

JULY 20, 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

Trickle, Trickle

IT is as easy to be extravagant about a book as about a man, and just as dangerous. But we are prepared to take a risk with the book on erosion noticed on pages 6, 7, 8. Although it is not the first New Zealand book on the subject, or the second, it is so much more important than any other that our grandchildren may easily date their victory over erosion from its first appearance. Alternatively posterity may point to it as a warning which, if it had been regarded, might have saved New Zealand from another century of drift. For it is not merely a caution the author gives us: it is a loud shout of alarm. When allowance has been made for his emotional excitement, for over-emphasis by the camera, and for all the things he says, or suggests, that he has not been long enough at work to prove, there remains a plainly horrifying picture of ignorance, carelessness, and waste. It is true that his photographs, diagrams, and maps show the things that are wrong and not the things that are right. If all the land-slips and gutters in this book were concentrated in a single area they might fill as much space as one fair-sized sheep run; and it is necessary to remember that to keep the picture as a whole in focus. But it is necessary to remember also that the illustrations cover the whole area from Southland to East Cape and from Tauranga to North Cape; that the text is even more alarming than the illustrations if read with imagination; and that there is the clearest evidence everywhere of a dangerous acceleration of the rate of destruction during the last 30 or 40 years. It is a pity that the author, whose purpose is to arouse public interest, writes so often in language that the public will not understand. His answer would perhaps be that the language of salvation has never been easy.

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

MAORI PRONUNCIATION

Sir,—Mimic's suggestion for instruction in Maori pronunciation is a good one, but we really need to get down to bedrock—begin in the schools, not just with the repetition of place names though. There should be a simple textbook on the subject of Maori pronunciation for the guidance of teachers. The instruction need not entail much time. In the primary schools it could be taken in conjunction with the singing lesson and some Maori songs taught. In the secondary schools it could be correlated with language study. The pupils would very soon get the idea of the vowel sounds if these were compared with those in French.

As a general rule:—

a in Ra as in la
e in te as in mets
i in tiki as in pic
o in moki as in mot
u in muku as French ou

Dumont D'Urville, with no dictionary to guide him, was able to record Maori place names intelligibly. He had little difficulty with the language, and we, with more than a hundred years' intercourse with the people, are still stumbling with these euphonious names. I don't agree with Mimic when he deplores the restitution of "Maori names for Pakeha ones." The Pakeha ones should never have been given. D'Urville urged, and rightly too, that the names given by the first discoverers of a country should stay. The Maoris were first, and, he added, such appropriate names given by an intelligent people should not be forgotten. REWA GLENN (Wellington).
[We have no space at present for further letters on this subject.—Ed.]

PAGEANT OF MUSIC

Sir,—In his criticism of H. C. Luscombe's "Pageant of Music" series your commentator in Radio Viewsreel speaks as a musician, quite forgetting that about 98 per cent. of us ordinary listeners have only an elementary knowledge of music, and until it was suggested that the lectures were primarily for the benefit of secondary school children, the idea had not occurred to me. From the point of view of the ordinary listener, however, my wife and I find the lectures most inspiring, and have often thought of writing to ask that they should be extended to a period of half an hour, as nothing less could do them full justice. Not only do we think the essential elements of each selection are well stressed, but Mr. Luscombe's own illustrations on the piano are truly delightful to listen to, and form, in our opinion, with Jane Mander's book reviews, two of the really worthwhile items on the radio.

E. D. FORESTER (Kumeu).

THE BRITISH COUNCIL

Sir,—I was much interested in an article entitled "Help if we ask for it" (*Listener*, June 8th), which dealt with the activities of the British Council, and should like to know more about this important and necessary organisation. In the years before the war, and in Italy in 1939, I came much in contact with propaganda that might lead one to think that "all art came from Italy, and all science from Germany." I found in Italy that it was a common belief even among educated Italians that, in case of war, none of the British Dominions would help the

Mother country. I firmly believe that this was one of the reasons why they talked so lightheartedly (in those pre-war days) of war with "the weary old lion deserted by all her cubs." Is it possible to join in any way a "British Institute" in this country?

RUSTICA (Marlborough).

[At present the Council is not represented in New Zealand, but it probably will be within a few months. In general British Institutes are established only in foreign countries.—Ed.]

Sir,—Referring to the question of the British Council and the suggested closer relationship between England and her colonies, I wonder if the people responsible for this council realise the very strong "anti-Home" feeling that exists here, in Australia, in Canada, and in South Africa? In regard to New Zealand there is, of course, strong loyalty to Britain, but chiefly from the monied class, which, as in every country, is in the minority.

