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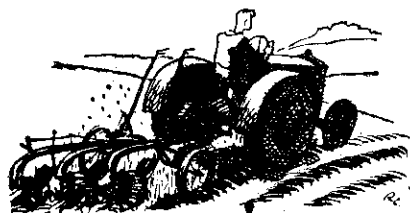
"Surely you don't believe that?"
 "Of course I do. We all do."
 "Are you sure that you haven't yourselves refused to be essential?"
 "How could we refuse when we were never asked? Anyhow, why should we refuse?"

"An essential industry can't hire and fire its men. It is protected, but it comes under control. Are you certain that your Union did not ask to remain free?"

"I don't know what the Union does. I don't belong to it. But I know that I can't get a shearer or a harvester or a fencer or a rabbitier."

I did not ask him what he was prepared to pay these men, or what he was able to pay them; what accommodation he could provide; or how long he could employ them. I let the discussion lapse. I remembered what a watersider said to me in Wellington when butter was rationed, and wondered how long it would be before the friction between town and country flared up into something more sinister. I also remembered the story I was told at school 52 years ago—his school as well as mine—about the foolish knights and the two-faced shield. Perhaps he had forgotten.

ANYHOW I was soon in difficulties about land and national well-being. If land is not the sole source of wealth it is not reasonable to be alarmed when it is put to other than the most productive uses. Nor should it have worried me to see many of the holdings I had known as separate farms merged now



"... The end of pioneering"

Dunedin Winter Course Talks

ON April 17, 4YA Dunedin will open its series of Winter Course talks with an introduction by Dr. C. M. Focken. This year the first of the talks will deal with the history of Otago, social studies, and the training of dentists. The talks on social studies are designed to inform parents and others, of the nature, methods, and implications of this new development in New Zealand schools, while those on dentistry will be on the lines of the talks on the training of doctors presented last year.

"New Tunes for Old"

USING musical themes of earlier days in up-to-date style, Jean McPherson and John Parkin will be heard in a new series of performances entitled "New Tunes for Old." In this series, which will start at 2YA this Saturday, April 7, jazz hits which were very popular some years ago will be contrasted with those of the present day.

Back to 2ZA

J. R. BROWN, who has been acting station-director at 2ZB for nearly three years, returns this month to his former position as station-director at 2ZA, Palmerston North. Mr. Brown, whose photograph is seen here, was associated with 1ZB, Auckland, before the

into larger estates (one farm of 600-700 acres where there used to be two or three of 200-300). It should not have disturbed me to see so great an increase of gorse and broom and blackberry. I should not have been depressed by the deteriorated fences and pastures. But I was, and it was no use asking about these things. If I did not know the cause there was something wrong with me. Every farmer knew, but no farmer knew how to remove it. Two and three are five, but two farmers and three farm labourers are the end of safety and reason.

TALK like that was saddening, but there was one sadder experience. It was the discovery that of the 29 boys and girls who were at school in my last year more than half were dead. I suppose I should have expected this after half a century—it is about right actually; but I didn't expect it, and I still feel sore about it. For I did not come here armed with vital statistics. I came to meet the boys and girls who had never strayed, who had found this corner of the world sufficient, who had cultivated it, seen the years and the seasons through, taken no notice of advertisements, of promised fortunes and excitements in remote places, who had grown up and grown old here as trees grow, stronger every year, with deeper roots and wider branches, and a more perfect adaptation to their environment. I found 11 still living, 15 dead, and three among the missing. Some had died in battle and some in childbirth; some in accidents; two by their own hand.

Soon we shall all be dead and a study for statisticians, but five will be remembered. When the other 24 have been forgotten these five will live on in the stone in which I have just seen their names in district and provincial rolls of honour, and in national archives. It is doubtful if one of them ever used the word "immortality" in his life. But they are the first five of my school-fellows to achieve it.

days of commercial broadcasting. On the establishment of the NCBS he was appointed programme organiser at 1ZB and later was transferred to Palmerston North when he was appointed to organise and open 2ZA in 1938. In his radio



experience Mr. Brown has been station director, panel operator, programme organiser, sports announcer, singer, and he even once conducted "Aunt Daisy's" session while she was on holiday. Alex Scott, present acting station director of 2ZA, returns to his former position at 2ZB.

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