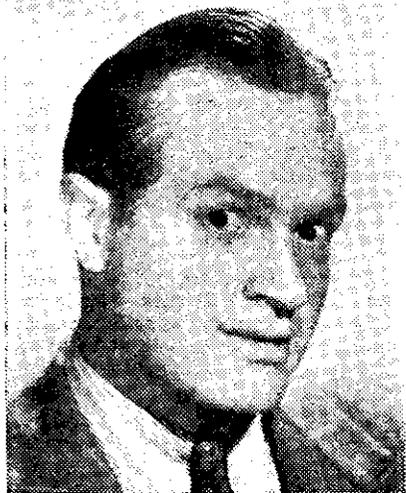


HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

He Topped A Radio Poll

AN all-American radio programme poll was recently organised by the American trade paper *Radio Daily*. Covering a field of 28 different aspects, from the programme itself to the choice of a future star, it consisted of 1,051 ballots for each artist or programme, representing the thinking of a like number of editors and journalists of the U.S.



BOB HOPE
He has a lead over Crosby

While many of the artists are probably not known to New Zealanders, the ubiquitous Bing Crosby came out as the favourite "popular" male singer with a total of 648 votes over his nearest rival, Frank Sinatra, who had only 49. The corresponding feminine singer was Dinah Shore, whose recordings are frequently heard from ZB stations. Kate Smith ran a bad second.

As far as the "favourite entertainer" class was concerned, Bob Hope established a lead over Crosby and was chosen "favourite comedian" over Jack Benny. *Information Please* topped the poll for commercial and quiz programmes. In votes for the "sweet band" class, Guy Lombardo was the winner, while in the "swing" department Harry James took the lead from Tommy Dorsey.

For the favourite musical composition "Warsaw Concerto," the number that swept New Zealand, ran only fourth to "Holiday for Strings," while the favourite song hit was "I'll Walk Alone." The National Broadcasting Company network was identified with more winners than all the other networks combined.

On the whole it would seem that "popular" taste in the United States and in New Zealand is more or less the same.

(continued from previous page)

Some who came to Miss Tobin for sanctuary had travelled 1500 miles from Shanghai.

"And what is the Chinese attitude towards education? Do the people want it?"

"They vary," Miss Tobin answered. "Some don't see the use of it. They would rather keep their children at home to do odd jobs and earn extra money for the family. Education can't be compulsory because there are not nearly enough schools, primary or secondary. Secondary schools advertise vacancies as they occur. Perhaps at the beginning of the year there will be 50. Sometimes 1,000 students will apply. There has sprung up quite a collection of private tutors who train these students for the very difficult entrance exams. Another obstacle towards universal education is the cost. Secondary education is very expensive, and even primary pupils have to pay by rice. The advent of the refugees has complicated everything further. Special schools have been opened for them by the Government and by the Y.M.C.A. and kindred international relief groups. The housing problem has become overwhelming.

"But the refugees had a good effect, too," Miss Tobin told us. "They brought with them the progress and culture of the coastal cities. Even in the matter of shoes they wrought changes. Before, the Chinese of Kweilin all wore cloth shoes. Now more and more are wearing leather, and several firms are or were making them locally."

"But this influx must have complicated the food situation, too."

"Very much. In China the problem is different from here. We had no rationing. The inhabitants could buy whatever they had money for. Everyone would

start with rice and add the extras according to their purse—it may have been only a few vegetables or it may have been duck and sweetmeats, and all kinds of rich fare. The trouble was that the greater part of the population, and of course the refugees, were very poor and the food was very dear. Just to show you how the prices have risen: seven years ago sufficient food for a schoolboy for a month cost 3½ to 4 dollars; to-day 1lb. of rice costs 30 Chinese dollars—yet 1lb. of rice is just sufficient for one person for one day."

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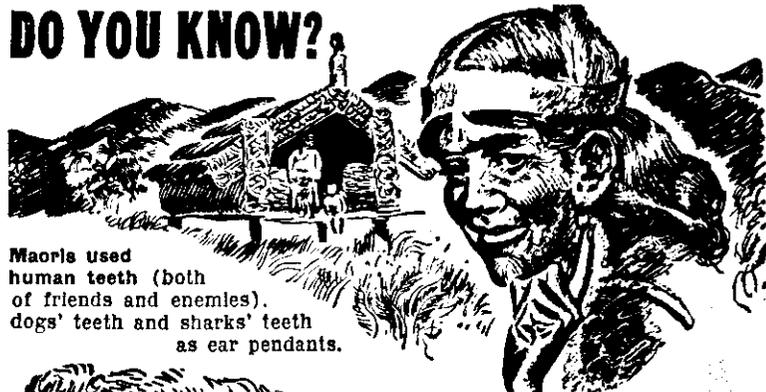
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