British Election Results

IT is unlikely that any results of the elections in Great Britain will be available for broadcasting to New Zealand listeners before the 11 p.m. (N.Z. time) news bulletin on July 26. This is the bulletin which is always broadcast by the main National and Commercial stations of the NBS. From this broadcast New Zealand listeners will probably receive their first indication of the state of the poll.

If it appears that the issue is in any doubt, the National stations will remain on the air until the next broadcast of results by the BBC at midnight. Results received during the night will be recorded and rebroadcast when stations open at 6 a.m. the next day.

The broadcasts will be confined to the comparative state of the parties and the gains and losses, with varying amounts of detail. It is not expected that there will be a coverage of results in the various constituencies, but reference will be made to the return or defeat of any outstanding personalities.

land there is, of course, strong loyalty to Britain, but chiefly from the monied class, which, as in every country, is in the minority.

My husband and I had only been in this land one week when on his applying for a possible Government vacancy he was bluntly informed by the interviewer that he saw no reason for giving my husband preferential treatment before a New Zealander. My husband walked out in disgust, as one can't argue with a person of that mentality! In the following week another Government Official—a woman "Homie" told us not to go on a farm, as it would break our hearts to see the callous behaviour towards defenceless animals that goes on. A good introduction to one's adopted country! We have been here six years and have discovered that most New Zealanders resent the way we walk, talk, dress (and I nearly said "eat" as well) and any desire for privacy in our private lives, and we don't like their ignorance and immaturity, their petty and persistent persecution in various subtle ways. Indeed, we find it difficult to remember at times that we all come from the same British stock!

New Zealand has not time to populate the land from her own people, and if we English are not wanted, neither, I presume, are Chinese, Japanese, Jews, Hindoos, Indians, etc., in any great quantity, so in order to survive a country of

the white race she will have to cast adrift from Mother England and transfer her allegiance to Foster-Mother America. This appears to be the direction New Zealand, Australia, and Canada are travelling. This would mean the possible disintegration of the British Empire, but the United Kingdom might be a healthier and happier country as a second or third rate "power." We are hoping and aiming to return to England, even should another "Ruling-Class Government" be elected. J.M. (Rotorua).

[We print this letter at the earnest request of its writer who suggests, in a covering note, that "a lot of misunderstanding might be cleared up by a general discussion of the matter."—Ed.]

OUR CROSSWORDS

Sir,—Our *Listener* arrived at five minutes to three to-day. As the opening strains of "For Ever Young" floated out, we (mother and son) began the Crossword. We completed the solution as the closing strains of the same serial faded away—15 minutes, and without using any aids at all. As we are not film fans, we are occasionally blocked by film references, otherwise find them pleasantly puzzling and intensely interesting. We think some of our puzzlers do protest too much and use their brains too little. Our only dictionaries are a Pocket Oxford and a Pears of ancient lineage.

TWO SHEEPSHEADS (Khandallah).

Sir,—My husband and I wish to add our appreciation of R.W.C.'s crossword puzzles. We have been Crossword fans for years and have had lots of fun trying to solve them and also improving our general knowledge. When *The Listener* comes I do the easy clues and then hand over to my husband to complete the solution. We have been "stumped" only about half-a-dozen times. We both hope the puzzles will long continue to be one of the chief features (to us) of *The Listener*.—TWO CROSSWORD FANS (Christchurch).

[We have had a large number of letters in the same strain, but regret that we cannot find space to print them.—Ed.]

GOD AND MAN

Sir,—A.G.W. (Taoroa) in your issue of May 18 says: "There can never be any question of equality between God and His dependent creatures." This postulates a knowledge of God which we do not possess. According to Canon L. W. Grenstead: "God is as completely beyond definition as religion." Nevertheless we find that Jesus said: "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." The possibility of man's equality with God is therefore contemplated in scripture. But that in passing.

The main question that arises in my mind from reading A.G.W.'s letter is: if God made me and all other men, then He must also have made Hitler and Mussolini. Now Dean Inge says: "We Christians believe that, if there is a God, He must be unchangeable and eternal, and if it is His nature to create a world, must He not create always?" To me this means that if God has made a Hitler and a Mussolini once, He will make them again. I wonder if A.G.W. anticipates that this will in due course happen?

J. MALTON MURRAY (Oamaru).

More letters from listeners will be found on page 25.