

MOSQUITO BITES.

A society for the registration of patents is sadly needed at Vaimea Camp. Put your private mark on the Mess's tin of butter, and it's guineas to gooseberries that there will be a heated argument as to the ownership at the next meal. By the way, butter, although already high, is still going up.

The after-lights-out-debating-societies at Vaimea appear to have lost a lot of enthusiasm since Griff and a few others were ordered to contribute a certain portion of their pay to the funds of the Govt.

Competition for the position of cycle orderly is still very keen at the Vaimea Camp, and fashion plates are not in it with the members of the main guard now-a-days. Now that Clarkie has been made a lance jack, competition is now open in the Auckland detachment.

A certain cure for guards, picquet, and drill—sore arms and legs with an occasional boil. Beards also are useful.

Pvt. Funkum—We congratulate you on the discretion you showed at the recent native disturbance, in accepting the explanation offered by six foot native that the scimitar he was carrying was only being taken home to peel bananas with.

Private Slim: "Whatever else happens, our boys in Egypt are not likely to go hungry."

Private Trim: "Oh, why not?" P.S. "On account of the sandw-(h) ich's there."

P.T. "Garn, funny, don'tcher; but do you know they had calendars served out to them?"

P.S. "No, straight? Why?"

P.T. "So that they can consume the dates."

The Public is hereby notified that the undersigned has taken over this newly renovated hotel and that he will endeavour to ensure the satisfaction of his customers by supplying only first quality drinks and meals.

Improvements are being made to the bar, dining room, and bedrooms, so that now clients will find the building thoroughly clean, cool and comfortable. New chefs and are being engaged who will endeavour to make the hotel a hospitable home for all.

They say that big game hunting in the rice is one of the favorite occupations of the garrison cooks. Big Dock, of Vaimea has the best bag to date, but his record is likely to be beaten, as game is becoming more plentiful every day.

It is reported from Madras that a few hours before the Emden arrived to bombard the town, the port officer received a wire, and replied as follows—"Your telegram reporting the Bay safe for shipping duly noted—Madras now being bombarded by hostile cruiser."

There was a record sick parade at Vaimea, after the football tourney on Boxing Day, and as a result rugby football is now tabooed. There were no serious casualties during the tourney, but contact with the hard ground resulted in most of the players losing large quantities of skin.

Lawn mowers and sickles have no longer a monopoly of the grass cutting business. Noticed a squad at Vaimea last week hard at work on the grass with spades and long handled shovels. The method smacks of the primitive, but you know occupation must be found for the troops. Although we cannot recommend the method to owners of tennis lawns and bowling greens as being either speedy or efficient, still it is an excellent form of physical culture.

Wonder who first thought of the shovel act?

The Boss: "Well, Michael, and what do you think of the war?" Mike: "Wot I says is yer 'anner, that them Germans are licking us all the time! Wot are the French doin'? Nothin'! And the British aint the same fighters as in the old days. And the Belgians, they

don't count' cos there aint enough of 'em. And the Russians aint worth anything. By Gosh! If it wasn't for them there Allies we'd simply get walked over." (Bulletin)

We are delighted to see a gentleman of such wide experience and a possessor of "the goods," in charge of postal affairs in Apia. Mr. E. E. Coghlan we are sure will keep a paternal eye on the *Pull Thro's* and see that they reach their little destinations (a thing they haven't done for months and months and months).

To him and his able staff Messrs. J. T. Schulenberg, T. A. Jackson, W. T. Bird, and F. W. Player, we extend our felicitations.

E. HANKE THE BOY'S OWN BARBER

For Shaves, Haircuts, Shampoos and Massages he can't be beaten.

His real Bengal Razors are guaranteed, money returned if not perfectly satisfied.

You know where the Central is—don't laugh—well, just behind it on the same side of the block is

SUNDIN AND JOHANSSON'S Model STORE

Here's the one thing that will interest you - - Wax Matches - - Safety Wax Matches - - Just like the ones you used to carry loose in your ticket pocket at 6d per doz. Drop in and have a look round.

BILLIARD ROOM on the Premises

LARGE SAMPLE ROOM

Fresh and Sea-water Bathing within two minutes walk.

Mixed Drinks a Speciality.

N.Z. Shandies and Colonial Beers always on tap.

LIGHT AND DARK BEERS ARRIVING.

All complaints to be made to the Proprietor.

