

story of the war years in the Far East. Publishers were gloomy — the public, they said, had had enough of war and prison camps. A novel might sell, but even that was doubtful. Then Peg Snow, that tireless crusader, wrote from New York: "Books like yours must be written. It's all for the record—if it doesn't get down on paper now, it will be lost for good. Finish it off quickly and get it out of your system."

A month ago I typed the last chapters, and got the manuscript off to London and New York. That was that; now it was about time for that New Zealand holiday I'd promised myself for four years and hadn't yet got round to. But China was calling again, and calling pretty insistently.

Letters from Rewi Alley, clamouring for the New Zealand sheep he didn't get last time (sheep that are badly needed to improve the breed and the fleece of Indusco flocks in Kansu). An S.O.S. for a science man to work at the Bailie School for Indusco apprentices. Letters from Bishop Hall in Hong Kong, asking for New Zealand wool for the new co-operative factories being planned with help from Britain in South China. Finally, early in September, a letter from Mme. Sun asking me to join her International Promotion Committee, and giving details of the work already planned.

"With all of China liberated," she wrote, "the job we have to do is tremendous. Not only must these activities be expanded to meet the growing needs, but new projects are always appearing."

"This organisation has proved that the Chinese people are fully capable of

N.Z. Council of Organisations for Relief Service Overseas, through which New Zealanders have already made a major voluntary contribution to direct relief in Greece, announced that it was moving into the China field. CORSO has received urgent requests for medical and relief volunteers to work with the *International Relief Committee* in China (which operates chiefly through established mission hospitals). CORSO is now appealing in New Zealand for volunteers and for funds to support and supply them.

CORSO needed an Appeals Organiser for three months. I wanted to do something here for China—something about Rewi Alley's sheep and Bishop Hall's wool and things like the International Peace Hospitals. And so I scrapped that New Zealand holiday. But before I left Auckland to come south and start on my new job, I took out the wooden panel I had brought back from Japan and read over some of the verses on it.

Among others there was the "Harper's Song" from *Wilhelm Meister*—the song that has always had a special meaning to prisoners:

Who never ate his bread with tears
Who never, through the anxious night-time,
Alone sat weeping on his bed—
He knows you not, you heavenly powers.

That was it, or as near as anybody had ever come to saying it. You can never really hate prisons until you've been a prisoner yourself. You can never imagine what outside help means to a Chinese peasant to-day unless you've lived for years like an Asiatic coolie yourself — condemned like him to the risks of violence and war, to lice and disease and back-breaking toil on a diet not fit for a dog.

I was lucky enough to live through that, and to come back home to these untouched Pacific islands (so beautiful that Katherine Mansfield used to feel they must have been dipped beneath the blue waves every night, to rise again at blink of day). Islands where the dogs have their meat bought for them, where happy people drive off to the beach for the week-ends and only the men who were overseas really know how the rest of the world is living.

A Debt and a Responsibility

But no man is an island, entire unto himself. We cannot escape our commitments abroad, nor can we dodge our own consciences. New Zealanders on guard duty in Yamaguchi to-day are a reminder of how far our post-war responsibilities stretch in the Pacific. And

the fate of the Chinese people should mean something to us—those Chinese peasants who fought for eight years to help preserve our own freedom: whose reward to-day is post-war chaos and mass starvation.

A couple of questions have often been put to me by New Zealanders since my return. "How do we find out what China needs? And what can we do to help?" The answer to both is a single word: CORSO.

Whatever happens to UNRRA, CORSO is going to continue its relief work overseas. After Greece, it intends to make China its chief field of operations. Full details of specific projects will soon be available. Meantime, if you wish to help, this is what you can do:

- (1) Make contact with your local CORSO Committee, or if there isn't one in your town, help to form one.
- (2) If you want assistance, write in to CORSO Dominion Appeals Organiser, Government Buildings, P.O. Box 11, Wellington.
- (3) Send a contribution to CORSO, marking it "for China."

Greece called first for our help, and New Zealand responded by sending relief teams and supplies. China is calling now.

BROADENING THE SERVICE

Future Developments in N.Z. Radio

TENTATIVE ideas for the future development of broadcasting in New Zealand, which were hinted at in the recent statement by the Minister in Charge of Broadcasting (the Hon. F. Jones) have now been described to *The Listener* by the Director of Broadcasting (Professor J. Shelley).

A scheme is envisaged whereby New Zealand would eventually have radio stations in four categories—International (shortwave), National, District, and Local. The scheme foresees radio functioning as a local institution to develop cultural life in general, fostering choral, instrumental and dramatic talent.

