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HIS FAVOURITE WORD IS "SHARE"

"The Listener" Meets Mr. Greenbie

IT will not be the fault of Sydney Greenbie if New Zealand in a month or two does not know the difference between America and the America of the films. Nor will it be the fault of the Office of War Information (O.W.I.) which sent him here.

Mr. Greenbie is not here for the first time. He spent a year in New Zealand between 20 and 30 years ago, and when I told him that he looked far younger than the records proved him to be, his answer was that his early wanderings in both islands had given him a good start. That, and the fact that his later years have been spent on a farm.

For Mr. Greenbie is one of those lucky men who own a farm without being owned by it. Although he has 100 acres of "wood lot" and 50 of "meadow and orchard," Mr. Greenbie does not himself farm the land. He lives on it—uses it as a place on which he and his wife, both authors, "loaf and invite their souls." And when winter comes, with snow and the thermometer "28 below," they move into the city for a few months.

But much of my conversation with him was about sheep. He wanted to know why our wool is so good; whether the reason is feed or breed. Why did we still keep Merinos? Had



SYDNEY GREENBIE
He is not here with whitewash

we much animal disease? If we did, who advised farmers in such cases, and did they listen? In Maine, where his own farm was, he could call on the State Agricultural College for help if his chestnuts got rust or his plum trees canker, and that was the position in most of the States of the Union. What was the position of the agricultural colleges in New Zealand?

And he was not collecting information for another text-book, of which he has already written several. He was trying to find out what our way of life in New Zealand is, and our way of mind; what we think about Pacific problems, and are doing about them; where we get information about the American way of life (after the films and the radio); if we retain our pioneering zest; if we realise that New Zealand is still only half-developed physically and a most exciting place spiritually; if we are happy or uneasy about American activities in the Pacific; if there is any reason, in us or in his own people, why there could not be reproduced in the Southern Hemisphere what we see already in the Northern Hemisphere in the case of Canada and the United States—the closest association with the most complete independence.

Here To Learn

He asked me straight out if it was true that New Zealanders were afraid of the United States, and thought that America had political designs against us.

I said no, but that when the American forces were here, some New Zealanders, not many, did say such things occasionally.

He was frankly astonished. This was politics, he said, and therefore out of his domain, but he had never heard anyone say or suggest at any time that America should even influence us politically.

It was clear from everything he said that the last thing he will attempt himself is undue influence. "Share" is his favourite word. Let us share experiences, he kept on saying. "You are far ahead of us in some things in New Zealand: the prevention of infant mortality, for example, and child welfare generally.

(continued on next page)

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