



# The . . NEW ZEALAND FRONTIERSMAN

Official Organ of The Legion of Frontiersmen (N.Z. Division)

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## THE WELCOME GUEST.

Here is a guest welcome as spring flowers who had his feet frozen in Canada in 1885—the only time in his remarkable career that he has suffered from cold feet. In those days the man who is now Captain Roger Pocock, our Founder, belonged to the Royal North West Canadian Mounted Police. In these days he belongs to us, to the Empire, a unique untiring figure, game as a pebble, refusing to take any notice of Anno Domini, penetrating to far corners in an earth he knows so well and hardly noticing that he will be three score and ten in November.

During his epochal combing of New Zealand for recruits, Captain Pocock has laughed like a boy, like a beardless enthusiast of eighteen seeking adventure, seeking work and finding it. Among his quaint youthfulness he has admitted with a twinkle that he made the grave error of not being born in New Zealand, his parents having gone from this recruiting ground prior to that jolly event.

Recruits half his age have been stimulated by his youth, a rare asset in a young country rather seriously addicted to the solemnities of maturity. Neither Captain Pocock, the young septuagenarian, nor any Legionary goes round stirring up war. In effect the chief business of the recruiting officer is to go round stirring up peace. In Wellington where he smiled at his first New Zealand audience, he told the story of the Montreal officer who sought leave of absence for six months to aid in a little Brazilian war. Filibusters planning to leave the United States for the blood sports were prevented from sailing by the action of Capt. Pocock, who warned the authorities.

The Founder found the Wellington squadron a cheery lot and young in their drill. Significant, too, that there was no official hauteur, brother Legionary sitting in fraternal amity with brothers of the Forces. Colonel I. Standish, O.C., the central command, the Hon. W. Perry, Pres. of the N.Z.R.'s A., with many others who broke bread together might all have been Legionaries—and may be.

It was at the Wellington muster that Captain Pocock mentioned that there was a race for recruits to the Legion in the Dominions and that New Zealand had won hands down. A little country, but one to be very proud of. What about raising the whole Legion Army Corps the Founder foresees? Trooper Drummond Duthie said a rather nice thing at the Wellington muster: "Captain Pocock has the true spirit of the men in the wild—the full spirit of the Legion." One gathers from the spirited remarks of the Founder that it has taken a good deal of faith, hope and determination during the past three decades to convince Mr. Bull that an organised, mature, disciplined, trained and experienced body, by persistence becomes a Empire necessity. The feat of organising and controlling upwards of fifteen thousand men in London to instruct the population during possible gas attacks is an example of the essential work of the newly implemented and augmented Legion.

New Zealand has a thousand Legionaries, who, further stimulated by the presence of the indomitable veteran of many wars and who is now an indomitable veteran of peace, an incalculable shield in time of stress; recognised stable, and growing.

The Legion connotes the regimentation of the most useful kind of specialists, who, but for it, would be lost as a

force. The Founder finds in this remote British outpost a remarkable enthusiasm for the child of his imagination, his work and his still youthful zest. It is a service that appeals to the people of any new country, the progress of which depends absolutely on the initiative of pioneers. It is more than that. It enhances the brotherhood of British blood, brawn and brains.

This Empire wanderfest of the esteemed Founder links in fraternity the trapper of Canada and the bushman of Australia; the veldt man of South Africa with the stock man of Maoriland; the Old Land with the newer ones; the battered old soldier with the last fresh-faced recruit to a mechanised unit.

Captain Pocock has builded better than he knew and may he gaze at the house of his dreams for many years to be, and may he never lack stories.

Veterans are necessarily reminiscient. It is the penalty of the years. The continued utility of veterans and their linkage with present activities of all things essential to continued youth.

The Legion will grow old. May the Founder and his fellow boys never grow up. Long years and young thoughts to them!

## HERE AND THERE.

### 'T' SQUADRON, WELLINGTON.

A Squadron business meeting was held at Squadron Headquarters, Victoria Street, to bid farewell to Waiwetu Troop who have been granted sub-unit status. They will in future be known as the Hutt Valley Troop, and their recruiting area will be Upper and Lower Hutt, Trentham and Eastbourne. Captain H. G. Burton on declaring the troop a sub-unit gave a resume of the assistance rendered to the Squadron over a period of years and expressed the hope that the troop would continue to flourish in the Hutt Valley.

