

# WHAT AMERICA THINKS OF AUNT DAISY



"AUNT DAISY Basham, who loves all Americans," was the caption to this photograph in the "New York Post."

AUNT DAISY has now been on a visit to the United States for some months. This "close-up" of her, written by Mary Braggiotti, appeared under the heading of "The Lady from Down Under" in a recent issue of the "New York Post":

"YOU always cook extra potatoes in New Zealand, because you never know how many American boys there'll be for dinner!

"You'll be out in your garden and two American sailors will be passing and they'll say, 'My, you've got a pretty garden! What's that flower over there? We have a garden like this in America.' And then you say, 'Have you had dinner? You must have dinner with us.' And they say, 'Oh, no, really, thank you — we couldn't impose on you like that!' And you say, 'Why, of course you'll come in.' And they do. We love them, and judging from their behaviour, they love us, too."

Aunt Daisy Basham didn't really take a breath after all that. In fact, the four-foot-eleven-and-a-half dynamo ("the same height as Queen Victoria" she reminds you) from Down Under hardly


took a breath for a solid hour during an interview in one of the Columbia Broadcasting System's palatial sitting-rooms the other day.

## "First Lady of New Zealand Radio"

She is—from the housewife's angle, at least—the First Lady of New Zealand radio. From 9 to 9.30 a.m. five days a week for the past 13 years, Aunt Daisy has talked cosily all by herself (she never has guests) to New Zealanders over the Commercial division of the Government - directed National Broadcasting Service of New Zealand.

Her thousands of regular listeners on 20 stations from one end of the country to the other call themselves the Daisy Chain. Through bright-eyed, bright-voiced little Aunt Daisy in Wellington, they swap recipes (very important in New Zealand's strict wartime rationing programme); furniture-polishing suggestions; ways and means of mending


(continued on next page)



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