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Returned Soldiers

DIRECTLY or indirectly an overwhelming proportion of the people of New Zealand have associations with returned soldiers. In any gathering of men over 20 and under 50 far more than half will have seen service of some kind; and every soldier has blood-relations, male and female, and intimate friends. What happens to one of them, therefore, happens to half-a-dozen, what happens to all of them happens to the whole community. They are the community in the vicarious sense in which we are speaking. But the community is also the returned service-man. It has suffered with him, through him, for him; not always as deeply as he has, not always in the same way; but it has never been possible for him to march, fight, watch, wait, or endure alone. Every time the fires of war have scorched him a man or a woman or both have gone through agony at home. And now that he is himself home, or on the way, he does not feel himself a man apart, or wish to be converted into one. He is a New Zealander back from a war that his father thought he would never have to fight; hoping as his father did that it will not have to be fought again; disillusioned in many ways, but feeling vaguely and seeing dimly that he has done his job in making the world a little safer and freer and cleaner. To ask him the moment he puts off his uniform to put on a moral mantle of statesmanship — answering questions to which he has hardly given three thoughts, correcting abuses that (he is to suppose) his father and mother and brothers and sisters have allowed to pile up in his absence, and even disposing of racial issues that have baffled the brains of three continents — is to ask him to make a patriotic fool of himself, whether the request comes from the Right or from the Left, or from the latent fascism lurking in every community and liable, even in New Zealand, to burst forth suddenly in the guise of loyalty and discipline.

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

MUSIC AND PARLIAMENT

Sir,—With the Parliamentary session nearing, I would like to add my voice to the others who ask why the programme of 2YC has to go overboard when Parliament is on the air. Why not let us drop 2YA or preferably 2YD? Lovers of music who in the evening hours want to listen to some real music and not trivial serials and croonings, are for weeks deprived of the radio. This might be beneficial from the point of view of electricity conservation, but is not just. Could the authorities tell us the reason why this state of affairs couldn't be altered?

"ANTI-BING" (Wadestown).

UNTIDY SCHOOLCHILDREN

Sir,—In reply to "1898 Class," I would like to say that it is partly the fault of this "Class" that children are

The United States Navy Entertains

A GROUP of 17 well-known American screen and radio entertainers serving as enlisted men in the United States Navy arrived in Auckland this week to tour the country giving entertainments particularly for service personnel.

The offer for the visit, gladly accepted by the New Zealand Government, was received from Vice-Admiral W. L. Calhoun, Commander South Pacific Area and Force, through his special representative in New Zealand, Lieutenant-Colonel L. W. Nickerson, U.S.M.C.

Claude Thornhill, chief musician, U.S.N., a well-known American band leader and concert pianist, is the leader of the group, which includes the film star Jackie Cooper (see page 21) and the radio stars Dennis Day (Irish tenor in the Jack Benny show) and Tommy Riggs.

Broadcast programmes will be announced.

so untidy. Admittedly these young people do make a litter, but it is because they have greater appetites than the normal adult. Even so, if you put 200 adults in a hall they will make nearly as much mess as the young children. If elderly people cease throwing ice cream cartons, papers, etc., about, I feel sure it will stop among the younger generation. Also, about putting their feet on the seats of trains. Has no one seen elderly people do this? Young people adopt the attitude, "If it's good enough for them it's good enough for me."

"VASAL" (Wellington).

Sir,—To the letter of "1898 Class" complaining of the untidiness of schoolchildren, there is perhaps one comment: "and what about the untidiness of adults?" Surely it is idle to complain of the boys and girls, who may or may not know better, when their parents, who do know better, are just as bad. Has "1898 Class" ever seen the inside of a picture theatre after a Saturday evening performance when at least 90 per cent of the spectators are adults? If he would compare this with the same theatre after a matinee he would find surprisingly little difference in the amount of litter.

Then "1898 Class" mentions train seats. Children are not the only offenders. I have often seen men, and women too, deliberately place their feet on the

seat opposite, hastily remove them when the guard passes, and then replace them.

One must be fair to the children. People are apt to pick holes in their conduct and to comment on their faults rather than on the people from whom they have learnt those faults. What is the use of drilling lessons of tidiness into a child when continually he sees so many examples to the contrary among his elders? By all means try to teach civic pride and common courtesy, but why start and finish with the children?

COMMON SENSE (Hutt).

BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

Sir,—I have just been listening in to that amusing little item, "Give it a name jackpots." When a candidate for honours was offered the princely sum of £2 to name the first five books of the Old Testament in their proper sequence I was somewhat amazed that so simple a question should have been set for so munificent a reward. My amazement grew when the Questioner failed to collect the £2; but amazement was unbounded when even the questioner gave an incorrect answer to his own question. This is not the first time that woeful ignorance (in this so-called Christian land) of even elementary facts about the Bible has been displayed in these interesting quizzes that come over the air. And I would suggest, sir, that it might be a good thing if a few more questions relating to the Bible were chosen for the quiz, if for no other reason than to stimulate interest in that greatest of all Books.

H.C.D. (Wellington).

MURDER FILMS

Sir,—I wonder how many of your readers have been struck by the fact that a juvenile comedy now in circulation in New Zealand has as the basis of its plot a real live murder. We all know that 90 per cent. of the films shown are unsuitable for children—even when they pose as children's films. They present life to the child in unreal terms and often have a deep influence on the child's thought and action. Where the child is concerned life cannot be played with. The bad influence of films is as well known as it is devastating. If any sort of New Order is to be built, our juvenile population should be induced to turn from murder comedies and "heroic" films to some other forms of amusement. MEHITABEL (Dunedin).

NEW ZEALAND ERN MALLEY

Sir,—I found the letters of "Spectator" and "Observer" very disturbing. I am not a reader of poetry: apart from poems I cut and transcribe from periodicals I have been reading the same four poems for 20 years; but do find these four essential. I am not proud of this lack of poetic sense and religiously read modern poetry when it comes my way; I have even bought a volume occasionally. I suspect I have found a fifth poem in one of them.

Now here I am trying to do my duty by modern poets. "Spectator" says we have an Ern Malley in our midst. Certainly "Observer," who can evidently read "Spectator's" thoughts, denies the charge; but till the matter is cleared up

I shall certainly not read or buy a book of New Zealand poetry. What a risk! I might discover a sixth poem, only to find the author had written it with his tongue in his cheek.

"CA' CANNY" (Dunedin).

NEW ZEALAND TALENT

Sir,—By good luck I tuned into 3YA recently when Thomas E. West was giving a studio recital and thought him one of the nicest tenors I had heard. The NBS have recordings by Richard Tauber and Richard Crooks. Is there any reason why recordings should not be made of Mr. West's singing (or any other New Zealander who qualifies) and used in recorded programmes? I think New Zealanders would appreciate our local talent more than some of the imported. — "APPRECIATIVE LISTENER" (Kaitawa Hydro).

More letters from listeners will be found on page 14.

ALIEN WAYS

(By WHIM WHAM)

[That any person or persons who arrived in New Zealand from Germany, Austria, Hungary, or Italy since 1939 must return to their own countries within two years after hostilities cease with Germany, and that they be allowed to take out of New Zealand the same amount of money or property, or both, that they declared to the Customs Department when entering New Zealand, any further money or property that they may possess to be sold and the proceeds to be handed to the New Zealand Government for distribution among the wives and dependants of those who fought for their respective countries while they enjoyed peace and plenty in New Zealand.]—Part of resolution carried at the Dominion conference of the Returned Services' Association.]

LET'S put the Alien in his Place.
Let's show him Who's the Master Race.
Hitler, alas, is dead and gone;
But (Heil!) his Soul goes marching on.
He wrecked their Homes, He bade them pack,
He chased them here,—Let's chase them back!
On with the Dance! It's None too soon!
They know the Steps, They know the Tune!

AN Alien's Skill or Industry
May earn his Keep? Don't talk to me!
Each Case he treats, each Lathe he turns,
It is MY Money that he earns,
Exhausting by his useless Toil
Our over-populated Soil.
The Air he breathes is so much less
For Me and Mine, and his Success
(Disgusting Thought!) is barefaced Theft.
Lord knows, New Zealand isn't left
Much Butter for the meagre Bread
That keeps its Teeming Millions fed!

THE Answer's plain, the Logic's clear:
Reduce the Population here.
The More we send or drive away,
The More there'll be for Those who stay.
Let's start at once, at the Expense
Of Those who have the least Defence
(“Mein Kampf” tells how); and after Them
It will be easier to condemn
Some other Section of this Reich
Whose Race or Face we do not like
And have Them summarily evicted,
Until New Zealand is restricted
To Those self-guaranteed as fit
To govern and inhabit it.
(Though to this End, so Much desired,
Expulsions may not be required;
And we may build the Perfect Nation
By voluntary Evacuation!)

DEAR Spokesmen of the R.S.A.,
Will not your Members feel Disney
To hear you ignorantly shame
The Cause they fought for, in their Name?
Were Those who died no more concerned
Than You, who speak for Those returned,
With righting Others' Wrongs? Did They,
The Unreturned, not choose that Way
Not for their Own, with Hearts more great
That knew no Aliens in their State?