

[F New Zealanders are not beginning to realise that Providence has placed them in the Pacific and not in the Atlantic Ocean it is their own fault. So far as our own readers are concerned it is not many weeks since we printed an article by the editor of a Sydney newspaper warning all those who live on this side of the globe that Asia may mean more to them in future than Europe. And now we print a further warning by Professor Clunies Ross, who came to New Zealand two or three weeks ago at the invitation of the Government to take part in discussions with the Department of Agriculture about our veterinary and animal husbandry problems.

Professor Clunies Ross is probably best known in New Zealand as the Australian representative on the International Wool Publicity and Research Secretariat in London, a post which he held from 1937 to 1940. He took up his present position at Sydney University in August, 1940, and since the war he has been appointed Director of Scientific Personnel in Australia.

Although he is still only 45, Professor Clunies Ross has had an astonishingly full career. From Sydney University, where he gained a veterinary research fellowship in 1922, he did post-graduate work in tropical medicine at London and Cambridge. Returning to Australia, he was lecturer in parasitology at Sydney University and was a member of the parasitologist council for scientific and industrial research.

During 1929 and 1930 he carried out research at the Institute of Infectious Diseases in Tokio, and for the following six years was director of the McMaster Institute at Sydney University for research into animal husbandry. He later carried out a sheep and wool survey of north-east Asia and was a member of the Australian delegation to the League of Nations Assembly in 1938.

When the Australian Wool Council decided to make a levy of sixpence a bale on wool, and to use the funds for wool research and publicity, the members chose Professor Clunies Ross to represent them in London. New Zealand and South Africa also came into the scheme. With Professor Clunies Ross as the moving spirit, the secretariat soon had wool before the public, not only in the British Isles, but also in Europe and America.

Then came the peak of his ideas. During the Royal visit to the United States in 1939 he arranged for both Queen Elizabeth and Mrs. Roosevelt to wear dresses of woollen material at their historic meeting in Washington. This publicity gave such a fillip to the use of wool in fine dress fabrics that for some time afterward it was greatly favoured by leading dress designers.

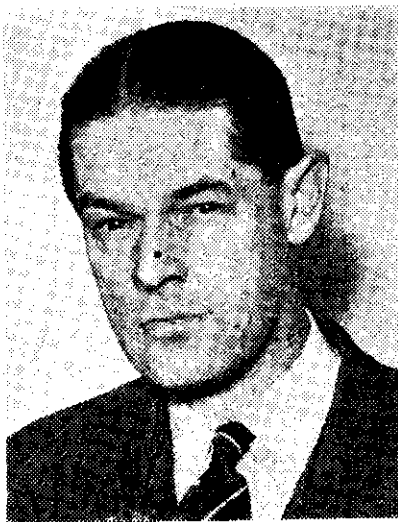
Though he was not in New Zealand long enough to accept public engagements, Professor Clunies Ross found time while he was in Wellington to address the Wellington Branch of the New Zealand Institute of Public Administration. What follows is a condensed report of his remarks.

# WE BELONG TO THE PACIFIC

## Warning by Visiting Professor From Australia

TO Professor Clunies Ross the Pacific is not just our little south-western corner, or that extension of it sometimes known as the South Seas. His Pacific is Asiatic as well as Australasian and American—perhaps even more Asiatic than Australasian. It might, he said, be healthful for our thinking to remember that these islands of ours are really a sort of appendage flung out from the Asiatic mass.

In this particular address on "Post-War Policy in the Pacific," Professor Ross was more concerned with the



"Of necessity we must be good internationalists"

popular conceptions and attitudes of mind that determine policy and action than with detailed practical measures or forecasts of political developments. He doubted whether most New Zealanders and Australians realised the nature of the problems that would have to be faced in the Asiatic-Pacific countries after the war, or how intimately the future of New Zealand and Australia would be bound up with what happened in those Asiatic countries.

Changes in Asia—industrial development and the growth of nationalism—would create problems of special concern to Australia and New Zealand. From China and India at least would come demands for recognition as national and independent states, with the right freely to determine their own economic future. The people of these Asiatic countries would no longer have the same regard for the West as formerly. They had seen an Asiatic power—Japan—using Western machinery and Western methods, for a time at least defeating the representatives of the West. The ultimate defeat of Japan by the West could not destroy the effect of that on the peoples of the Far East.

How the Western peoples, among whom New Zealanders and Australians had a voice, handled these Asiatic problems would be of supreme importance to the world. According to their own actions they would have the choice of seeing emerge in Asia within the next few decades either powerful and co-operative units in a world organisation, or equally powerful states adopting the view (already expressed by the Japanese) that they could achieve a place in the sun and reasonable living conditions for their people only by being armed and aggressive.

### "Small White Outposts"

Because their history and their trade turned their eyes towards Europe, New Zealanders and Australians often overlooked the fact that they had an even chance of becoming one of the last outposts in the ultimate struggle between East and West. Professor Ross did not think that Australians, in spite of their "White Australia" policy, fully realised their position as a small white outpost on a sort of peninsula jutting out from Asia—an Asia of 1,000,000,000 people, where there was growing up a policy of Asia as a whole, perhaps opposed to the West.

New Zealand and Australia had joined with other nations in the expression of hopes for international security after the war, and for an economic system freeing the channels of commerce and enabling food and other necessities of life to reach those in need of them. The real test of our support to those ideals would come when, to give effect to them, a proposition was put up which required some real sacrifice on our part.

At the end of the war we should face a new world. It would be hard for us to realise that it was new, that it could not be restored exactly to its former shape, even if that were desirable. It would be hard for us to realise that it presented new problems, among which those of the Far East were probably the most important for us. In adjusting ourselves to meet these changes we would be held back by our old inhibitions and our old conception of our national rights, independence and sovereignty as having special virtue in themselves. Australia was now only eight hours from New Zealand, but in their relations the two countries still tended to carry on as they did when they were ten days apart and Europe was three months away. This rigidity in our thinking would be a barrier to an effective approach to the problems of the new world.

Twentieth century man now faced his greatest challenge, Professor Ross considered. That challenge came to him not in the field of the world's material resources, but in his own thinking, his ability to escape in time from his own history and see the need for a drastic new approach

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