

NEW ZEALAND LISTENER

Incorporating N.Z. RADIO RECORD

Every Friday

Price Threepence

JUNE 29, 1945

EDITORIAL AND BUSINESS OFFICES:
115 Lambton Quay, Wellington, C.1.
G.P.O. Box 1707,
Wellington, C.1.
Telephone 46-520.
Telegraphic Address: "Listener," Wellington.

San Francisco

IT would be dishonest to pretend that all has gone well at San Francisco; dangerous to praise the achievements and forget the failures; foolish to be elated by one or alarmed by the other. The fact that so many delegates have argued for so many weeks without an open quarrel is of course a great achievement in itself; but it is not the achievement they hoped for when they first met. The foundation hope no doubt was a firm enough agreement to confirm politically what had been achieved by arms; if anything had to remain unsettled, they were anxious that it would not be a major issue—especially the issue of issues: the restoration and protection of peace. It is not as certain as it could be that this has been achieved, but it is fairly certain. Power has been left in hands able and determined to use it, and that is a good enough start for a police force. But the purpose of a police force is the suppression of lawlessness, and that is only one step towards peace. It is peace when the great majority have lost the inclination to challenge the law, when the policeman has every good man's support and co-operation. To those who looked as far ahead as that, San Francisco would certainly seem disappointing; but their optimism was neither wise nor safe. On the one hand the military victory had been so overwhelming that other ways of dealing with war-makers must have seemed a little unreal. On the other hand those who met at San Francisco were not machines but men, some of them tired, many of them suspicious, and nearly all of them impatient of the high-soaring altruism of 1919. Yet they fought with words for two months and parted allies. They held some questions over, but they hammered out agreements on enough major issues to allow the remaking of the world to go on. If we find that less than enough we have been expecting much and have forgotten a good deal more.

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

MAORI PRONUNCIATION

Sir,—I think there is something to be said for the strictures your correspondent Kia Tika passes on the announcers regarding their pronunciation of Maori place names, but is it not a fact that the same applies to an even greater extent to the average Pakeha in this country? I doubt if one person in a thousand pronounces all Maori place names correctly. How many people, for instance, pronounce all or any of the following names correctly: Orakei, Kawau, Ngaio, Patea, Kea, Timaru, Waimate, or Onehunga. Probably next to none.

The chief difficulty, I think, is simply long established custom. It is customary for all of us to mispronounce 99 in every 100 names, and what we say goes. We find it easier to Anglicize, and so we take the line of least resistance. In this connection it is particularly regrettable that the cities, towns, and local bodies are

THE interesting photograph of Dr. H. S. Canby which appeared on our cover last week was a portrait study specially taken for "The Listener" by Spencer Digby, Wellington.

continually substituting Maori names for Pakeha ones when renaming their streets, roads, etc., with the result that the slaughter of the Maori names goes on and is forever being extended.

To effect an improvement, however, I think we should start higher up than Kia Tika suggests. With this end in view could we not invite two such eminent leaders of the Maori race as Bishop Bennett, Bishop of Aotearoa, and Sir Apirana Ngata, to give such a campaign a lead? The Maori announcers in the Broadcasting Service could then carry on as suggested by your correspondent, and then extend instruction to the public per medium of radio. Radio offers a wonderful opportunity. Cannot we take advantage of it?

MIMIC (Walton).

VE NIGHT

Sir,—I would like to take up a small paragraph in *The Listener* to congratulate the National and Commercial Broadcasting Stations for their splendid work on VE night. I think particular thanks are due to all members of the staff of 2YA, who, from one o'clock until the later hours of Wednesday morning were kept busy recording and re-broadcasting speeches and addresses by leaders of Allied countries the world over. It was a great job, and New Zealand should be proud of the NBS.

PROJECTIONIST (Hawera).

2YA STRING ORCHESTRA

After a recent Sunday evening concert from 2YA presenting the NBS String Orchestra it occurred to me that the work of this splendid orchestra has not met the appreciation in your columns it would justly deserve. I have been regularly listening to the NBS Orchestra on Sundays and Tuesdays for over a year now and it has been most gratifying to watch their development. The interpretation of old and new masters under the conductorship of Harry

Ellwood is always a pleasure to listen to, and, so I believe, a stimulus for all music lovers. The programmes are nearly always carefully chosen, and I enjoy the solo pieces by Leela Bloy, Greta Ostova, Ormi Reid, to mention only a few. Nor must I forget Thos. Gray's arrangements.

In the present torn world the purity of music is the best medicine. Now the demand for good music is stronger than ever before, we can appreciate the NBS String Orchestra's achievements, both of the present and the immediate past, and hope that its beneficial influence upon music lovers will be a lasting one.

