

**Q. M. CORPS TO
OBSERVE 146TH
ANNIVERSARY**

Indianapolis Dinner June 16,
Will Be Part of Interna-
tional Observance

Indianapolis will join with other cities of three continents, June 16, in dinners to be held in observance of the 146th anniversary of the quartermaster department of the United States Army. The dinner here will be held at the Claypool Hotel, with commissioned officers and civilians who held commissions in the department during the war and a large number of men attending. Governor Warren T. McCray will make an address at the dinner.

Civilians who stood behind the department, furnishing supplies during the war, also will attend. John B. Reynolds, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, who served as a colonel in the aviation service, will give a talk.

OFFICER REVIEWS

HISTORY OF CORPS.

A brief history of the founding of the quartermaster corps is given by an officer of the department, as follows:

June 16, 1775, in Carpenter's Hall, Philadelphia, the lawmakers of the federal government, faced with the problem of supply for the fighting men of the new nation, enacted the following legislation:

"Resolved, That there be one quartermaster general, and that there be one deputy under him for the separate army. That the pay of the quartermaster general be \$80 per month and that of deputy by \$40 per month.

That the quartermaster corps, known in the beginning as the 'military stores department.' Coming into being during the very days that the Nation was going through the trials of birth, the quartermaster corps from an humble and unpromising beginning, has grown side by side with the institutions and traditions of our country, until today it stands the largest and best supply department of our Army and one of the most important in the world.

What the quartermasters of the Army had to do in the limited land operations of 1861 was well done. The capture of Vicksburg, New Orleans was due to the supplies which were brought up to him by those entrusted with the task.

**GAVE VALUABLE AID
IN MEXICAN WAR.**

The return of the American arms during the Mexican war was due in no small measure to the fact that the quartermaster department was able to solve with success the difficult problems of supply and transportation that confronted it.

In the Civil War an army which had more than two million enlistments was well clothed, fed, sheltered and transported with skill. The number of railroads were rare, and highways were little better than glorified trails.

In our Indian campaigns it was the faithful work of the quartermaster department who supplied the clothing and transported the food which made it possible for our soldiers to fight beyond the limits of civilization, that the American nation, in its early days of progress, might westward by the way.

During the Spanish-American War our fighting men in the United States, in Cuba and Porto Rico, were supplied with supplies, and neither food, shelter nor clothing, thanks to the ability of the quartermaster and subsistence departments to meet successfully tropical and other conditions which had never before presented themselves to the supply departments of the Army.

The quartermaster corps has just emerged from the methods of collecting all time, and the brilliant achievement of having successfully fed, clothed and otherwise supplied 2,000,000 across 3,000 miles of ocean, while caring for an equal number of horses and mules at home. In speaking of the work done by the corps in France General Pershing said:

"The task of supplying an army the size of the American expeditionary force in the field of operations, so many thousands of miles from home depots, was never before attempted. The quartermaster corps came up to a brilliant and complete record and thereby made possible the success of the fighting troops on the Marne, St. Mihiel and in the Argonne."

Again in response to the Secretary of War, the commander in chief of the American force in France expressed in the following words his appreciation of the work of the quartermaster corps.

"The quartermaster corps has had a difficult and varied task, but has more than met all demands that have been made upon it. Its management and its personnel have been very efficient and deserve the highest commendation."

Second only to the long list of achievements of the quartermaster corps in war are the services it has rendered our people in peacetime, during time of peace.

ON THE SPOT

JOHNSTOWN FLOOD.

In the Johnstown flood of 1889 it was the quartermaster department that made it possible for the despairing inhabitants to win their battle while they mourned more than 6,000 dead. After the San Francisco earthquake and fire fifteen years ago the quartermaster commissioners were rushed to the scene with their tents, food, clothing and bedding to help the devastated city rise from its ruins. When the waters flooded the Mississippi and Ohio valleys and the tidal wave engulfed Galveston the quartermaster corps did heroic work in sheltering the homeless, feeding the hungry and saving lives.

Amongst the several peace time services that the corps is rendering the country may be mentioned the benefits that our farmers and ranchers now derive from the activities of the quartermaster service. Primarily functioning as a service of animal supply for the Army, its activities have extended to more than 100 states in practically every State in the Union for the convenience and use of those who breed best animals. The light horse was passing out of existence because of the rapidly extending use of automotive power and the quartermaster corps has charged itself today with helping to restore that useful animal to the service. It is a valuable economic life on the farm and on the road.

In fact, the fighting man is dependent upon the quartermaster corps from the day he is born until the day he leaves the service and should this service be caused by death, it is the quartermaster corps that is charged with providing him in his final resting place and keeping green the spot in the respect the splendid work of the graves registration service in its reverential duty of looking after the soldier dead of the Nation during and since the World War will ever be a monument to the corps.

