath, Kent.

Other St. Dunstaners

W. Ruddock, of Northallerton, one of our basket-makers, who is also deaf, gets a great deal of pleasure from his budget-rigars. One pair have presented him with a family of five. The little ones are quite tame and perch on his shoulder, chirruping to him.

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Congratulations to Raymond, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Lucocq, of Llandaff North, Cardiff, who has been awarded a scholarship which entitles him to a place at the Canton High School. Raymond is 12 years of age.

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Driver/Mec. Briggs, son of A. G. Briggs, of Norwich, after surviving Dunkirk, is unfortunately now in hospital to undergo an operation.

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Mrs. Wenlock, of Carshalton, writes that her son survived the Calais evacuation. He had a thrilling experience and got away on a raft and was eventually picked up safe and sound.—(Congratulations.—Ed.)

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C. Knight, of Leicester, is being married on July 20th, to Miss Beatrice Phillips.

WALKER, Pte. F. W. (Bournemouth), R.A.O.C.
 WALKER, Pte. W., Welsh Regt.
 WALKER, Pte. Wm. (Gilesgate, Co. Durham), A.M.P.C.
 WALKER, Pte. F. W., R.A.O.C.
 WALKER, Pte. W. (Durham), Welsh Regt.
 WILLIAMS, Sergt. H. (Hampton), R.E., A.A.
 WISHART, J., H.M.S. *Hood*.
 YOUNG, Gunner W. (Putney), R.A.

A Reminiscence

THE appreciation, in rhyme, of a "Glaswegian" St. Dunstaner, of his stay at Ovingdean, published in the June REVIEW, under the heading "Brown Bread and Marmalade," has evoked a further humorous, but illuminating reminiscence from William Ward, of St. Leonards-on-Sea. He writes:—

"DEAR EDITOR,—It is very nice to have had read to me an article on 'Bread and Marmalade.' I have very happy memories of a similar kind of thing. I will try and describe to you one which I shall always remember. It goes back to the early days, and I think that many of us will always have some little thing to cherish in this way.

"One dinner-time, after we had finished the first course, we had custard to follow. I thought I was getting on very well, but I could not seem to finish the course. After some time I heard the Sister laughing, and found out that she had been pouring more on my plate before I had finished the first plateful.

"I can also remember quite well, when matches were much cheaper than they are now. After dinner, in the lounge in some quiet corner, we would light up the pipe. I would strike a match, and then another match, and presently we would hear the Sister laugh; she had been blowing out the matches.

"But I thank them all very much for their kindness, and also for the part that the Orderlies play, for they are indeed very good, and especially those I have known."

WILLIAM WARD.

A St. Dunstan's Air-Raid Shelter

MR. J. A. Morton, of High Wycombe, Bucks, a well-known St. Dunstaner, has evolved a very useful idea for the construction of an Air-Raid Shelter at the very low cost of £2. Here are the details:—

Dig circular pit 7ft. in diameter and 3ft. in depth; cast the soil into a mound size 6ft. in diameter and 4ft. 6in. high; place paper over soil and a box for doorway; then place 2 cubic yards of very stiff concrete over mound; when the concrete has set draw out earth core, dig circular well in the floor for the feet and to form a seat.

This shelter should accommodate eight people and can be made at a cost of £2.

Marriage

BUTLER.—Harold Butler, son of T. Butler, of 8 Hill Crest, Distington, by Workington, Cumberland, on February 14th, to Miss Annie Carr, of Leeds.

Deaths

HORGAN.—The baby son of Mr. and Mrs. D. Horgan, of South Douglas Road, Cork, died on June 25th.

We extend our very sincere sympathy this month to:—

J. L. BROKE, of Sheffield, on the death of his wife, on June 20th.

J. H. FLEMING, of Dagenham, on the death of his wife on July 6th.

Killed in Action

We deeply regret to announce the death of Private Arthur Aldridge, of the Northampton Regt., aged 26, killed in action in France on May 22nd. He is son of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Aldridge, of Dagenham.

Reported Missing

Ernest Alexander, Black Watch Regt., son of A. E. Alexander, of Bournemouth.

Andrew P. Avey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Avey, of Worcester (he did not return from Dunkirk).

The son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Southen, of Exeter, is missing from his ship.

To our many Friends of St. Dunstan's

We wish to thank all those friends for their kind messages of sympathy offered to us for our dear son, who is posted "Missing."

We still fervently hope he may one day be restored to us.

"TINY" and Mrs. FLEMING.

(Driver J. F. C. Fleming, of the R.A.S.C., has been "Reported Missing" since May 26th. He was on the Flanders Front.—Ed.)

Congratulations to Harold Butler, son of T. Butler, of Distington, Cumberland, on his safe return from Dunkirk in June last.

About Dogs "Distemper Eye"

AS pointed out in a previous article, distemper has, after its attack, the ability of producing many other specific diseases of the organs which become apparent only when the attack has passed its height.

One of these repercussions and, in my opinion, one of the most critical, is that malady due to distemper known as "Distemper Eye."

