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The depression of the 'thirties made matters much worse. Ships by the score were laid up for want of cargoes and their crews helped to swell the dole queues. Some ships put to sea with every man in the fore-castle holding a master's ticket.

Another war came and the Merchant Navy was once more remembered. Statesmen and others paid lyrical tributes to the merchant seamen. But the trend of thought among such people, though well-meaning, was misguided. It was agreed that the service had been a Cinderella for too long. But the proposed amends consisted chiefly of granting the service a uniform (which it already had, making its members eligible

for decorations on the same basis as the armed forces, and similar privileges. In short, raising the "status" of the service by lifting it on to an imaginary level with the fighting forces. "Status," in fact, became something of an obsession.

THE men of the service have little time or taste for frills. What they hopefully look for are a number of other things. Like other men they want remuneration commensurate with their training, skill, and responsibility. Ships are their home for the greater part of their lives and they want their quarters and their food to be of a civilised standard. They want security of employment, and no going back to the days when seamen were just casual labourers to be hired for a voyage and then have to exist on the dole until they found another ship.

Depressions and wars have followed each other in such close succession that

a generation of sailors exists to-day who are on the alert for further trouble. Officers and men now think and feel alike about anything that affects the service generally. Officers and even masters have served in the fore-castle in the depression and have gained the men's viewpoint. Seafarers' unions have grown stronger in recent years. They are perhaps the most difficult body of men in the world to unionise because they are so scattered over the globe, and it is difficult to assemble enough of them in any spot at any one time to make their voices heard.

Officers have been slower than men to unionise because they have, in the past, been on their best behaviour with an eye to promotion. But they have now

seen the insecurity of their jobs, and have looked for ways and means of protecting themselves and their families. Their unions have steadily gained strength and are now shoulder to shoulder with the men in their fight for better conditions. Already, in combination, they have resisted an attempt, made in October, 1945, to reduce their earnings as the hazards of war ceased.

An "International Seafarers' Charter" was drawn up in 1944 by a meeting of Allied seamen's representatives. The programme of this Charter may seem ambitious on first reading. But on close scrutiny it is not more than what is due to the seafarer, when you compare the nature of his calling with those of other men. There is much leeway to be made up in improving his lot. Let us pray that it does not require anything so drastic as another war to make people realise his necessity.



## HIGHLIGHTS ON THE SHORTWAVE BAND

### The Armed Forces Radio Service

THE Armed Forces Radio Service, like the BBC, broadcasts a 24-hour service to American forces overseas. This service broadcasts on either a South-west Pacific or a mid-Pacific beam, which can be heard at very good strength in New Zealand, as well as on other beams to the Far East. It carries programmes compiled to entertain as well as give instruction, and includes talks and reviews on world affairs.

#### Frequencies and Times of Transmission:

KGEI	15.13 m/c	19.83 metres	1. 0 p.m. -	5. 0 p.m.
KGEX	15.21 m/c	19.72 metres	9. 0 a.m. -	6.45 p.m.
KNBA	17.77 m/c	16.84 metres	1.15 p.m. -	5. 0 p.m.
KNBI	17.77 m/c	16.84 metres	1.15 p.m. -	5. 0 p.m.
KNBA	17.77 m/c	16.84 metres	5.15 p.m. -	8.45 p.m.
KNBI	17.77 m/c	16.84 metres	5.15 p.m. -	8.45 p.m.
KGEI	11.73 m/c	25.58 metres	7. 0 p.m. -	9.45 p.m.
KWID	11.90 m/c	25.20 metres	7. 0 p.m. -	11.30 p.m.