Tivoli Hotel

APIA - - SAMOA

Telephone No. 91

GEO. COOK, Proprietor.

ATHLETICS.

[FOOTBALL AND SPORTS TOURNEY].

Despite mosquitoes, ants, centipedes, town picquets, orderly rooms, fatigues, and last but by no means least the heat, there is still an abundance of energy among the troops located here. Particularly is this noticeable at Vaimea, which detachment celebrated Christmas and New Year with a monster 7-a-side football tourney held on Boxing Day, and although the glass registered 130 in the sun, eleven Rugby and five soccer teams took part. Players made light of the heat and the hardness of the ground, and play of a surprisingly high standard was witnessed. This was very noticeable in the soccer games, each of which was a revelation to the natives of whom a large contingent was present.

The 3rd Auckland Regt. and the Railway Engineers each entered two teams, the Machine Gun section furnished the remaining team. The Auckland B. team put the Railway B. team out of action in the first round by one goal (scored by Fraser) to nil, and the Machine Gun team succumbed to Auckland A by 2 goals to 1. The last mentioned game was very exciting. Machine Gun played up surprisingly well, and 3 minutes from time led by one goal to nil, but by pretty combined play Auckland scored 2 goals in quick succession and secured victory right on time.

In the second round Auckland B. put up a great fight with Railway A, and when time was called, the score sheets were still blank. Under the rules, however, corners were made to count, and as Railway had one in their favour, the Auckland team was defeated.

The final saw the Auckland A. team at the top or its form, and Railway A. went down to the tune of 2 goals to nil. The following are the names of the winning team:—Q.M.S. R. Haddow, lance-corporals A. C. Ibister, R. Bennett, privates T. C. Kent, R. S. Clerke, H. Boyne and T. Venables.

For the Rugby tourney teams were entered as follows:—Railway Engineers, 4 teams; 3rd Auckland (Vaimea detachment) 3 teams, 3rd Auckland (Wireless detachment) 2 teams; Machine Gun and Battery each one team. Railway B, Auckland B, Machine Gun and Wireless A, went out on the first round, and the conclusion of the second round the following teams remained in:—Wireless B, Battery and Auckland C. Battery and Wireless B entered the semi-final, Battery winning by 6 points (2 goals by McGirr) to nil, after a very even game. The Auckland C. team which consisted of Corp. A. W. Ohlson, Privates K. Ifwerson, E. C. Owen, J. Colquhoun, R. J. Fisher, C. Williams and R. Emirali, was a hot favourite in the final, but Battery played a great game, and victory only rested with Auckland by five points (Owen try converted by Ifwerson) to three points (goal by McGirr).

Enjoyable as the football tourney was, the sports meeting on New Year's Day was an even greater success. His Excellency the Governor (Col. R. Logan) was present, and each unit was represented by a large contingent. The 5th (Wellington) hand came in a body and added greatly to

the enjoyment of all present. As on the first day, the natives mustered in force, and there was great excitement amongst them during the spar fighting. An excellent programme of running and field events was got off, and as an additional attraction there was a seven-a-side soccer match, and a dance by a bevy of native girls. Interest during the day was very keen, the struggle for the points prize between the Railway Engineers and the 3rd Auckland Regt. being the feature of the Meeting. The Railway Engineers led for some time, but in the field events and the 75 yds. championship, Auckland secured a lead which they maintained to the end, the final points being 3rd (Auckland) Regt. 35, Railway Engineers 27.

As a fitting wind up to an excellent day's sport, a concert was held in the new barracks at Vaimea, at which the prizes were distributed by Major W. Kay. The concert, which was arranged by Sergt.-Major Bale, Corporal Grigg and Pvt. Robertson, was a huge success, the presence of the 5th (Wellington) Regt. Band, being the outstanding feature. Following are details of the event decided during the day:—