In the past I have known of many dogs that, through the ignorance on the subject prevailing at the period, have, when stricken with this malady, been summarily destroyed.

Others, though later winning through, have become permanently blind through lack of treatment.

Of the latter type here is a case which was brought to my notice. The dog was a well-known prize-winning bloodhound, belonging to a famous tracking kennel.

This dog caught distemper at a big show. At the end of the attack it was found that he was blind, a film having formed over both eyes. As he was three years old, and in his prime, this blindness, if it became permanent, was a great financial loss.

On examination I found that it was "distemper eye," both eyes being completely covered by a greyish-white film. Successful treatment followed, the films being detached and removed. In fourteen days the sight was normal, and a month afterwards the dog took another first at a big show.

One may ask what was the specific disease of the eyes caused by the attack of distemper? I can only suggest that the disease was, and is, a form of eye disease known to eye specialists as "Iritis," derived from a few of the ailments of the human eye which are prevalent in the canine eye, the chief among them being "Ophthalmia" and "Keratitis." "Glaucoma" is not very prevalent, and none of the latter diseases may result from distemper.

H. MARSDEN.

Congratulations to Mr. H. Marsden, on securing First and Special with "Cornelly Revival" in the Open—Dog or Bitch—Bull Terriers, and second prize with "Sharples Brigadier" at the Liskeard Canine Society's Show last month.

National Egg Laying Test

Report for the Ninth Period of Four Weeks, May 21st to June 17th, 1940

Position	Name	Test Score	Value
1	P. Holmes ...	...	826
2	P. Holmes ...	...	806
3	W. Alan Smith ...	...	759
4	A. Jarvis ...	...	742
5	T. M. Fisher ...	...	728
6	D. McLaren ...	...	720
7	T. M. Fisher ...	...	717
8	G. Powell ...	...	716
9	R. E. Hill ...	...	710
10	E. H. Carpenter ...	...	613
11	J. Campbell ...	...	603
12	G. C. Jackson ...	...	598
13	A. Chaffin ...	...	587
14	D. McLaren ...	...	574
15	W. Alan Smith ...	...	553
16	W. J. Woodcock ...	...	548
17	A. Jarvis ...	...	523
18	G. C. Jackson ...	...	466
19	A. Benning ...	...	356
20	M. Watson Brown ...	...	344
21	H. A. Hammett ...	...	290
22	W. C. Stamp ...	...	273

The No. 1 Birds in St. Dunstan's Section

8th Month:—

	Score
1st Bird, No. 3331 P. Holmes ...	158
2nd " 3379 R. E. Hill ...	140
3rd " 3343 D. McLaren	139

9th Month:—

	Score
1st Bird, No. 3331 P. Holmes ...	175
2nd " 3379 R. E. Hill ...	161
3rd " 3397 T. M. Fisher	156

Bantam Successes

Congratulations to D. Batchelor, of Woodbine Cottage, Ratley, Banbury, Oxon., on his success in securing with his birds high awards in the Bantam classes at the Banbury Fanciers' Society's Show recently.

He won a First, R., and V.H.C. with his entry in the "Any Other Cock" class, and Second and Third with his exhibits in the "Any Other Hen" class.

Regatta Cancelled

IT will not come as a surprise to most readers of the "Review" that it was found necessary to cancel the Regatta, which had been fixed for July 10th.

"In Memory"

SEAMAN DANIEL MCCARTHY
(Royal Naval Reserve)

WE regret to have to report the death of Daniel McCarthy, of Kinsale, County Cork. He was an old sailor, serving with the R.N.R. in the late war, but did not come to us until 1923. He did not undertake any serious training, but carried on with various hobbies while his health allowed. He has been a very sick man for a considerable time and was confined to his bed for some period before his death, which occurred at his home in Kinsale, on June 19th. He leaves a widow and nine children, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

McCarthy never let his disability get him down. He was always trying to do something new. He taught himself to repair boots, and did all the family repairs for many years.

The funeral took place on Friday, June 21st, at Kinsale Abbey Burial Ground. Rev. Father Johnston, C.C., officiated.

A very large number of the residents attended the funeral, and among the wreaths was one from Captain Sir Ian Fraser and his comrades of St. Dunstan's.

PRIVATE WILLIAM CORCORAN
(West Yorkshire Regiment)

WE record with regret the death of William Corcoran, late Private in the West Yorkshire Regiment. He was very old, and practically since his admission to St. Dunstan's benefits, in 1930, has been in and out of hospital, and died in York Infirmary on May 21st, 1940.

He served in the Great War and also in the Boer War. He was discharged from the Army in 1917—a single man, never able to take up any training, as he has been an invalid for many years. A wreath has been sent from Sir Ian, but the funeral was a very quiet one.

"Doin' Their Bit"

Mr. and Mrs. F. Pullen, of Old Woking, are busy "doin' their bit" in the war. Pullen, senior, has been fitting Contex filters to gas masks; Mrs. Pullen is knitting furiously; Tony (the eldest) is in the Army; Fred in H.M.S. *Malaya*; Victor in the R.A.F.; Owen is a Scout, and Jean a Girl Guide. This is indeed an exemplary instance of war effort.