Colonel Weston, K.C., Commissioner for New Zealand, who made a special visit that evening to say goodbye to the troop, wished them success in their new venture, and paid a tribute to past troop leaders, making special mention of the late Lieut. Delaney. In the course of his remarks he made an appeal to all to keep the objects of the Legion ever to the fore and to see that the recruits were instructed in their duty to the Empire from the Legion standpoint. The world to-day, he said, is unbalanced; its people are in a curious mood, and countries are arming and preparing for war. Although we did not wish for war, it is our duty to be prepared and to see that the young men of to-day are trained for such emergency. He hoped the troop would be the forerunner of other troops in the Hutt Valley and Eastbourne, which achievement would ultimately do much towards fostering the spirit of comradeship.

Later in the evening the toast of "The Hutt Valley Troop" was proposed by S.S. Major Nicholls and Lieut. Henderson, the Troop Leader, suitably replied.

A report on the Squadron Annual Ball was given by Lieut. McAllister, M.C. The ball was a success both socially and financially and in the future we are assured that it will be one of the social events of the season.



The Squadron officially advises all units of the Legion that it is now the proud owner of a band in Wellington, which, it is believed, is the first band of its kind in New Zealand. Under the able conductorship of Hon. Lieut. Jupp, we are convinced that our association will be to our mutual benefit. The band will be known as "The Legion of Frontiersmen Band," and considerable additions have been made to the uniforms by way of chains and badges in order to conform more fully with our dress regulations. All members of the Squadron are looking forward with anticipation to their first public appearance as a Legion Band.

**COLLECTIVE SECURITY** is the pooling and power of resources against the war maker, the State which, refusing peaceful settlement of its dispute insists on using War as a means of enforcing its own view of its own right.

The above principle cannot work without some commitment beforehand.

A better term is **COLLECTIVE DEFENCE**: A nation's first purpose is self-preservation, defence and the case for collective action is fundamentally that DEFENCE must be a collective function in any society of persons or nations.

**WHAT CAUSED US TO ENTER THE WAR** was the fact that German victory would place us in such a position of inferiority of power as to render us defenceless.

#### HUTT VALLEY TROOP.

The Hutt Valley Troop (late Waiweta Troop) "I" Squadron held its first independent troop status meeting, there being fifteen members present out of a total strength of eighteen; two new members favourably balloted upon will bring the roll to twenty, which is an auspicious start towards squadron status. The foundation members of the new troop are Lieut. A. Henderson (Troop Leader), Sgt. W. J. Smith, Cpl. N. Barrett (Secretary), Cpl. C. E. Harvey (Q.M. and Treasurer), L/Cpl. H. Winnie (transport), Trumpeter Hatt, Troopers K. Anderson, P. R. Anderson, T. Davies, E. Davis, A. G. Marshall, C. Harris, L. Ruseo, T. E. Winnie (and on residential transfer) Tprs. Bodley and Clare. Some of twelve members of the troop paraded with "I" Squadron on the occasion of the visit of and inspection of the Legion Founder, (Captain Roger Pocock).

On Tuesday, August 20th., the Troop ran a very successful dance at the Upper Hutt, some eighty couples being present; every member of the troop also being present.

The troop is also taking a leading part in a Naval and Military Ball to be held at the Lower Hutt on Sept. 16th. co-operating with the local defence units; the proceeds being in aid of the Mayor's relief fund, R.S.A. and Red Cross.

The Miniature Rifle Club finished fourth in the "Q" Grade Championship (Section II), with an average of 64.81, which is most creditable as most members are first year shots.

It is hoped to hold a full troop camp during the October Labour week-end. With a view to co-operating with the Hutt Regimental Association in recruiting for the Hutt Defence Units, the troop has appointed a delegate to the committee of the association. The troop issues a challenge to any troops in the N.Z. Command for a Miniature Rifle postal shoot under N.Z.M.R.A. rules.

#### "N" SQUADRON.

Capt. Pocock arrived in Palmerston North on the afternoon of August 22nd., and was met by the O.C. and a fair number of members of the Squadron; also Frontiersman G. E. Smith, "I" Squadron (King's Corporal), and "Mexican Jim" Russel (No. 88), both old friends of the Founder, and fellow members with him in the North-West Mounted Police. Leaving the station, the party adjourned to the Rosco Tea Rooms for refreshments, after which Capt. Pocock was taken for a tour round the city, Massey College, &c.

In the evening Capt. Pocock was accorded a civic reception by his Worship the Mayor, after which he came to our Club Room where the Squadron was paraded for his inspection. This over, our guest was asked to officially open

the room which we were occupying for the first time. This he did, and then held us spell-bound for over an hour while he talked of the Legion, past, present and future, and I think everyone left the room feeling that it was his duty to do his bit to make the future live up to the traditions left us by the Founder and those whom he gathered round him in the early days of the Legion.

