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A Year in Japan

THE survey by the official correspondent which we printed last week was a sufficient answer to those who still want to know what the New Zealand troops are doing in Japan. It was of course not the correspondent's job to say why they are there at all; nor is it ours. But there is one point which it is permissible to make, and even emphasise. It is this: that the longer our Brigade stays there, the more New Zealanders there will be with some kind of understanding of the continuing perils of the Pacific. We all know in a vague way that we live more comfortable lives than the people of Japan, but it is necessary to live in Japan to realise what the difference is. Even then it is necessary to think a little to realise what the difference means. It is easy enough to understand that a hungry man looks enviously at a well-fed man, a man in rags at a man well-clothed, a man in a hovel at a man who has lived all his life in a comfortable house. That has always been true of rich and poor everywhere, and it is not necessary to go to Japan to know that it is the first page of the story of most revolutions. But it may be necessary to go to Japan to read the second page—to see all that envy harnessed to science, and directed by leaders of restless energy and disciplined intelligence who know precisely how casual we are here. None of us can be simple enough to think that the menace of Japan has been finally removed—that we can go on for ever comfortable and careless while 50 times as many Japanese live hard, restless, envious lives within a day or two of us by air and a week or two by sea. It is certainly costly to maintain 4,000 troops in a foreign land and look after them as well as we look after ours. But if not having them there at all would mean that we would all go to sleep again, we can't afford for an indefinite time to bring them home.

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS**BAND PROGRAMMES**

Sir,—We think it is about time that bandmen and band lovers had a fair go. The standard of the band programmes on the air in New Zealand is nothing short of terrible. The average programmes being broadcast at present are made up of the Grenadier Guards, a few other bands of that class, and several vocal interludes. Now first, as the band programmes are only of 30 minutes' duration at the most, why the interludes? Secondly, all the bands in New Zealand are brass bands and definitely not military. The military bands which comprise most of the programmes are dull and lifeless, and most of the music they play is ceremonial and traditional, which is not appreciated in New Zealand.

Station 1ZB has the right idea with its Brass Band Parade broadcast on Sunday mornings. This programme is compered by Bandmaster Craven, and we offer him our congratulations. A few more programmes like that, and the band sessions would be the most popular on the air. Yet frequently classical brass band records which are double-sided, are cut off after only one side has been played. This happens mainly on the main YA stations.

22 DISGUSTED BANDSMEN

(New Plymouth).

(Twenty-two signatures were appended to this letter.—Ed.).

BROADCASTS IN MAORI

Sir,—As a constant listener to the Maori broadcast session on Sunday nights, I would like to express my congratulations to those who are responsible for the generally very interesting news they put across. Sunday night's Maori broadcast has become quite a feature among many thousands of the Maori people. The Maori people have no weekly Maori paper circulating among them, consequently these broadcasts to a certain extent take the place of a paper.

The Maori language of the announcers is equal to the best that is spoken in these days, and serves as a fine model for the younger generation to strive after.

I would like to ask the authorities to enquire into these two matters:

- (1) Would it be possible to allot more time for the Maori broadcast. Twenty minutes a week only for the world news and home news as well is too little.
- (2) A good deal of the Maori home news does not appear in our newspapers. Would it be possible for the announcer to give an epitome of Maori matters of general interest in the English language so as to keep the pakeha people informed of interesting movements amongst the Maori people? Very often the 9.0 p.m. news is over in 10 or 12 minutes. Then something is put on to occupy the time till 9.20. I feel sure the Maori announcers could make good use of the extra ten minutes or so.

Of course there are bound to be difficulties, but I hope some big effort will be made by the authorities to meet the wishes of a very large circle of Maori listeners. Meanwhile, we of the Maori race are very grateful for what has been

given to us already, and wish to assure the authorities that our Maori broadcast is very highly appreciated.

F. A. BENNETT,
Bishop of Aotearoa.

MUSIC IN SCHOOLS

Sir,—The statement made by Mr. Hopkins about music in the California High Schools not having yet reached the orchestral stage is surprising, to say the least.

I have attended many excellent concerts given by the school orchestras. The schools have both junior and senior orchestras, the best of instruments being supplied by the school; the students can use their own if they prefer.

