

## Five Years

**F**RIDAY carried the war into its sixth year for Poland, Sunday for Britain and France. For Britain and France it brought the hope of an early end to suffering; for Poland hope certainly but also a great anxiety. It would be heartless to ask the Poles to believe that somehow or other their path will soon be made smooth and straight; heartless and useless. They are entangled, and know that they are entangled, in the meshes of their own past, the conflicts and contradictions of the promises made by their friends, the disunity in their own ranks, and the conditions attached to the offer of co-operation by their only powerful neighbour. And in the meantime they are suffering as no other people—with the probable but not quite certain exception of the Jews—have suffered this century. We must not insult them with hollow words of sympathy or offer them comfort that no nation at present has the means of conveying to them. We know, as they know, that a completely just and satisfactory peace is impossible for them short of a miracle, and that miracles are rare. But for Poland as for the other nations overrun by Germany—the most useful line of contemplation is not what kind of peace now lies ahead but what kind would have been ahead if the war had taken a different turn. Victory can never bring more than rough justice to any nation. It does not bring back the dead or restore shattered lives or compensate those whose losses are measured in faith or in tears. There is a peace in sight for all the united nations that is ten thousand times better than seemed likely three years ago; a possible settlement for Poland too that will bring sunshine as soon as all her people agree to open the same windows. There are signs that they soon may agree. At present, however, the war goes on and the more points of friction we develop the longer it will last. Friction is in fact the only remaining risk, and a world that has come through the last five years has not a big reserve of patience to draw on.

# LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

## THE FRANCHISE

Sir,—I suggest a long-overdue reform in our system of franchise, namely one person, one vote. I refer, of course, to the fact that persons under 21 years have been hitherto entirely disfranchised. This extraordinary injustice is underlined in the case of the older ones by the fact that minors are not considered unfit to represent their country in the Navy, Army and Air Force. They may (through a sort of trustee) sue or be sued in the Courts. They may hold property with or without a trustee; they make certain contracts, be entitled to award wages; be subjected to all the penalties of statute or regulation; are subject to income tax (no taxation without representation).

Therefore, sir, is it not a negation of liberal principles to forbid them the vote? It may be argued that a child of

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very tender years cannot vote, but this difficulty is quite illusory—the vote would, of course, be exercised by the natural guardian, the mother. Is there anything absurd in the notion that a mother of seven children should vote eight times?

This matter would be more eloquently argued by a representative of one of the women's organisations, or children's protection societies or say, a Dr. Edith Summerskill. But I have waited too long and too patiently. So here it is.

JOHN FOOT (Eastbourne).

## ENGLISH INTO AFRIKAANS

Sir,—I would like to point out that the translation of a New Zealand radio author's work into Afrikaans is not confined to that of Mr. Holder. F. W. Kenyon, author of *Josephine, Empress of France*, *Dangerous Journey*, and other complete half-hour plays, has also had plays broadcast in South Africa both in English and Afrikaans.

EDMUND L. REED (St. Heliers).

## PASTEURISED MILK

Sir,—We have every sympathy with the Department of Health, which has been working under very great difficulties in attempting to secure a good, clean, safe, milk supply for the people, but we are not satisfied with Dr. Turbott's reply to our letter, which appeared in your issue of July 7. Obviously a Royal Commission is not appointed for no purpose. The evidence presented to the Commission showed that the condition of the milk supplied to the four main cities varied, and that Dunedin's milk supply was particularly bad. We have no reason to believe that the position has improved in any way, therefore, we are of the opinion that it is a mistake to lull the public into a false sense of security until the present unsatisfactory conditions have been rectified—there is quite enough muddle-headedness and apathy about the matter already.

Dr. Turbott states that any information about particular districts should be sought through the Medical Officer of Health. Does Dr. Turbott not know that Dunedin is suffering under the added disadvantage that it has had no Medical

Officer of Health for the past nine months. The work is carried out by the Medical Officer of Health of an adjacent district, who visits a few days in each month.—*Branch Committee, Food Value League (Dunedin).*

## RADIO VOICES

Sir,—While I always enjoy the "Listening While I Work" columns, and agree with "Materfamilias" in much of what she writes, I don't agree with her contention that radio actors' voices become "typed" and too familiar to listeners. While admitting that there is always room for new talent on the air, as well as on the stage and screen, I maintain that the top-ranking radio stars are fully as versatile, with their one medium, as the artists we can see. In my opinion the two finest artists on the air to-day are Nell Stirling and George Edwards, and after hearing them in a wide variety of roles, I do not think that either of them could be accused of becoming "typed." The *Listener* announced that George Edwards played five parts in the recent production of *The Convenient Marriage*, but I wonder how many listeners could recognise his voice in all of them. And listening to Nell Stirling as the gay, little stammering Countess in this same feature, could listeners, without knowing the casts of the various plays, identify her with the fiery German, Nita Von Kiel, in *Passport to Danger*, or the slum girl, Tess O'Brien, in *The Lady*?

And in the cases where we do recognise the voices of various artists, I think many listeners have their favourites on the air as well as on the stage and screen. Many of us choose plays and films more because of the proven ability of the players than the often misleading titles and advertising matter, and the same now applies to radio entertainment. If the field is to be curtailed because the voices become familiar, it is we, the listeners, who will be the poorer.

"LEONIE" (Wanganui).

## SCHOOL MUSIC

Sir,—May I express my disgust with the authorities for having broadcast the Auckland Secondary Schools' Musical Festival through Station 1YX. It is a poor station at the best of times, and is usually "fogged" with others overseas. Here was a golden opportunity for 1YA to broadcast something worth while, but it would appear that they preferred to play over recordings which can be put on at any time. I quite appreciate that the work of compiling these programmes is a very difficult undertaking, but there could be no excuse for this bad arrangement. However, I thank the organisers for conceding the main station at Dunedin for the Technical High School Choir, and offer my congratulations and thanks for the very high standard of performance.—W.O.K. (Te Puke).

Sir,—I would like to tell you how much I enjoy listening to the singing lessons of the correspondence pupils. Each time I listen I feel how very fortunate the pupils are to have such a painstaking, patient and cultured musician to instruct and help them.

EX-MUSIC TEACHER (Christchurch)

## NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENT

E.K.N. (Timaru): Please send us your address.