After supper had been served, a pleasant hour was spent mainly listening to further reminiscences of Capt. Pocock, prompted by Frontiersmen Smith and Russel.

This evening was also memorable in our annals in that it marked the inauguration of our new Club Room in Mounsey's buildings. The Squadron has never previously had a home it could call its own. We have for the past twelve months or so been in quarters which, while we had an exclusive use of them, we looked upon as only temporary. By a lucky chance a room which exactly suits our purpose fell empty this week and we were able to establish ourselves in it in time to welcome Captain Pocock there. Our gravest doubt was as to its capacity, but an attendance of 47, the largest meeting we have ever had, consisting almost entirely of members of our own Squadron, did not overtax it, so that it is now set at rest.

#### "Q" SQUADRON.

All troops are making steady progress and the Squadron as a consequence is consolidating.

**CITY TROOP:** City Troop is holding meetings and parades regularly every fortnight and very keen interest is being displayed in the work by all members. Vickers gun team work is of particular interest and members are becoming quite proficient in this branch of the service. With new members coming forward and with such able officers in Lieut. W. A. Page, O.C., and Secretary W. (Bill) Stewart, City is bound to rise. Good luck to City Troop.

**DOVEDALE TROOP:** This troop, too, is holding meetings regularly, but with the busy season (tobacco) on hand little opportunity has been offering to get down to business. However, Dovedale has formed several strong committees and has plans in train to extend activities further afield. There can be doubt that with the effluxion of time Dovedale will eventually reach squadron status.

**RAI TROOP:** This troop has at last reached squadron strength and will in the near future be seeking permission from Headquarters for that status. A miniature range has been acquired and members are very keen to get going in order to compete with other units. In this respect Canvastown section also have their own range, and some good scores have been registered by their members. Keen rivalry exists between the Rai and Canvastown units which adds to the efficiency of shooting among members of both units. Canvastown are now running their own meeting with Second-Lieut. Lawson, O.C., the Section will forge ahead and very shortly reach troop status. Altogether the prospects for "Q" and the Legion generally are very bright in this part of the South Island.

#### TIMARU TROOP.

Attendance has been maintained. Drill and rifle exercises have been carried out. Some members have been attending with the Territorials at their half-day parades and have been getting in some work with the Vickers gun.

Miniature rifle shooting is to be wound up this month with a shoot with the Territorials. Only six members interested themselves in the shooting. We were able to get on a few friendly shoots with clubs. We have been able to take part in a shoot which previously has been a yearly fixture between the ladies of the Gleniti Rifle Club and the Territorials, making a triangular shoot. This went the rounds, each Club entertaining the other in turn.

Captain Pocock visited us on Sept. 3rd. He was met at the train by Lieut. Rathbone and the Mayor, who bade him welcome. He then inspected the Guard of Honour. During the afternoon he was taken for a run in the country, returning early for a rest.



In the evening Captain Pocock inspected "D" Company, 1st. Canterbury Regiment, who were parading that night, and later had a short talk with them. He then spoke for about an hour to those who had been invited and who were interested in the Legion, and then sat in to enjoy a free and easy, with just the members of the troop. A good oyster supper was provided and we stayed late listening to tales of adventure in other parts of the world.

Captain Pocock left for the South next morning, with a good muster from the troop to see him off.

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#### OUR MAIL BAG.

##### "O" SQUADRON.

Sir, I have to report that, like the Scot who is now able to resume golf, having found his ball, I have now found my pen. Fortunately, the troops have kept going, and I hope to be able to keep up with them from now on. Have had rather a sticky time these last few months, but things aren't so bad now.

On behalf of the Squadron I wish to congratulate you most heartily on your election as Commandant; I am only sorry that no member of "O" was present to see it done, but you will have realised that we are by no means a wealthy crowd, and Dunedin was a long way off. Wellington would suit us much better. By the way, our new Squadron Adjutant is L.-Lt. H. Irvine, c/o Broadfoot and Mackersey, Te Kuiti.

A car-load of us went to Pio Pio last night, Lieuts. Wright, Dodds, myself and three others. Had a very good meeting, about 20 altogether. They are a good crowd; rather hard to get together, being so scattered.

The week before No. 1 (local) Troop met for a very instructive lecture by Mr. Craig, editor of our local paper, on "World Affairs."

We have heard nothing from Major A. C. Finlayson since he went 20 miles down the Wanganui from Taumarunui to manage a place there. We miss him very much.

