

JUNE 9, 1944

Who Sold France?

WHEN the United Nations land in France they will go there with tanks and guns but not, as to Italy, with political machinery as well. This we have had both from Mr. Eden and from Mr. Churchill. But we have it also on the authority of *The Times* and the *Manchester Guardian* that one of the ordinances General de Gaulle is reported to have ready demands a complete reconstruction of the French press (including press agencies). Holding that France was betrayed and not beaten, deceived and bewildered by corrupt newspapers as well as by venial statesmen, he proposes, as soon as any region has been liberated, that all existing newspapers and newspaper plants shall be placed at the disposal of the Resistance Movement. During this preliminary period no person who has co-operated with the enemy will be allowed to work in a newspaper office without a permit from the local press committee, and as soon as possible afterwards committees will examine the records of the newspapers themselves, restoring those which closed before June 25, 1940, giving conditional licences to those with clean records which closed before January 1, 1943, and completely abolishing those which carried on after that date. A further ordinance provides (subject to the approval of the Consultative Assembly) that there shall be public declarations of ownership and control, financial statements revealing the sources of all income, and provision for the establishment of trusts or boards of control to ensure proper standards of journalism and protection against pressure from outside. How soon all these things are done will depend, of course, on the speed of the occupation and on the measure of approval given to de Gaulle by the liberated people. But the mere fact that they are proposed indicates that Frenchmen remember what happened before June, 1940, and do not think it sufficient now to get rid of the Germans.

NEW ZEALAND LISTENER, JUNE 9

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

STATION 12M

Sir,—I would like to endorse the opinion expressed by B.B. (Auckland) about 12M programmes. Though the station has been taken over (temporarily, I hope), many listeners would be glad of the orchestral and other musical programmes. It was a pleasure to be able to switch on to this station and to be able to relax without having to switch over to some other station when some "modern" noise was announced. This applied as B.B. says, particularly to the 7.0-8.0 p.m. session.

By the way, 12M and 2YC are the only secondary stations which have not at least one Australian station on top. 2YD is particularly unfortunate, as there is a strong "Aussie" right on top. We cannot get it here though only 50 miles off (in a straight line). Can nothing be done about this?

J.B. (Picton).

A GAME OF FOOTBALL

Sir,—Truly one half of the world doesn't know how the other half lives, but *The Listener* is doing a good job of work by enlightening us from time to time. Knowing nothing of the ways of footballers, I was enlightened as well as entertained by your recently-published story by A. P. Gaskell, though my thoughts since have been less of football than of language. One continually reads things these days which make apparent the extent to which the "swear words" of yesterday have become the ordinary slang of to-day. Or perhaps it is that writers to-day, being so keenly devoted to truth, must represent things as they are at all costs. Whatever the reasons, some of us have to decide whether the trend is a good one or a bad one and act accordingly. For myself, I find I have been making the war an excuse for my own more frequent tendency to use expletives, but I know this is a sign of weakness and frustration and an unworthy contribution to a muddled enough world.

So into training once more! And my thanks to Mr. Gaskell. It is not only the preachers who make us toe the line—though they do make us sensitive to good and evil.—AUNT J. (Nelson).

Sir,—This note is written in appreciation of the article by A. P. Gaskell, "One Hell of a Caper," which appeared in the number of April 28. It would no doubt be of interest to all footballers. It would be of particular interest to those who have played at Carisbrook, and in finals there. But it would be to men who have played for Varsity A in such games that the article would be most vivid and enjoyable. I write as one who has done so. As I read the article the thrills of those days were very vividly recaptured. The article was written in a way which did that very strikingly for those who had been through that "Hell of a Caper."

IAN G. BORRIE (Timaru).

1YA ORCHESTRA

Sir,—Congratulations to the 1YA Orchestra for their recent admirable performance of Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto. Both soloist and orchestra combined together to render the work a complete success. It is far too seldom that we hear these bigger works attempted locally. But may one respectfully ask 1YA why the woodwind was of so poor a quality, making the orchestra sound rather like an inferior brass

band? Is it that there is a present dearth of woodwind players in New Zealand?—L. K. MACDONALD (Wellington).

SILENT PRAYER

Sir,—"Tennyson" is wrong. To those of us who believe in prayer, the interval at 9 p.m. is a sacred minute. The thousands of hearts tuned heavenward in harmony can accomplish more than this world dreams of. There is nobody who does not pray at some time or another. For those not in the habit of praying at 9 p.m. for our cause, our men and ourselves, it might be an enlightening experience to humble themselves before God daily, even for one minute.

L. H. TRUEMAN (Christchurch).

Sir,—If "Tennyson's" wish was granted, many hundreds of listeners would be disappointed. The 30 seconds for silent prayer is kept in many ships and in soldiers' and sailors' clubs throughout the world as well as in countless homes. I have frequently seen in the Seamen's Institute at Auckland all the seamen present at social or dances stop their game or dance as soon as Big Ben strikes at 9.0 p.m. and reverently stand in silent prayer. Sometimes when this session has inadvertently been missed, seamen have asked the reason why. As one said to me: "I look forward to hearing Big Ben, for I always like to send a silent message aloft for my old folk at Home at that time." True, I have known the striking to annoy bridge players, and no doubt it irritates others, but they usually have the opportunity to switch the radio off.

H. K. VICKERY (Auckland).

Sir,—I was sorry and sad to read "Tennyson's" letter asking for the abolition of the Silent Prayer at 9.0 p.m. I feel that even those who don't pray should be glad to devote one silent minute to thinking of the very many who are fighting or prisoners and in countless ways suffering deprivations, such as we in this country cannot possibly imagine. It made me feel ashamed to think that anyone living in the comfort and lack of hardship which we all enjoy should think it necessary to abolish our "one minute," and it disgusted me to see the thought in print.—ONE OF THOSE WHO DON'T PRAY (Motueka).

POINTS FROM LETTERS

"Amateur" (Dunedin) complains that 3YA had one band, one orchestra, eight singers, and nine instrumentalists on the evening programme for the period May 29—June 4, while 4YA had one choir, one singer, and one instrumentalist. "Don't suggest" (we are warned) "that the performers and the standard were not available, because they were, and the public knew it. A Dunedin-trained musician is a real musician in any town in New Zealand."

"Anxious Parent" (Takapuna) deplors "the cheap, vulgar jargon of the gangster underworld," heard in some of the ZB serials.

R. J. Thompson (Epsom) suggests that "Tennyson" was a very bad pen-name for the correspondent who objects to prayer. He recommends the reading of "The Passing of Arthur."

Mary M. Mitchell (Mosgiel) and another correspondent who has neglected to send her name, express appreciation of Julia Bradley's recital of Scottish Folk Songs from 4YA, but point out that "Islay" is pronounced "I-lay," not "Is-lay."

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

M. H. Innes (Marton): Soon, if we can procure them.
E.M.B. (Mt. Eden): Thank you!
Desna Douglas (Wellington): It is not possible to reprint articles or photographs that have been preserved and then lost.