**DEPARTMENT STRESSES
CULTIVATION OF GRASS.**

The department of agriculture is particularly interested in the campaign of education to impress the importance upon the farmer of the proper cultivation of grass crops. It must be remembered that in its native state the lands of the Dominion were mostly covered with heavy bush and that has been necessary to chop down much of it and then burn over it to clear the ground. The farmer has learned that it is foolish to turn large numbers of stock out on wild land unless he has first sown it to grass of the very best kind. About a third of the lands now in grass have been ploughed, the rest being sown without cultivation of the ground.

Fields of wheat and oats depend principally upon the season. In 1918 the season was unfavorable. It improved the following year and 1920 was still better, with an average yield of eight bushels to the acre for wheat and about thirty-eight bushels to the acre for oats. In a previous article I described the bountiful yields of wheat which are obtained in the Canterbury plains where some fields produce as high as ninety bushels to the acre. These are exceptional, however, and yields of forty-five to fifty bushels to the acre are more common.

It interested me exceedingly to inspect a field of turnips which had been grown specially for the fattening of sheep during the winter months. In this particular field a small patch had been fenced off for feeding a small flock that was low in weight. The sheep had eaten off all the tops, which were about two feet high, and the land had gone down the rows and eaten off one side of the roots of the turnips themselves. The farmer informed me that later they would come out the other side of the turnips and finally would pull the roots out of the ground and eat them.

In the North Island there are a great many thousand acres of volcanic or alluvial land which the government has so far been unable to settle. The land is not open, consists of rugged, mountainous lands which is suitable only for pastoral purposes. The holdings of the government vary from year to year as more and more Maoris dispose of their holdings which at this time are around 4,000,000 acres. Late in 1919 some 150,000 acres are disposed of each year, either sold or leased, although normally the acreage disposed of each year is double that.

**TENDENCY AGAINST
LARGE LAND HOLDERS.**

For the last year the government on land has tended to lease and not to prevent individuals from obtaining large blocks of agricultural lands and using it for pastoral purposes. The government frequently takes steps to compel big landholders to divide their tracts and permit more settlers to come in. Usually it is not difficult for the government and the owner to agree upon a price, but if the owner is obdurate the government takes the land by condemnation. In one instance in the North Island the North Island government decided that one man was too great a land holder and compelled him to sell half of it. On that half the government settled thirty-two families while the original holder has suffered no loss in his income because he began more general cultivation of the half which he had left.

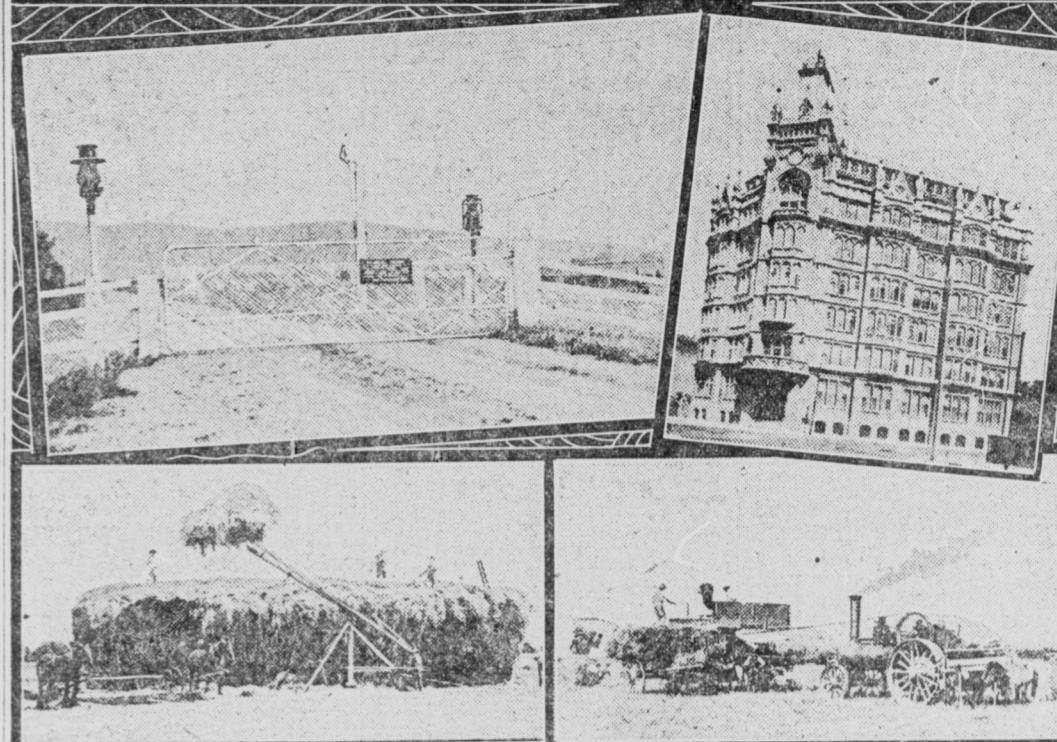
The government takes steps to prevent large landholders from land which is subdivided by advancing the money necessary for subdivision, for survey and the cost of construction of bridges and roads.

