

no matter who, it seemed, wanted to hear this radio session, what do they call it? The 'Brains Trust.'

"Oh, the 'Brains Trust.'"

"Yes. Every Tuesday. It was astounding. Everyone I knew would say, 'Oh, I must rush home now. I have to hear the Brains Trust.' Well, you know, I don't know how anyone could be bothered answering some of the questions they asked, or spend time or money on it. Do you think it's so very very wonderful?"

"I have heard it sometimes, and I found it interesting, but I wouldn't say it's very wonderful. It's the same thing that we hear on the local stations sometimes."

"That's it. It's the very same. Do you know: I didn't notice so very much difference between broadcasting there and broadcasting here. It's just the same. You get the same war news and the same Brains Trust, and the same music. Are you interested in music? I've got something here I can show you."

Beethoven and Bliss

Mrs. Fraser got up and came back with a programme, a concert by the BBC Symphony Orchestra which she had been to. It named two works, Beethoven's Seventh Symphony and Arthur Bliss's Symphony for orchestra, chorus, and orator: "Morning Heroes." It is an elaborate and striking setting of a war anthology, a selection of war poems from Homer to modern English poets.

"The people I went with had a box. They said, 'You'll like the Beethoven, but the other thing is modern.' Well, you've heard of Arthur Bliss, I suppose. This 'Morning Heroes' was the second half of the programme, and it was the most moving, most powerful thing. The orchestra was the BBC Symphony Orchestra, and the orator—well! You know the idea of the thing? I thought it was grand, and in the Albert Hall, so spacious, it was just the right setting. It was so unusual, but so simple, and so moving."

The conversation got back to people, and the New Zealanders Mrs. Fraser had met. Not only New Zealanders, but English people, who peppered her with questions about this country. Women, and newspapermen too, had wanted to know what prospects there would be if they came here.

"I said to them all, 'Well, we've got our own clever young people coming along, and they are very clever.' In fact, I just told them there's no use anyone thinking he can step straight into a big job. In time I found I was becoming a most aggressive New Zealander, though actually there's no need to—New Zealand's what so many call Exhibit A over there, and you've no need to stand up for it."

"I don't think there's anything else of interest I can tell you that you don't know about. Well, I can tell you about a very special branch of the Red Cross, where there were two New Zealand girls working. This was the Foreign Relations Department of the Red Cross. Their job is to help refugees in England to get news of relatives in occupied countries. They started with a mere handful, and now they've 300. There were two New Zealand girls, both of Dunedin, Miss McKellar and Miss Thompson, and one was secretary to the director. It's very striking how everywhere you go there seem to be New Zealanders in key positions."



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