We are looking forward to the report of Conference; what we have heard leads us to believe that Dunedin did the job in style. As a member of the 1st. Otago Battalion during the War, I know they must be a great crowd.

A. L. — L. Capt.

72, Webb Street, Wellington

Sir,—As I expect to be returning to my home in England at short notice, I wish to take advantage of your columns to say goodbye to many friends made at various conferences, Wellington, Wanganui, Hawera, New Plymouth, Auckland, Napier, Dunedin, etc., and to thank them for the many hospitalities shown to me. I would thank you, Sir, for the courtesy always extended to me and to say how proud I have been to serve under your command.

To the N.Z. Command, L. of F., and to my own troop in particular, I wish all success, and trust the Legion will long flourish as the one bulwark of the Empire that can never be destroyed.

Once again, goodbye, and Kia Ora to all comrades.

Yours Fraternally,  
CHARLES HARVEY,  
Hutt Valley Troop.

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Sir,—I was interested in the account of "S" Squadron's activities including the presentation of the Pioneer Axe to Frontiersman L. Nielson, as reported in our paper. The squadron's correspondent was somewhat ambiguous in his account of the "Axe," however, as it appeared to read that this decoration was Legion wide. It may not be known to

some of the later members that this is a purely New Zealand award and is not used in other commands.

An error was also made, when it was stated that there were only six to whom the decoration had been given. I give herewith the full roll of Pioneers which I think is correct: Major Thistleton, Lieut Coffey (both posthumously), Capt. D'Esterre, Lt.-Col. Weston, Fm. Hursthouse (resigned), Fm. W. T. Thompson, Fm. Fraser-Jones (these were the first seven awarded the decoration at the Wanganui Conference some years ago. Then followed Capt. Harkie (resigned), Fm. P. Hempbill, Lt. Capt. Bertrand, Lt. Capt. Lile, Q.M.S. Foord, Fm. Whitehead, Capt. Lalium, M.C., and Fm. Neilson. This, I think, Sir, is the complete list, and, omitting the two who died before the decoration was instituted, and the other two who resigned, it still leaves eleven members who have it. Three active members hold the Legion meritorious service medal, Lt. Col. Weston, Lt. Col. Bertrand, and Lt. Col. Vickrage. 5517.

Sympathy is extended to Lieut. Furniss of Hastings in his illness of a broken rib and pleurisy.—Here's hoping for a speedy recovery.

Congratulations to Lieut. McCullough O.C., "F" Napier, on his becoming the father of a bonnie girl.

All ranks will join in a chorus of regret with Fm. Langley, "O" Squadron, in his illness, also of his wife.—May it be of brief duration.

HEADQUARTERS highly recommends leather goods supplied by Fm. J. Blakemore, 34 Empire Road, Epsom, Auckland, S.E. 3.

The prices of Legion boots, any size 12/6, plus postage; Legion belt, any size, 3/-, plus postage; Legion hat band, any size, 1/6, plus postage. English leather. Good buying.

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#### CANADIAN CARVED GAVEL.

An unique gavel carved from a solid piece of oak has arrived in New Zealand, which by the time it has travelled back to its original home will have an interesting history. This gavel is carved in the form of a dragon as seen depicted on the bows of Norse Viking ships of other days. The dragon is in the form of a gavel and hinged to a solid brass and oak plate, not unlike a huge door knocker. It was carved by Frontiersman T. Castberg, of Spirit River (Alberta), Canada. Lieutenant-Colonel Louis Scott, D.C.M., Commissioner-General for Canada, had this inscribed with the names of the various points in Canada which have an organised unit of the Legion of Frontiersmen. It has been sent to New Zealand to have the various units in this country engraved and will then be sent to Australia and South Africa for a similar purpose, when it will travel back to Canada and then presented to London Headquarters for official use.—"O.D.T.," Dunedin, 29th. June, 1935.

MOVED BY THE EDITOR AND SECONDED BY  
THE COMMANDANT:

"That the British Empire, being a maritime Empire, is unable to contemplate the dependence of any component part thereof on foreign shipping; and that therefore steps should be taken immediately by the Imperial Government, the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia and the Govt. of the Dominion of New Zealand, to protect British shipping operating between Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji from being subjected further to competition from foreign shipping lines which receive heavy subsidies from their Governments. Further, failing concerted action, the three Governments mentioned above, that the Governments of the Commonwealth of Australia and the Dominion of New Zealand should forthwith prohibit subsidised ships entering into the Inter-Colonial Trans-Tasman trade."