Since 1894 the government has had laws which permit it to advance money to worthy settlers. The smallest advances made is \$125 and the largest is \$12,500. The loans must be repaid in thirty-six to forty-half years at a rate of 6 per cent a year.

Since the advance to settlers law was put into operation money loaned to 50,000 persons has totalled \$100,000,000. Half of the principal has been repaid. The department makes a net profit for the government each year of \$250,000.

There are four large experimental farms, located in different parts of the Dominion, where conditions are analyzed and

Agriculture in New Zealand



Top—Gate in rabbit-proof fence across line connecting Banks Peninsula from mainland. Farmers Institute Building in Wellington. Bottom—Haystacker on Canterbury farm. Threshing wheat on government experimental farm in New Zealand.

BY W. D. BOYCE.

Experiments conducted for the benefit of the immediate neighborhood. A new departure has been made in that classes are held for the farmers, at which they are shown the methods employed and the results achieved. At these farms, in addition to general farming, work is constantly going on—in hog raising, dairy produce, bee and poultry keeping, plant and seed selection and orcharding.

Throughout the dominion are scattered small experiments for determining the best things to grow according to peculiar local conditions.

In addition to the government farms two farm organizations have organized model farms where the best dairying methods are demonstrated. These two farms are financed and managed by the farmers themselves, a member of the department of agriculture being chairman of the committee in charge. The government has arranged small subsidies extending to \$100,000 to help to insure the success of the financial end.

Farm instructors are kept virtually

and now what taxes does the New Zealand farmer pay?

Land tax is assessed on the land the same as if it were unimproved, with exemptions and deductions, according to the value of the holding. Where the land is mortgaged still further exemptions are made, so that when the landholder is hard up the commissioner of taxes has power to give even greater relief than those provided by the exemptions.

The present system of taxation is that of a progressive land tax, the object being to break up the large holdings and to encourage the higher tax rates over acre or large holdings than on small holdings. Absentees and shareholders in land companies pay a 50 per cent higher tax than those who live on the land.

In addition to the land tax the farmer must pay an income tax above \$1,000. Exemption of \$1,000 is allowed on incomes up to \$3,000 and above that the government takes 10 per cent higher tax rates over acre or large holdings than on small holdings. Absentees and shareholders in land companies pay a 50 per cent higher tax than those who live on the land.

The experience of the American rancher is that the best sheep are very hard on land. Most of our sheep ranges, however, are on dry and poor land and often where the sheep cannot find anything to eat for themselves the year round. Here sheep never are put up in the winter and the fifty inches of average rainfall furnish abundant pasture, at all times. The general system here is to change sheep from one pasture to another as they will move down the grass too closely or destroy the roots. Another explanation for the very healthy sheep they have here is the abundance of little streams which run through every pasture. The fact that 16,000,000 (sixteen million) acres, or more than a third of the whole country which has been opened up and once cropped has been turned back into sheep and cattle land proves that they pay better than grain.

As a result the government has regulations which make it easy for those who are willing to get out and rough it for a living to do so. They can buy a comfortable size, either by purchasing it or on such long leases that they really have the best of it compared to those who have freehold lands.

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There are three methods whereby government land may be obtained by settlers. One is by outright purchase, another by lease with the right to purchase ultimately and the third only by lease with no option to buy at any time. To rent the land pay a rental equal to 5 per cent of the sale price of the land. On land which is leased only the rent is 1 per cent of the sale price.

Land is divided into three classes. For the first class lands the sale price is not less than \$5 an acre, for second class not less than \$2.50 an acre, and for third class not less than \$1.25 an acre. The above are the minimum prices on the poorest quality of land. The holdings are limited to 664 acres of first class, 264 of second and 132 of third class, or 5,000 acres of third class lands to any one person. For town and suburban lands the prices are correspondingly higher.

The man who leases land with a view to buying has twenty-five years in which to pay off the debt, but leases without the option of buying run for sixty-six years, with the privilege of renewal.

There are three methods of these terms for those who want to settle on the land for only short periods.

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