MUSIC LOVER (Petone).

LOTS OF POETRY

Sir,—J.C.B. in his caustic review of "Lyric Poems of New Zealand" refers to Robin Hyde's work as undisciplined. That word exactly describes the critic's own effusion. It reads as though it were dictated by personal malice. Good criticism to be of any value should be constructive. A savage tearing to pieces and throwing to the winds gets us nowhere. Indeed I should imagine it does more harm to the critic than to the criticised. No writer wants fulsome praise, but a little mild understanding, and an acknowledgment that there may be more than one opinion as to what constitutes good poetry would be welcome. Hilaire Belloc put the case in a nutshell when he said:

*The true Divine afflatus
Needs little apparatus
And only when its weak
Falls back upon technique.*

Those of our New Zealand lyricists who as J.C.B. scornfully says, "seem to have got into contact with God" are evidently in good company.

H.J.H. (Christchurch).

OUR CROSSWORDS

Sir,—I think G. Short will have observed, by a perusal of "Ped Agog's" letter that the only way to arrive at a correct solution to R.W.C.'s crossword puzzle is to obtain a classical education (specialising in Greek mythology and English literature) and invest in a set of encyclopedias, a good dictionary, and a Bible. Without these aids he cannot hope to succeed. Meanwhile he will obtain some pleasure by exercising his ingenuity on the synonyms and anagrams, and waiting till "next week" to discover such items as "conical cap of ancient Persians."

READER (Wellington).

Sir,—I am not above the average intelligence by any means, but get quite a lot of fun trying to work out the crosswords each week. I think R.W.C. is doing a really good job. I am not always successful at solving all the puzzle every time, but like "Ped Agog" (Westport) I count it time well spent. It is certainly good brain exercise, and as long as there is a *Listener*, I hope there will be a crossword puzzle.

F.M.E. (Foxton).

Sir,—Please allow me a little space to join with others in congratulating your competent crossword constructor, R.W.C. Eagerly each week I anticipate my tussle with R.W.C. and I always ex-

perience a definite sense of triumph when my efforts are successful. My only complaint, which is a mild one, is that the crosswords are too small and that they should be printed in a double column. R.W.C.'s cryptics bring me great pleasure and amusement each week, and I sincerely trust that his (or her, perhaps) attempts to confound me will be a *Listener* feature for a long time to come. ANNA GRAM (Lower Hutt).

Sir,—May I be permitted to support "Ped Agog's" well-merited appreciation of R.W.C. and his ingenious crosswords. The puzzles are very cleverly constructed, and provide a great deal of interest and work to solve, them successfully. Unlike "Ped Agog," I have a modest reference library consisting of only an "Everyman's Dictionary," a "Pears' Encyclopaedia," and an "Outline of Literature." Thus the solution is often elusive, and may take two or three days to work out. This has the effect of stimulating the interest, however, and I am grateful to R.W.C. for many enjoyable and instructive hours.

A STUDENT (Christchurch).

TRIESTE AND WELLINGTON

Sir,—I was interested in the article on Trieste which, it struck me, from the illustration given, bears a striking resemblance to Wellington. This is confirmed in a letter which I have now received from my son, who is a padre serving in the Middle East, and who writes from Trieste:

"Trieste is really remarkably like Wellington in layout. When we first entered the city on May 3, we came down the road from the Roseneath heights, and along the beautiful motor road that surrounds Oriental Bay. Two and three-storied flats were squeezed in between the promenade and the hills. Even the baths and the boat-harbour were there, while 2YA on Mt. Victoria above seemed to have grown bigger. In the town—larger than Wellington, but still a comparatively narrow strip between hills and sea—the wharves and railway-station were just where I expected to find them, and lo and behold, even the cable-car running up to Kelburn!"

S. B. BOWYER (Karori).

ELECTION MUSIC

Sir,—I would like to congratulate Station 2YA on the music broadcast on Saturday evening, May 19, from half-past seven until 9 o'clock. It is not often that music of this sort, mostly light classical, is broadcast from the more powerful stations at these hours. May I plead for more of this sort of music, or do I have to wait for the next by-election?—MORE BY-ELECTIONS (Pelorus Sound).

ITALIAN NAMES.

Sir,—Why does one of the announcers of the nine o'clock Newsreel pronounce Trieste "Triester"? Also all announcers, even the BBC, pronounce Bologna "Bologna." Could you kindly inform me through *The Listener* which is correct? SUBSCRIBER (Riccarton).

(The announcer is using the Italian pronunciation of "Trieste." The accepted pronunciation in English and Italian of the place name "Bologna" is "Bohologna.")