

Story of the Glastonbury Thorn



This famous landmark near the place where Joseph of Arimathea is said to have buried the Holy Grail, is crowned by a thorn tree which was restored in the nineteenth century.

Glastonbury Tor, Somerset.

AT the entrance to the garden of St. Mary's Vicarage, Vivian Street, New Plymouth, may also be seen a specimen of the famous Glastonbury thorn. It was brought out from England more than 50 years ago by Archdeacon Henry Govett, B.A., and at one time was probably the only one of its kind in New Zealand. Slips of it have since been given to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and St. Joseph's Church and Convent, New Plymouth.

The legend of the Glastonbury thorn is as follows. After Christ's death and burial Joseph of Arimathea with 12 companions set out from Palestine carrying with them the holy cup—

'the cup itself from which our Lord

Drank at the last sad supper with His own.'

At last Joseph of Arimathea reached Glastonbury in Somerset, England, the reputed site of Avalon of Arthurian romance. Here he received from the heathen prince Aviragus—

'An isle whereon to build,
And there he built with wattles
from the marsh.
A little lonely church in days of yore.'

Planting his staff there, a sign that his journey was finished, it took root and blossomed miraculously every Christmas.

The Glastonbury thorn was cut down by a Puritan in the 17th century, but a descendant graft still grows in the grounds of the ruined abbey of Glastonbury. Glastonbury was one of the main sites to which pilgrimages were made in England until the dissolution of the monasteries in 1539.—Archdeacon G. H. Gavin.



The Glastonbury Thorn Tree.
New Plymouth.

A DOLL FROM BULGANIN

LOS ANGELES, Friday.—Ann Latman, an 11-year-old Los Angeles girl, has received a Russian doll from the Soviet Premier, M. Nikolai Bulganin. Ann's letter apparently caught Marshal Bulganin in a receptive mood. Her earlier letters to his predecessor, M. Georgi Malenkov, were never answered.

Marshal Bulganin's gift, an 11-inch doll, is dressed in the costume of a Russian peasant woman.

It was forwarded by the American section of the Voks, the Soviet Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries.

The doll is the 60th that Ann has collected since she started the hobby two years ago. She has written to the heads of 200 foreign countries, and received 55 dolls.

RECORD DAIRY PRODUCE PRICES IN U.K.

WELLINGTON, Friday (P. A.). — Prices for dairy produce in the United Kingdom are now at record levels, states a bulletin of the New Zealand Dairy Products Marketing Commission. These prices reflect the meagre supplies arriving following increased shipments to the Continent.

Now that the Ministry of Food has disposed of all its stocks of butter and cheese the long-awaited free market is in existence, states the commission. The immediate consequence is that prices now more truly reflect the seasonal pattern of imports and home production.

The 1954-55 season was the best yet from the point of view of sales to markets outside the United Kingdom. The total sold exceeded 25,000 tons, which is 10,000 tons