75 yds Championship.—A. W. McNeish (3rd Regt.) 1; V. Mitchell (Railway Engineers) 2; N. L. Ingpen (3rd Regt.) 3. McNeish when leading by 5 feet at 50 yds. ricked a snow, but gamely struggled on and won by inches. Sack Race.—B. Tangey and J. Hiddlestone. (Rly. Engineers). High Jump.—J. Colquhoun (3rd Regt.) 1; A. W. McNeish (3rd Regt.) 2. Cigarette Race.—L. Piggales (3rd Regt.) 1; E. Smyrke (Rly. Engrs) 2. Engineers Alarm Race.—B. Tangey 1; G. Higginson 2. 3rd Regt. Alarm Race.—C. Pain 1; J. Colquhoun 2. Long Jump.—J. Colquhoun (3rd Regt.) 1; A. W. McNeish (3rd Regt.) 2. Potato and Bucket Race.—J. Colquhoun (3rd Regt.) 1; Piggales (3rd Regt.) 3. Legged Race.—R. Boswell and D. I. McKeller (Rly. Engrs) 1. Hop Step and Jump.—A. W. McNeish (3rd Regt.) 1; J. Colquhoun (3rd Regt.) 2. Veterans Sprint.—E. Smyrke (Rly. Engrs) 1; E. Mein (3rd Regt.) 2. Officers Sprint.—Lieut. Bond 1; Lieut. Hackworth 2. Tug of War.—Railway Engineers (C. Barry, J. Fenton, G. Shaw, R. Syme, A. D. McKellar, H. Revell, W. D. Wilson, B. A. Smith, W. B. Willstead, S. Perry) 1. Relay Race.—Railway Engineers (D. Furey, V. Mitchell, G. Power, H. Barnes) 1. Veterans 3 Legged Race.—W. L. Mitchell, W. Hill (3rd Regt.) 1. Visitors Race.—C. Clarke (Auckland Singallers) 1; Barnard (5th Regt.) 2. Football Kicking.—W. G. Wynyard (3rd Regt.) 1; Tangey (Rly. Engineers) 2. Quoits.—L. Hewitt (3rd Regt.) 1; S. Knight (Rly. Engineers) 2. Soccer Football.—Camp defeated Auckland by 1 goal to nil.

The Committee responsible for the football tourney and sports consisted of Sergt.-Major Avey, Sergt. C. Barry, Lance-Corpl. Smith (Rly. Engineers), Corpl. A. W. Ohlson, privates F. Robinson and W. Hill (sec.) (3rd Regt.), Corpl. Tomline (Machine Gun), and Sergt. Copeland (Ambulance Corps). The judges for the sports were Sergt.-Major Bale, Q.M.S. Simmonds and Haddow. Capt. P. St. J. Keenan acted as referee, and Lieut. A. I. Walker was starter. The football match-

es were refereed by Capt. Keenan, Lieut. Walker, Sergt.-Major Bale, Corpl. Sheehan, Q.M.S. Simmonds, Pvt. LeCren and Sapper Smyrke.

THE NAVAL FIGHT.

I strove to write of a naval fight with a technical sort of a grip, In a practical way, in a tactical way, in the way of the earlier Kip; But as I reach for the nautical speech, it twists and troubles my tongue— But I would not shirk the fendish work, and this is the song I sung:

We lashed the foe to the grinding floor and we soused his lugs in brine, Till our binnacle broke in clouds of smoke, and we patched it up with twine; In the outer dark the charnel shark rose up to bay the blast, But we tickled him, we pickled him, we scotched his mizzen mast;

B'god, says we, it is easy to see he cannot swallow his duff—

But the foeman cried, in his idiot pride "Then luff, you beggars, luff!"

His keel ablaze flared through the haze clean to the Narrow Seas, And the submarine leapt quick and keen, like an Afghan wolf with fleas;

And the galley cat on the hatchway sat, not knowing the thing was loaded, While the starboard mate, cursing his fate, turned turtle and exploded.

In the outer dark the charnel shark waves the thumb of his fin at his nose,

And the big bull trout comes up to spout as the waiting cruisers close—

And the barnacles drop from the firing top as the eager cannot speak—

B'god, says we, it is easy to see that he carries his teeth in his cheek!

The thing-a-ma-jig on the captain's gig fell foul of the conning chain—

And we rammed her home from Hull to Nome, and she wallowed blind with pain!

And the charnel shark in the outer dark he picks his teeth at ease—

B'god, says we, it is easy to see we have cleared the Narrow Seas!

A local scientist in a communication to the editor, writes pointing out that the common impression that there is only one species of bug domiciled in the A.S.C. stores and bake houses, is incorrect, as he has already identified five, including one new to science. To verify the identifications, the specimens are being referred to that famous bacteria biologist Mr. Swan, to be examined between his spare time and the Tivoli.

Heard in the trenches at the range. Pvt. Flatfoot. "Well, Cockey, what do you think of the shooting?" Cockey. "I thank God we've got a navy."