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half represents the natives and the other half the other races. Of course the Governor-General is the executive ruler like your Prime Minister, and his Cabinet is four or five Heads of Departments, not politicians; but you see what a long way our country has come."

No Colour Bar

I thought myself that a Parliament in which a quarter of a million Europeans had 25 members and one and a-half million Chinese and other Eastern immigrants had five members, while the second 30 members spoke for seventy million Indonesians, had still a long way to go to becoming representative. But I said nothing, seeing that there had been such a great advance. What I asked, therefore, was whether political equality really meant social equality.

"Indeed," "I assure you," chimed my hosts together. "Ability, not colour, is the test for every appointment. One at least of the five Ministers always has thus far been a Javanese. But there is nothing to stop all of them from being so." Said van Holst Pellekaan: "It was a half-caste who commanded our N.E.I. Army." Said van der Noorda: "The head

of N.I.C.A.—our re-occupation administration—is Javanese, a lieutenant-colonel who also has represented us in America." Under the half-dozen top posts in the Government service, 90 per cent of all civil servants were Indonesians, they informed me. What was more, the pay for every post was the same, whatever the race of the occupant. "We elevate their position: and by them we elevate ourselves."

They'll Be Glad To See Us

"And when your task as a Government in Exile is over," I asked, "do you think that your stay in Australia and the greater independence of your country from Europe will mean increased association with our part of the world?"

They definitely thought so. "Think: one day's plane journey to Australia,

another day to New Zealand, and then some one of our people can have a fortnight of bracing holiday away from the tropics where he works. Plane services should be frequent, surely. Then also scholars and students might exchange to study."

But I asked whether there was a big enough economic base to hold continuous relationship. "It depends on you," said they. "We have the tropical products that you want. And we make no discrimination. You will be as free to trade with us as Holland itself. For fats we have eaten hitherto vegetable oils. But we have had your butter, tinned, and we know which we prefer. Vegetables, too, perhaps. If you can make your prices right against other competition we shall be most glad indeed to see much of your products—and of you."

—A.M.R.

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Items From The ZB's

IN association with Columbia Pictures, 3ZB is seeking to discover a New Zealand "Cover Girl." Entrants are to submit a studio portrait. Twelve semi-finalists will be selected to take part in a mannequin parade. All but four will be eliminated; those left will appear at a Christchurch theatre in conjunction with the screening of the film. Then the winner will be chosen by means of an audience ballot.

WHEN the current series of the *Bulldog Drummond* feature ends, *The Black Gang* will commence, with John Hayward as Drummond and Lou Vernon as Carl Peterson. This adaptation of another "Sapper" story will have the usual fast and furious action. *The Black Gang* starts at 1ZB on January 18, at 2ZB on February 1, at 3ZB on February 15 and at 4ZB on March 1, and thereafter every Tuesday and Thursday at 7.15 p.m.

FROM all ZB stations a new feature, *Drama of Medicine*, has just begun. Each episode is complete in itself, being heard on Fridays at 9.15 p.m. One of the stories featured is the drama of Sir Alexander Fleming, co-discoverer of penicillin with the Australian Dr. Howard Florey. Other episodes dramatise the restoration of eyesight by a corneal transplant, the battle against yellow fever by Dr. Oswaldo Cruz, and the discovery of a new wonder drug, tyrothricin.

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