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this, and hastened to increase our reading again, reaching 57lb. in 1936, a far bigger increase than was shown in any other country over those years.

And what about Germany? And Russia? And Japan? Well, Germany's figures over those 10 years appear to have been the steadiest of all. They were never below 10.1lb. and never above 13.9. The hypothetical German newspaper reader used 10.9lb. in 1927, 13.9 in 1929, 10.4 in 1932, 11.6 in 1934, 10.1 in 1935 and 11.4 in 1936. So, it's all a matter of what you print on it. The Japanese used 7.9 in 1927, and raised that to 12.7lb. in 1936 by steady gains.

Russia had the lowest figure of all—1.1lb. in 1927, rising without setbacks to 2.9 in 1936.

What do all these figures mean in terms a New Zealander can relate to his own experience?

Down to Cases

A month's supply of a metropolitan morning daily in New Zealand weighs between 5lb. and 6lb.—say 65lb. a year at present size. A subscriber to *The Listener* uses about 12lb. a year, at present. So your *Listener* alone gives you about 11 times as much democracy as the Common Russian used in 1927, and more than four times as much as he used in 1936.

But remember that those figures for other countries represent the ration for every man, woman and child in the population. On the same basis, *The Listener* accounts for about half a lb. of newsprint to every man, woman and child in New Zealand.

Over the 10 years from 1936-45, New Zealand imported enough newsprint to provide 29lb. a head per year, and printed (in 1938) 53 dailies, 21 tri-weeklies, 17 bi-weeklies (some of which would have been on other paper). In 1944 the dailies were down to 43, and weeklies were down to 58.

It may surprise you to know too that there were 11 fortnightlies registered with the Post Office in 1944, and 113 monthlies. These don't necessarily have anything to do with newsprint consumption, but that doesn't mean they have nothing to do with democracy either, Sir Walter Layton notwithstanding.

Few Foreign Serials

A CORRESPONDENT wrote to us recently saying that he thought too many foreign serials were being offered to listeners by the NZBS. Why, he asked, were there not more British Empire products instead of plays and serials from the United States? There was only one way to answer his query, so we took a week's programmes, covering all the NZBS stations, and counted the serials. We got the surprising total of 82. Then we looked up their countries of origin. Of the 82, by far the greatest proportion came from Australia—67 all told. There were four (the total number available at the time) from the BBC; six were NZBS productions, made in New Zealand, and only five originated in the United States of America. Some of the Australian radio plays are based on American stories, and apparently the producers have taken care to cast players with American accents, thus probably accounting for our correspondent's belief that the recordings were of American manufacture.

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