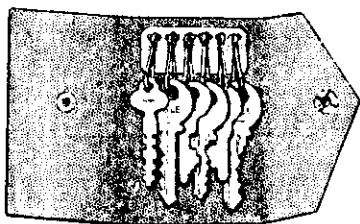
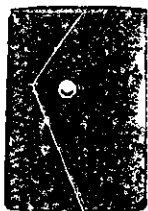


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OXFORD PRESS TO OPEN N.Z. BRANCH

THROUGH the recent war, the production of school-books, dictionaries and essential text-books was set back from five to six years. And that shortage was aggravated further by the British Government monopolising the Clarendon Press for publication of books connected with the war effort. No rapid return to pre-war speed of production



Spencer Digby photograph

R. C. GOODERIDGE

The first new branch since 1915

can be expected for some time, but publishers are doing their best to meet demands.

That was as much as could be said about present production by R. C. Gooderidge, of the Oxford University Press, who has come to Wellington to establish the first new branch since one was opened at Capetown in 1915. Early last year David Fullerton, overseas sales manager of the Oxford University Press, called on *The Listener*, and at the end of the year, C. E. Carrington, educational manager of the Cambridge University Press, looked in to see us. Between those two visits, the University of New Zealand made its first move towards establishing a University Press.

"The whole idea of a New Zealand branch started from a thought, but only after many months of planning did the idea begin to take shape," Mr. Gooderidge told us in an interview. "The preliminary arrangements, necessary fore-runners to a new enterprise, tended to become anxious days of waiting. But after some false alarms about departure dates, the British Overseas Airways Corporation people gave me 24 hours' notice to start a flight of half-way round the world."

Started on the subject of books, he said that the Oxford University Press, which started publishing in 1478, was a department of the University of Oxford, and was controlled by a University committee (the Delegates of the Press, whose chairman is ex officio the Vice-Chancellor for the time being), and administered by a hierarchy of officials appointed by that committee. The Press was not a company and had no share-

holders. All profits were used for the publication of books of intrinsic value which had not a sufficiently wide sale to support themselves. The present secretary to the delegates was Kenneth Sisam (whose *Fourteenth Century Verse and Prose* is familiar to many New Zealand University students), and under him was the editorial and production department, known as the Clarendon Press, which produced the learned works and educational books, from the great *Oxford Dictionary* to readers for infant schools.

No Commercial Rivalry

"The Clarendon Press and Oxford Press are two branches of the same concern. The Oxford Press, which attends to distribution was one of the few buildings near St. Paul's to escape almost undamaged by enemy bombs. Some incendiaries fell on the roof but the fire service was in the building at the time, and so little harm was done." Mr. Gooderidge emphasised that the Cambridge and Oxford Presses were two University departments rather than commercial rivals.

"What percentage of submitted work sees publication?"

"About one per cent. We receive a lot of stuff that is quite unsuitable; novels and so on."

"With so much of your work diverted to Government requirements during the war, how did schools fare?"

"Not very well; many of them were unable to replace text-books. They are now clamouring for supplies, and we are doing our best to meet their demands."

Before the war, Mr. Gooderidge said, the Oxford University Press listed 10,000 different titles in its catalogue.

"What are the outstanding single works published by the Press?"

"Cresswell's *Early Muslim Architecture*, A. U. Pope's *Survey of Persian Art*, the revised edition of Liddell and Scott's *Greek Lexicon*, Sir Paul Harvey's *Oxford Companion to English Literature*, Percy Schol's *Oxford Companion to Music*, *The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*, which has been described as 'the world's best bedside book', Arnold Toynbee's *Study of History*, and the many editions of such widely used hymnals as *The English Hymnal*, *Songs of Praise* and *The Church Hymnary*."

A Million Pounds of Metal

"At what time did the University printing house expand most?"

"Under the last three printers to the University: Horace Hart, Fredrick Hall and Dr. John Johnson. It was estimated a few years ago that the total quantity of type at the Press was more than a million pounds' weight of metal. It included some 550 different founts in 150 different characters, ranging from hieroglyphics and prehistoric Minoan characters, to the phonetic scripts of Swahili and Pasi, and including Sanskrit, Greek, Hebrew, Arabic, Syriac, Ethiopic, Amharic, Coptic, Armenian, Chinese, Tibetan, Burmese, Sinhalese, Tamil, Gothic, and Cyrillic. Charles Batey became the printer in 1946."

One outstanding project was the publication of the *Oxford Pamphlets on World Affairs*, starting with Sir Alfred Zimmern's *The Prospects of Civilisation*, and three other pamphlets, in July,

(continued on next page)