

MAY 26, 1944

Local Body Elections

WE draw attention to the information given on Page 8 about the broadcasting of Saturday's election results. For the first time in the history of New Zealand everybody is interested directly in the election of local bodies as well as indirectly. For the first time it is possible to show these bodies coming into being hour by hour. Almost for the first time there is as much interest in the process in country districts as in the cities and towns. So the Broadcasting Service has made arrangements by which everyone who has access to a receiving set may know the results in his area before he goes to bed. He may of course have to sit up late: that will be decided by returning officers and poll-clerks and other agents or agencies that the Broadcasting Service cannot control. But he will get his results if he waits for them; by his own fireside if he has a radio; in a neighbour's house if there are no receiving facilities in his own. That is the intention. That is the service the Broadcasting Stations have planned to supply. But no plan will yield its best results unless it is understood. Listeners are asked therefore to examine carefully how the broadcasting areas are covered. Although no one is likely to listen to 1YA for the Maitai Borough Council results or to 4YZ for the Bay of Islands Hospital Board, there are borderline areas and overlaps in both islands that will bring disappointment if they are not known in advance. Otorohanga, for example, will be supplied from 1YA and not from 2YA, Ohakune from 2YA and not from 1YA, Picton from 2YA and not from 2YN; and so on. It is all as simple as a tram time-table if you seek for what you want in the right place; and as disappointing if you don't. Do not take it for granted that you will hear the results in which you are most interested if you listen to the Station to which you are most accustomed. Turn to Page 8 and make sure.

NEW ZEALAND LISTENER, MAY 26

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

VISITORS AND OURSELVES

Sir,—Now that your personal attacks on me appear to have died down, I think that I ought to reply to same. First of all, I wish to say that my letter of March 27 was written in no vindictive spirit, but purely as ordinary honest criticism. In my journeys throughout the whole of New Zealand I have found everyone most anxious to point out to me the charms of the places I have visited, and I have been made welcome in every home. I think that if you had had the foresight to advise listeners that the feature "Brains Trust" had not been withdrawn, and of the great difficulty you had experienced in getting recordings from Britain, everyone would have understood the position better. I might point out that I have travelled widely throughout the Empire on important matters and have had the opportunity of free discussion with many prominent personages in the countries visited, but never in all my travels have I had such insulting treatment from anyone as I have had from you, Sir. Quite recently I was speaking to a New Zealander who frequently criticises the BBC programmes by letter, and this person informed me that the replies received were always most courteous and asking for further criticisms. What a contrast to your attitude! As regards the broadcasting of the proceedings of the House of Representatives, I hope that both you and your correspondent "Bow-Wow" listened in to the broadcast of the "Brains Trust" from London on May 6 on the idea of broadcasting the proceedings of the House of Commons and heard the different opinions on this subject. You would have heard that Members of Parliament would be strongly opposed to such a course. Unfortunately, one of the speakers in the debate was wrong when he stated that he was under the impression that the broadcast of the proceedings from the House of Representatives was made on a separate wave-length than that used ordinarily. Might I point out to your correspondent "Bow-Wow" that the House of Representatives is made up of two parties, the Government and the Opposition, and I made no reference to either party when I mentioned the "brawlings" which take place when debates are going on. In conclusion, I would like to point out that your description of myself as a "sneering" Englishman is far from actual fact, and is probably as misleading as to label as "smirking" to those New Zealanders who like to see fair play.—**BRITISH VISITOR** (Havelock North).

[Our correspondent seems to have three complaints against us. (1) He says, first, that if we had made it more widely known that the "Brains Trust" would reappear, the whole incident might have been avoided. We are tempted to suggest in reply that it is like telling a man with whom you have just been fighting that you would never have hit him if you had known that he was the wrong man and would hit back. (2) He adds that he complained of the brawling of the whole House and not of the Government members only. We are tempted to ask him in reply to that if he thinks it less offensive to be rude to 80 men than to 45. (3) He says finally that he has seen much of the Empire and "its prominent personages" and has never before been so insulted. We are tempted to retort with a *tu quoque*—to say that no one since *The Listener* was first established has ever sent it such an unfortunate letter. Those are the things he still tempts us to say. In fact we say none of them. We accept his assurance that he had no wish to be offensive to anybody, and ask him to accept our assurance that our purpose was just as impersonal. We did not think it pleasant to rebuke him. We did think it necessary.—Ed.]

RAG-PLANTERS

Sir,—Though I missed the very excellent talk by Dr. G. H. Scholefield dealing with the newspaper activities of the late Joseph Ives and also a paragraph referring to my own efforts in that direction, I had the pleasure of reading a synopsis of the talk in *The Listener*. That is one of the good features of your journal—"What is lost on the roundabout is pulled up on the swing"; anything especially good is usually printed. The reference to Ives having started so many country papers in Australia and New Zealand might lead the uninitiated to think that planting a newspaper is quite an easy matter; but as a matter of fact, to start one paper alone involves a great deal of work and worry, besides patience. Starting the eight newspapers still existing to my credit, made me think of the trials of Job. There were many setbacks and disappointments; still, I think the kindnesses my wife and self received in the several settlements far outweighed the disappointments and rebuffs. It is satisfactory to think that Premiers of the day, from the local platforms, praised my ventures, the views being, of course, that the papers promoted the settlement of new districts.

J. H. CLARIDGE (Glen Eden.)

MUSICAL MARBLE-CAKES

Sir,—As a quite infrequent listener, I have heard from Auckland stations in the past very few weeks the following oddities which, taken together, seem to show a systematic attempt either to test the acuteness with which we listen, or to shatter what little is left of our sense of security in this fifth year of war.

1. A considerable portion of Brahms' First Symphony interpolated into Cesar Franck's D Minor Symphony in a Cesar Franck session.

2. Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto interrupted without apology by a group of Spanish folk songs, and continued later when we had given up hope.

3. A glowing eulogy of a Mozart violin concerto with details of Mozart's violin virtuosity and Joachim's cadenza followed by what was most obviously a piano concerto—this sounded like Mozart, and it was in a Mozart session, but the announcer was terribly shy about it, and passed right on to the next item, so I shall never know.

4. Two Beethoven Piano Sonatas (Op. 26 and Op. 53) played not quite simultaneously but the next best thing, i.e. one side of the record of one and then one side of the other, and so on. I anxiously awaited the name of this new Beethoven cocktail, but once again the announcer was sphinx-like.

I set out with a firm intention of speaking my mind about this, but now find my language would be unprintable—but not, I am sure, so unprintable as Beethoven's.—**BAFFLED** (Auckland).

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

"Sense of Humour" (Wellington).—Too late, even though so brief. But *The Listener* is not the *New Testament*.

L.W. (Gisborne).—Wrestling and boxing matches are broadcast over the YA stations when these stations are available. For instance, recent matches in Auckland have been broadcast over 1YA. Owing to the fact that Station 2YA is required for war news purposes when the main bouts are taking place, namely from 9.0 to 9.40 p.m., it is not possible to broadcast commentaries on wrestling and boxing from this station. The Wellington matches therefore are broadcast from the next most powerful station available, namely, Station 2YC.