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G. Lawlor, of St. Clement's Avenue, Leamore, near Walsall, South Staffs., has five sons serving with the Forces.

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W. Lowings, of Sompting, Sussex, volunteered, and has been accepted, as a member of the West Sussex Local Defence Corps. He has been posted to the Armoury to look after the rifles. Lowings has been instrumental in getting a local builder to supply free of cost a rack for storing the rifles.

The Monthly Sports Meeting for St. Dunstaners living in Brighton and district took place at Ovingdean on Thursday evening last.

Competition was keen, and several competitors added materially to their aggregate of points.

A Gift of Pipes

A GIFT, which will be greatly appreciated by, and will give many happy moments to, pipe-smoking St. Dunstaners, has just been received at Ovingdean, in the form of a packet of "Hurricane" pipes from the manufacturers, the Nutt Products, Ltd, of Oxford Street.

Some St. Dunstaners are already acquainted with the excellencies of this pipe, for similar gifts have been made in previous years.

That it is a "good 'un" is demonstrated by the fact that the King, who enjoys a pipe in the quietude of his home, has smoked a "Hurricane" for the past seven years and, in fact, has evinced his approval of it by awarding the manufacturers the Royal Warrant, the first and only pipe, it is understood, ever to receive this honour.

If the demand exceeds the gift, for which the lucky recipients are grateful, the firm has made a generous offer to supply St. Dunstaners with a similar pipe at half the retail price.

Jean, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Smith, of Parbold, has won a scholarship to Wigan Technical College. Her sister, Kathleen, secured a similar scholarship to Southport Technical College four years ago.

CHAIRMAN'S POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

PENSIONS DEBATE AND POULTRY CONCESSION

IN a recent debate in Parliament on the subject of War Pensions, Sir Ian Fraser made an important speech. Points from the speech are as follows:—

The pensions of new blinded soldiers, sailors and airmen must be brought up to the level of those of the Great War men.

When these pensions have been brought up to that level, the hint given that all disability pensions would be raised when the cost of living reached a figure of 215, must be converted into a promise that this will be done, and when the time comes it must be done without delay.

The Government should introduce an Independent Tribunal for new cases, similar to that which existed for the Great War men.

In connection with pensions and the cost of living, Sir Ian Fraser said:

"I have at heart most deeply the interest of those most seriously wounded. It is well for the House and the country to bear in mind that if you are to do what is right by the man who indubitably was wounded in the war, and was very seriously wounded, then you must have a clean and honest pensions system, which does not lead to political jobbery for all who happen to have served in the war. . . . Of all the subjects of public administration which should be kept outside party arguments, surely it is the way in which we treat wounded soldiers and pensioners."

Referring to the rise in the cost of living, Sir Ian said: "It seems clear that in the absence of any other way of paying for this war it will be paid for partly by inflation. Inflation is profitable to many professional men, to most artisans and workmen, but not to widows and those who live on fixed incomes or on pensions: they are among the most vulnerable in the country. . . . It is certain that the time will come when the burden of sacrifice which will be called for from the pensioner will be more than is reasonable, having regard to the sacrifice being made by others."

The following correspondence has taken place between the Chairman and the Minister of Agriculture, the Rt. Hon. R. S. Hudson, M.P.:—

MY DEAR HUDSON,—In February of this year I wrote to your predecessor asking him if he would give special consideration to the position of war-blinded St. Dunstan's poultry and pig farmers. I pointed out the disabilities under which these men work, and the splendid way they have overcome them. I reminded Dorman Smith, too, that there are very few alternative occupations open to them and that, although poultry and pig farming is within their scope, they cannot adapt themselves to other agricultural activities.

The Minister answered, on March 19th, to the effect that, after consultation with the Ministry of Food, he agreed that special treatment ought to be given to St. Dunstan's pig and poultry farmers, and that he was issuing instructions to officials at the Ministry of Agriculture to carry out that decision.

I should be obliged if you would let me know if you are in agreement, and whether these arrangements will remain in force. I realise that the position has changed considerably, necessitating drastic reduction in pig and poultry food as a whole, but I am hopeful that you will feel the position of the St. Dunstan's blinded soldier poultry and pig farmers should be maintained.—Yours sincerely,

IAN FRASER, *Chairman.*

The Minister's reply was as follows:—

DEAR FRASER,—You wrote to me on June 7th with regard to the special position of war-blinded St. Dunstan's poultry and pig farmers. I recognise that these men have a special claim to consideration and, in spite of the new circumstances which have arisen, necessitating a substantial reduction in imports of feeding stuffs, I feel that we should be justified in continuing to give some preference to these blind ex-service men.

It may be necessary to restrict somewhat the allowance which has so far been made to them, but I am hopeful that we shall be able to let them have sufficient supplies to keep them going.—Yours sincerely,

R. S. HUDSON.