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our pursuits and pleasures and duties; about our great war effort; and to give them cordial greetings. Conversely, I wanted to see and hear as much as possible about their own war work, as well as their way of living and thinking.

Enthusiastic Response

Well, in spite of the gloomiest forecasts from much-travelled friends, who warned me of the difficulties in the way of getting "on the American air" in wartime, I did no fewer than 27 broadcasts, chiefly in the form of interviews. These were extraordinarily well received, as was evidenced by letters and telephone messages from listeners who were all eager to know more about New Zealand, where so many of their boys had received such generous hospitality. I think we should make a big effort towards encouraging and catering for post-war tourist traffic, for thousands of Americans are planning to make New Zealand their first holiday trip.

Each of these 27 broadcast interviews meant at least one, and generally two, long preparatory talks with the interviewer, and the department concerned, to decide on what to include in the broadcast, because each one had to be entirely different. Very often this meant a luncheon at one of the fashionable restaurants, with two or three executives as well—very pleasant functions indeed. I will describe some of these restaurants later on. Then there would be still another meeting before the broadcast, to go over the details and timing. In most cases I was allowed to work without script. I will describe some of these broadcasts as time goes on—some were with men, some with women; some at the luncheon table, one at a kind of "Women's Brains Trust"; one, for the Office of the United Nations, with a Chinese journalist and an American soldier speaking on short-wave from Sydney; one as a "judge" on the programme of a "mind-reader"; and one a televised interview, at which I talked a little about the Waitomo Caves, and of which the NBC presented me with some "still" photographs, as a memento.

All this was made not only possible, but also smooth and easy, through the enthusiasm and influence of the great NBC, which cabled me before I left New Zealand, promising to do everything to help me in my mission. So, from the day I landed in San Francisco until I regretfully sailed away from New York, they looked after me, seeing that I met the right people, saw the right shows, made the right friends, and introducing me to the other radio networks, which all co-operated wholeheartedly.

Good Friends Back Me Up

Four other organisations gave me great help. First, our own New Zealand Legation, through which I got all train and hotel reservations, and my passage home again—all very much more difficult than we in New Zealand can realise, and more so than ever since the invasion of France began, for sick and wounded are being brought back every day, and sent by special train all over the country to the hospitals nearest their homes, or best suited to their illnesses. It was through our Legation, too, that I received an invitation to tea with Mrs. Roosevelt at the White House—such a delightful and home-like little tea—I'll tell you all about that, too, later on. For this week I must finish here, leaving it till next time to tell you about my other helpers.

(To be continued)

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