Competitions are held annually in most districts. I attended those held in the City Auditorium, San Jose. Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, San Jose, Morgan Hill, Campbell, Los Gatos, and other

RESTRICTIONS ON BROADCASTING

THE programmes which we print in this issue were amended to conform with the first cuts authorised in broadcasting hours—8.0-9.0 a.m., 11.0 a.m.-12.0 noon, and 5.0-6.0 p.m. It has been impossible, however, to take account in these programmes of the much more drastic curtailment of broadcasting time which became effective on Tuesday, March 25, when broadcasting was restricted to six and a-half hours daily, Monday to Friday inclusive, as follows:—8.0-11.0 a.m., 1.30-2.30 p.m., and 6.30-10.0 p.m. The necessary amendments to the programmes will be announced over the air.

schools competed, all within a radius of less than 20 miles from San Jose. It was a wonderful experience, and I would travel many miles to hear anything like it.

Other countries in California are catered for in the same way, the west coast being very advanced in music in every way. San Jose has its own Symphony Orchestra, the State College in San Jose has a splendid one, too. (Population, about 100,000).

E. WILSON (Auckland).

NATIONAL ORCHESTRA

Sir,—Replying to your Editorial of March 14 about criticism of the National Orchestra: this criticism among those who knew the essential conditions necessary to get and keep a good orchestra, took the form, not of criticism of individual talent, but of saying that it was impossible with the groups separated for so much time, to get the required practice necessary. The big orchestras in England and abroad practise from three hours daily six days a week, 11 months in the year, in addition to frequent concerts, and much private and group practice.

This constant playing together is necessary to obtain that feeling of unity and wholeness and complete accord, which should be immediately felt by the listener.

It may not be generally realised that it is usually impossible for any individual player to hear the whole orchestra; depending on his position, he hears either the nearest or noisiest instruments as well as his own. This makes it still more important to have that complete confidence in one's own

and other's parts which only comes from continual practice with all the instruments and a conductor who has the confidence of the whole orchestra.

E. M. SMITH (Auckland).

BREAKFAST SESSIONS

Sir,—May I just add a few words of appreciation for the good breakfast programmes that are put over the air from 1YA every morning. To my way of thinking the breakfast music is far better than from 2YA and I enjoy listening in to the programme every morning.

RAYMOND B. MEDLAND
(Tasman).

"ANNE OF GREEN GABLES"

Sir,—There has been much controversy of recent months concerning the question of the suitability, or otherwise, of various radio features broadcast at times when children are listening. No doubt there is something to be said for both sides of the argument, and I do not propose to enter the lists. But what I should like to know is this. After so many features have been condemned, justly or otherwise, why choose a time when children are unable to listen to broadcast a programme so suitable for their ears as *Anne of Green Gables*?

More letters from listeners will be found on Pages 12 and 13.

While I realise that some youthful listeners would consider this feature "tame," since it boasts neither G-Men nor gangsters, yet I feel sure that many youngsters would appreciate an opportunity to hear it. "Anne" is beloved by children all over the world, and the adaptation is very well done. It seems rather wasted on the ether, though, at 1.30 on school-day afternoons. Since the entire Commercial network is running the feature, at the same hour, it does not look as though those to whom it would appeal most are destined to hear it.

"ANNE OF AVONLEA"

(Wanganui).

"THE GOD IDEA"

Sir,—Supposing there were a great earthquake, and years later archaeologists found only page 18 of *The Listener* of March 7—like one of the clay tablets of Ur. And supposing the only words legible were M. B. Soljak's:—

... there was too much weighting for good measure with the God idea; however dressed, this no longer is accepted by the thinking and adult-minded among listeners as having anything whatever to do with world betterment.

(There it is in cold print. The God idea. You know, just another of those ideas to be smugly pigeon-holed—like the fish-and-chip-once-a-week-for-tea-saves-Mum idea.)

It might be seized on as a major clue towards assessing trends here during the last decade. Perhaps it has been already. Will prophets please displace the atom bomb as their pet cause or something.

A.K.S. (Marton).

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

P. S. Findlay (Auckland): We are advised that the Programme Department is at present working on the points you raise.

D. Sutherland (Nelson): The lines are—"All through this hour, Lord be my guide; And by Thy Power, No foot shall slide."

L.R. (Wellington): Thank you. Something along the lines you suggest will probably appear soon.

R. J. Lane (Auckland): Cesar Franck. H.M.B. (Auckland): The subject has been discussed in our columns several times in the past. We cannot throw it open for debate again just now.