#### Headlines in the Programmes:

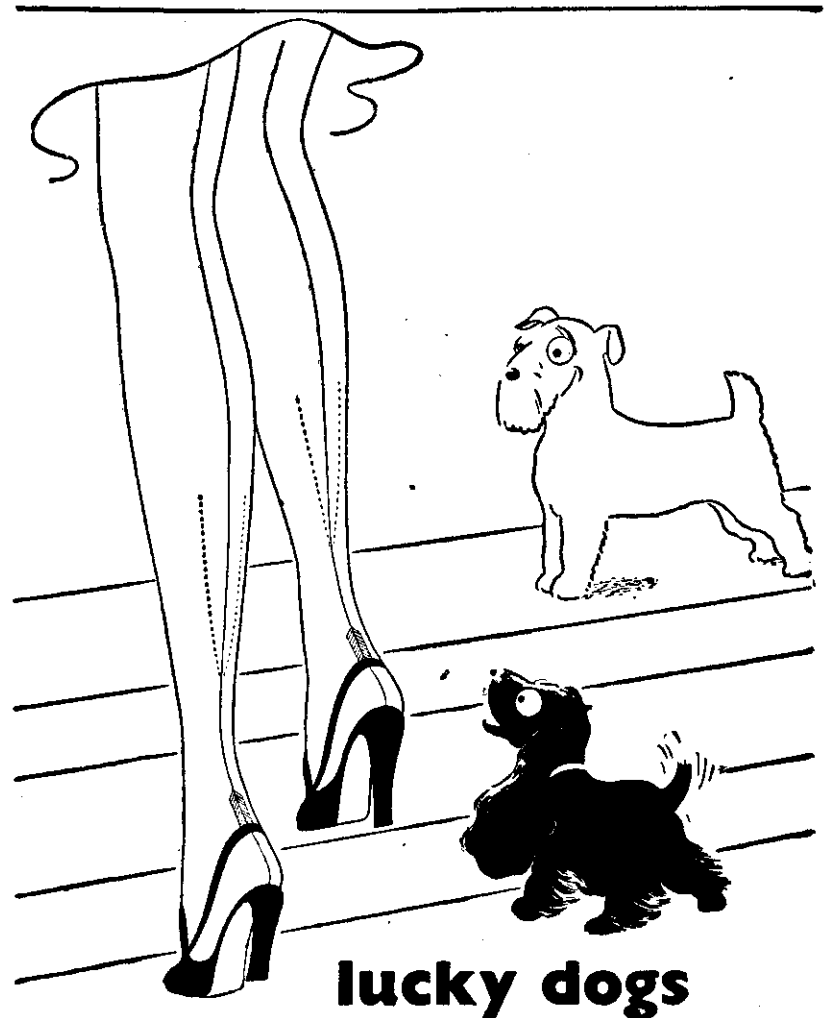
**World Affairs:** Our Foreign Policy, Wednesday, 1.30 p.m., KGEX; World Diary, Wednesday, 3.15 p.m., KNBA; World Diary, Saturday, 6.45 p.m., KNBI; Special Event, Tuesday, 10.30 p.m., KWID.

**Stars in Variety Shows:** Jack Benny, Sunday; Burns and Allen, Monday; Bob Hope, Tuesday; Fibber McGee, Wednesday; Fred Allan, Thursday; Hit Parade, Saturday.

**Sport:** Great Stories in Sport, Friday, 6.45 p.m., KNBA; Great Stories in Sport, Friday, 11.15 p.m., KWID.

**Musical Presentations:** Music Hall, Thursday, 6.0 p.m., KNBA; Magic Carpet, Monday to Saturday, 6.30 p.m., KNBA; Hymns from Home, Sunday, 9.45 p.m., KWID; Command Performance, Wednesday, 10.30 p.m., KWID.

Any changes in these programmes and times will be broadcast in the Conference Period at 8.5 p.m. daily, except Sunday.



Nice view of a taper heel, don't you think, Rags?

And notice the converging fashion marks as well, Terry.

Very slimming to the leg, and only found *together* with

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**THE BOOK OF WIEMU**

5/6

This little book (of which over 3,000 copies have now been sold) is for children but not merely for children. Grown-ups are buying it because the story of the little boy, Wiemu, is a most sympathetic sketch of Maori life.

by Stella Morice

**3 BROWN BEARS AND THE MANPOWER MAN**

We met a little boy the other day who didn't want to hear about Goldilocks and her Three Bears—but about Bruno, Jurjo, and Jonathan, the three Brown Bears and their adventures after the Manpower Man gets them.

by Margaret Dunningham

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