So far, the Director said, broadcasting here has been regarded on a national basis, and the opportunity is now coming to operate it on a local basis as well.

Local studios could be centres of cultural activity in the smaller towns, and the best "local" talent could go to the District Stations in the main centres and larger towns. The best talent available at the District stations could be regarded as "National" and would be used on the National station (at present represented by 2YA) as well as for touring.

The Local stations would in a sense provide listening audiences which could be regarded as extensions of the town hall, the concert chamber, and the schoolroom, while still retaining their function as suppliers of entertainment. They would be on the air three to four hours a day, and might have "local talent nights."

Places that are not touched by the system of District and Local stations will be drawn into the scheme by the Mobile recording units (described in last week's issue) which will be able to

gather programme material from anywhere that is reached by road.

The District stations would send their best talent to the National station, or on tour, and sometimes they would relay the national programme. At other times their programmes would be relayed by the National station and become a part of the national programme—if they were of national importance.

Plans for orchestral development have already been revealed with the appointment of an organiser for the new National Orchestra. In addition to this, there will eventually be full-time musicians employed at the district stations to serve as nuclei for the part-time orchestras (which would continue as at present), and to ensure that they can

be gathered at each centre in turn for orchestral work.

Drama will be further fostered in the various centres as recording facilities are extended so that plays for broadcasting can be produced by acting groups outside of Wellington.

In general, the Director envisages the broadcasting service as a unifying instrument in the community, capable of stimulating civic consciousness and cultural activity. The expanded system would provide facilities for adequate staff training, he said, and would be regarded as aiding both material and social rehabilitation, because it would provide work for many New Zealanders and would foster new growths in cultural and community life.

CORSO DAY IN AUCKLAND

Postmen's Drive

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5th

Be ready for the Corso Collector with your gift for N.Z. Relief in Greece and China!

Auckland Residents outside the city suburbs are asked to send their contributions to

Auckland Provincial Corso Committee, G.P.O. Box 2172

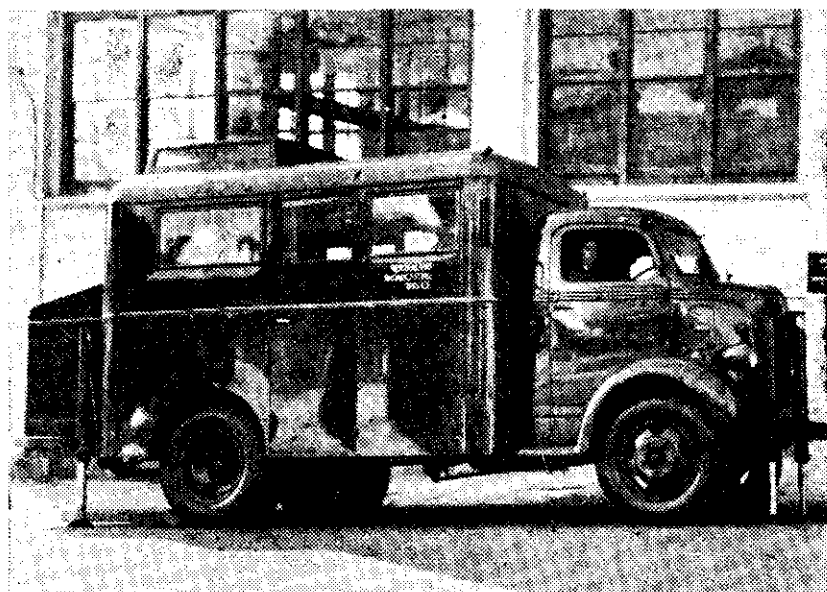
**Wellington raised £4,000
What can Auckland do?**

helping themselves, but at this moment in history they need aid from the outside. *They need relief and rehabilitation aid which actually gets to them.*

What Can We Do For China?

Surely, I thought, if New Zealanders knew of a way to help China that would be direct, specific and concrete, there must be a ready response. Many people had been disturbed by reports of the UNRRA failure in China; and anyway, UNRRA was on the way out. But the need in China was greater than ever; all we needed to find was the means. I knew from many groups and meetings I had spoken to how great was the goodwill in this country towards the Chinese people; how strong the desire to help such an organisation as Rewi Alley's Industrial Co-operatives.

What is a psychological moment? It was just at this point that CORSO, the



THE FIRST of the two recording vans which will shortly be put on the road by the NZBS, one in the North Island and one in the South. These mobile units will be equipped to record both outdoor and indoor programmes