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are Yugo-slavs, Russians and Frenchmen. When I was ill this spring I had a Czech doctor, and in the milk shop you see the girl making frantic efforts to understand Swedish with Polish spelling and articulation. (Besides there live a couple of Nazi Germans in the same house as us. When I see them, for instance in the lift, I whistle the Marseilles and the Internationale. My secret hope is that they shall try to interfere with my musical programme.) All refugees get work here. I think work is the only medicine for a waiting soul. A special kind of refugee here is the British or American airman who is forced to land after raids over Germany. The Swedish girls are mad on them.

"My wife is very silent this evening. She is reading a book by Pauline Kohler, *I Was Hitler's Maid*. It is no good book at all. It is entirely like the subject. We are almost fed up with descriptions of life in occupied Europe. The windows of the book shops are full of them. Of course it is good to know how it is, but according to the law of frequency one gets more and more cool towards the details. The human mind cannot be stirred from the bottom every time. That is the tragedy. You ought to be deeply agitated. But perhaps there is too much horror. You cannot react at every stimulus.

"Lost Generation" of Germans

"And what about this poor Europe? I think it seems very reasonable to keep Germany under long-time occupation. Otherwise they will never realise that they are beaten. It is also good that the German losses are great. This generation of Germans is a lost one—it is more than tragic that the people of Mozart and Kant should have sunk so deeply.

"We are very glad the Japanese get what they deserve . . . One refuses to understand what would have happened to the world if that gang might have realised all their plans. We very often thought of you when they raced towards Australia, and we felt very easy in our minds after the first battle in the Coral Sea.

"We have nearly 100,000 Finnish children here and more are coming. We have also tried to get children from the occupied territories here. We were not successful. In Norway the quislings are afraid that we will plant un-Norwegian ideas into their skulls. In Denmark the Germans will probably want to have the children as hostage. It is not so easy to be a rebel if you know that your child will be taken. We have also made efforts to get here Hungarian Jew children, but I don't think the Germans will let them come. The destruction of the next generation is a vital part of their plans."

This letter, started on August 2, was finished two days later:

"I wrote you that I did not hope to be a free man much longer. I was right. This morning my service order came! I think the Germans are the only people who like uniforms and drill and all that. It is a pity they should get the opportunity of forcing all of us other common people to live in the same way. I sincerely hope that you will give them such a lesson that they will realise how ugly uniforms are and what a beastly life is the military one."

From these extracts you may feel that you have had a glimpse through neutral eyes, but I think you will agree that behind those eyes is a mind that is not hard and uncaring, as the word "neutral" might imply, but one that is warm and kindly and sympathetic.

HOW HE DISCOVERED NEW ZEALAND

Major Lampen Left Japan For A Song

A TRIFLING incident, passing almost unnoticed, may have the effect of completely altering the trend of a person's life. For instance, had Major F. H. Lampen not joined a group of war correspondents in a vocal recital of patriotic songs at Kobe, Japan, on July 4, 1904, as a protest against Japanese treatment, he would probably never have discovered New Zealand.

In an interview with *The Listener*, Major Lampen (whose talks are a familiar feature on National stations) harked back to the Russo-Japanese war and, after touching on many subjects on the way, finally arrived conversationally in New Zealand, where, we gathered, he proposes to spend the rest of his life.

While in the Indian Army in 1904, Major Lampen and a brother officer had a year's leave. The Russo-Japanese war was in the air, so, with the idea of possible adventure, they decided to go home on the eastern route instead of making the western journey. At Singapore they found things warming up. Meeting some war correspondents on their way to the scene of operations, they followed along, working their way to Hong Kong, Shanghai and Wei-hai-wei, and across to Korea by Chinese junk.

By this time the number of war correspondents from various newspapers had grown to 30, each man seeking first-hand news of the Russo-Japanese situation.

From a "Tourist's" Viewpoint

"Did you do any fighting in Russia or Japan?"

"No, because British officers had been sternly warned to have no hand in the matter. But we quickly learned the difference between the Japanese and the Russian attitude towards British officers. Whereas the Russians were kind enough to put up with us, the Japanese were only too pleased to find any excuse to get rid of us," said Major Lampen.

"What was the Russian soldier of 1904 like?"