## THE LEGION'S FOUNDER.

## CAPTAIN POECK VISITS "M" SQUADRON.

## AN INSPIRING ADDRESS.

Sept. 9th. was a red letter day in the annals of Eltham Frontiersmen, the occasion being a visit to the town, as headquarters of "M" Squadron, of Captain Roger Pock, founder of the Legion of Frontiersmen. Captain Pock, who carries his years well—he is over eighty—is a very picturesque figure and in the course of his remarkable career, he has fought in numerous campaigns in odd corners of the globe, has taken part in filibustering expeditions, written several books of his travels, and in short has been a frontiersman in the real sense of the word. While in Eltham, he was the guest of Lt. A. W. Packard, who was a member of the Royal Canadian North-West Mounted Police, and patrolled much of the same country in which he (Captain Pock) saw service many years ago as a member of the same picturesque body.

During the day, Captain Pock visited Mt Egmont and was the guest of frontiersmen at the hostel. In the evening he was given a civic reception by the Mayor, Mr. Ira J. Bridger, and later he attend a gathering of members of "M" Squadron at the Frontiersmen's Rooms, Eltham.

Immediately after the civic reception Captain Pock inspected a parade of Frontiersmen.

At the smoke concert held subsequently there was a record gathering of Frontiersmen, their numbers approaching eighty. Captain J. T. Scott, O.C., "M" Squadron, presided and the following toasts were honoured: "The King," "The 9000" (Captain J. T. Scott), "Captain Pock," (Major J. C. Findlater), "The R.S.A. (Major Ricketts—replied to by Mr. Barnard); "The Entertainers," (Lieut. Cameron—Mr. F. Silver); "Brother Squadrons," (Lieut. Packard—Lieut. Boyer, Waverley, and Tpr. Harrison, Wanganui), "Volunteers," (Major W. Ricketts—Captain A. W. Lawn and Lieut. M. S. Carrie); "The Press," (Lieut. H. Briggs).

Proposing the toast of the guest of honour, Major Findlater said: "Captain Pock is more than our honoured guest—he is an Empire institution, a unique veteran with the spirit of youth, old in war, a lover and promoter of peace. It is an honour I shall always prize to propose the health of the great Legionaire—the first in the Empire, a man who was no infant when Kruger was obstreperous, no older in spirit now. He discards the carpet slippers, the cosy fireside and De Wet's "Four Years War," the comforts of supposed age, to wave a peaceful falchion in the civil camps of Empire, to light innocent bonfires on Im-

perial hills to call legions to the Legion, to link the past to the present, the recruit of 1899 with the last joined of this year under the banner of fraternity.

It is nice for us to believe (as we assuredly do) that our guest is as much at home with us as he has been in England, in South Africa, in Canada, or in Australia; that there is a unity of outlook common to all of the peoples of all these lands, a reverence and affection for King and Constitution typified in the growing organisation he founded. I feel that Captain Pock's Imperial mission and his welcome wherever he has set foot will give him many happy memories in the future. He is bound to remember some of his fellow legionaries of this land in which he just missed being born. A world penetrator might, in his restful memories, confuse Capetown with Christchurch, Melbourne with Mandelay, or Auckland with Moosejaw, but he cannot mistake the welcome of the composite whole, that great body of Legionaries of which this is a limb. He will find the recruits he seeks. He is the kind of man who makes up his mind to find what he goes for.

If in his future spells of rest he should think of this little limb, it will be a kind thought. For the limb, I am able to promise our guest that all future thoughts of him will be unitedly kind. We shall remember him as the veteran who kept young, who did his duty, who inspired thousands of others as he inspires us. May his years be long and full. May the slipper, the fireside and the old war book be long delayed. May he be a missionary of Empire in many a coming spring. Gentlemen! on this, a unique occasion in our history, I ask you to rise and drink long life and strength and continued youth to Captain Roger Pock, founder of the Legion of Frontiersmen.

In the course of his reply Captain Pock said that New Zealand had set an example to the rest of the Empire in that she had the strongest and best organisation in the Legion of Frontiersmen. "You have," he remarked, "built better than you know." He was, he added, very grateful for the numerous kindnesses extended to him, and he had nothing but admiration for New Zealand and its people. Referring to Commandant J. C. Findlater Captain Pock, described him as one of the outstanding leaders of the movement in the whole of the British Empire, and his organisation was the best he had encountered. Concluding, he said the Legion was largely a body of returned soldiers working for peace.

Items were given by Lieut. H. Briggs, Sgt. Major Butler and Messrs. Hoffman and F. and D. Silver. Community singing was led by Mr. Silver.