"He seemed to be gloriously ignorant but most generous hearted. There was none of the present-day camaraderie between officers and men. In fact, whenever a servant entered a messroom Russian officers would change their language to French in their anxiety to keep any news completely away from the men. In those days a Russian officer had to have some measure of social success before he could become an officer at all."

For a while Major Lampen and his friend wandered about and observed hostilities from a "tourist's" viewpoint. Then the Japanese suddenly decided that they had seen enough and sent them to Yokohama and to Tokyo, thence to Kyoto, on to Osaka and finally to Kobe, where they learned that a number of correspondents had been rounded up by the Japanese.

"A Bit of a Demonstration"

All were confined to one hotel. Restive at their treatment, they decided to stage a "bit of a demonstration." They gathered in front of the hotel—funnily enough it was the Fourth of July—and let their voices go in western patriotic songs. However, the concert didn't last long.



MAJOR LAMPEN
The concert didn't last long

There was a demand for them to attend a court for interrogation. When it came to cross-examining Major Lampen and his colleague, the most insistent question was: "And where do you come from?" They decided to select what they considered to be an almost impossible place to hail from—they had seen it as the merest speck on the map—and said New Zealand. Scarcely had they got the words out when the answer was rapped back: "We have a boat leaving for there to-morrow."

There was no alternative but to agree and they joined what seemed to be the most dilapidated old tramp steamer that had ever pointed her nose towards New Zealand. Her captain was the perfect representation of a pirate chief (at least Major Lampen says so). So badly found was this old vessel that the water tanks were lashed to the upper deck. Scarcely had she cleared Kobe than a typhoon washed all the tanks but one overboard and smashed every boat except one.

Japanese Beer

With drinking water pretty low, the outlook was grim. But in the cargo destined for a small island near the Equator were a few cases of sake, the highly-intoxicating Japanese drink. There were also many cases of Japanese beer which the Japanese authorities were trying to make popular.

"What was it like?" we asked.

"Excellent! It had been made by brewers imported from Germany to teach the Japanese the Teutonic secrets of beer-making."

After a very long trip they arrived in Auckland Harbour, two very anxious British officers whose leave was rapidly coming to an end. Luck came their way in the shape of a Union Steamship Company vessel trading to India, which landed them back with a small margin of leave remaining. But they had fallen in love with this country and in 1912 the major returned. He has been here ever since, apart from a few short wanderings here and there.

FROM GEOGRAPHY TO MUSIC

Comprehensive Series of Winter Course Talks

WITH the days drawing in—you know the conversational opening, don't you?—the thoughts of the NBS staff, and, we hope, some listeners, are turning to the Winter Course talks at the YA stations. Plans are well forward. Geography will be one of the themes treated this year and it is specially topical in view of the fact that there is a noteworthy increase in public interest in the subject.

The geography department of Canterbury University College has done much to educate people in the nature of geography and members of the staff have contributed largely to the Winter Course talks at 3YA. There is now a New Zealand Geographical Society, with branches in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin. Station 2YA is leading off this year with a series of talks on "The City of the Strait," which everybody should recognise as Wellington.

These talks will open on Monday, April 9, with "Port Nicholson in 1840," by B. J. Garnier. Then will follow, on April 16, "Land for Wellington," by Miss J. K. Finney; on April 23 Miss Finney will talk on "Food for Wellington"; and on April 30 B. J. Garnier will deal with "Political and Commercial Wellington." Three further talks will be

on "Industrial Wellington" and "Residential Wellington" (which should have its particular human interest) and "Wellington To-day and To-morrow."

Later will come a series of talks by members of the staff of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research on their work as applied to everyday life.

The final series from 2YA this winter will be by Professor Leslie Lipson, Professor of Political Science at Victoria University College. Professor Lipson will deal with the evolution of British institutions and Britain's contributions to the world.

Station 3YA will begin its session on April 4 with a series of 15 talks by Professor Lipson on a subject he dealt with from 2YA three years ago. This will be a comprehensive survey of American history from the beginning up to America's entry into the present war.

Preparations are now being made for the opening of similar courses at 1YA and 4YA. Station 1YA's series will be opened by Professor Keys, Professor of Modern Languages at Auckland, who will speak on "Music and Musicians in Literature." It will be interesting to see if Professor Keys has anything to say about the well-known fact that there is no inevitable connection between music and poetry, since a number of poets have not only lacked musical appreciation but have had no ear for music at all.