

# IF ONLY CANUTE HAD USED THE RADIO—

## Auckland Station Holds Back Waikato River

**H**OW savings in water used for generating electric power could be made was vividly demonstrated to 12B listeners the other Sunday evening. Dudley Wrathall conducted a short broadcast from the Load Despatcher's Office at Hamilton, and during the relay an experiment in saving electric power was made. Listeners were asked to switch off their lights to see what effect this had on the meters at the Load Despatcher's Office. The small group of men standing before the control panels waited for developments. In homes throughout the Auckland province hands reached for the light switches and in room after room, house after house, and town after town, electric lights flicked out. At Hamilton the watchers saw the meter-needles swing. And they swung in the right direction. The experiment was a success. During a 3-minute test, half-a-million gallons of water were saved—equivalent to an eighth of an inch in the level of Lake Arapuni—and remained in the lake instead of whirling down through the penstocks and over the generator turbines.

This dramatic illustration of what could be done when everyone co-operated in saving power started something. Could 12B assist in the saving of an even larger quantity of water? John Griffiths, manager of 12B, thought an even greater saving would be a certainty. Approval was given and 12B arranged a special water conservation programme for 8.30 on the following Wednesday night. Advertisers whose programmes are normally broadcast be-

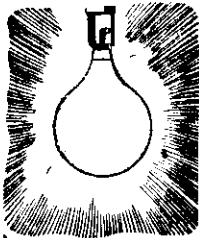
tween 8.30 and 9 o'clock on Wednesday nights willingly offered to give up their time to the programme.

John Griffiths conducted the programme at 12B, and at various times throughout the half-hour, the microphones were switched to the Load Despatcher's Office at Hamilton where Dudley Wrathall was waiting to give progress reports. The programme opened with a general statement of the power situation, including the warning that if no rain developed and the current power consumption continued Lake Taupo would be dry—for hydro-electric purposes—by Easter. An urgent appeal was then made to listeners to switch off lights for the duration of the programme, with the aim of saving 1,000,000 gallons of water in the half-hour. This appeal was made at 8.30. The effect was encouraging beyond anything that 12B and the hydro-electric staff had dared to hope. In four minutes the needles in the Load Despatch Office swung around and revealed a saving of 830,000 gallons of water. Two minutes later the total was 1,000,000. In six minutes 12B listeners were responsible for saving the amount of water that had been aimed for in 30 minutes. Hurried calculations were then made, and a new goal of 5,000,000 gallons was set. In the next six minutes another million gallons were shut out of the turbines and by 8.45 it was realised that the response was so enthusiastic that no one could predict just how much water would be conserved by 9.0 p.m. The 8.45 total was 4,900,000, and when the appeal finished at 9 o'clock, E. W. Mathewson, officer in charge of the Load Despatch Office, announced that 9,300,000 gallons of water had been saved in 30 minutes.

The way in which the water was saved was also a common question among the 'phone calls. As the demand for power slackened off, it was explained, governors on the generators at the power

house came into operation and started the mechanism closing the flood-gates, thus reducing the amount of water required to drive the turbines.

After this highly successful broadcast it seemed possible that radio appeals during a week might effect a saving of a minimum of 30,000,000 gallons. In the second and third appeals, which were made on Friday and Sunday, March 21 and 23, a further 25,000,000 gallons of water was saved, making the total for the week 34,500,000 gallons—well over the objective hoped for. This saving of power is estimated to equal what would have been used by about 500,000 ordinary household lights.



(continued from previous page)

"So you think one person should dictate to fifteen?"

"No, but I think the fifteen should accept their moral obligations."

"Do you think production matters?"

"Yes, very much."

"Do you realise that this Coast is the sheep reservoir for the whole of the North Island?"

"I could believe it after struggling through some of the mobs on the roads."

"There's no doubt about it. We feed the Waikato, the Bay of Plenty, and all the rest of the fattening land west of the ranges. When the Maoris get control our surplus will disappear."

"I should expect a heavy drop."

"Yet you support them."

"I don't know enough to support or oppose anyone. I am trying to get the facts."

"I've given you the facts."

"The immediate facts. But the problem goes further than that. We must consider the implications."

"Is there anything better than good farmers or anything worse than bad farmers?"

"Off-hand I can't think of anything. But if that is the whole story nothing matters but efficiency."

"What else does matter?"

"I can't say it simply, but it would be some kind of happy balance through the whole community: efficiency up to a point, but freedom and harmony too."

"What about Britain? Are we to help her or not?"

"Yes, to the limit of our powers. But don't forget that charity begins at home and that efficiency began in Germany."

"You think the Maoris should push us out?"

"I think you should call it something else."

"What?"

"I don't know. Perhaps justice. Perhaps just fairness."

"Not inefficiency?"

I did not answer that, though I think I know the answer. But I don't know an answer that will satisfy that very honest and deserving farmer. I suspect rather that the East Coast is our Palestine and that some harshness now may avert much anguish a hundred years hence.

## Callouses

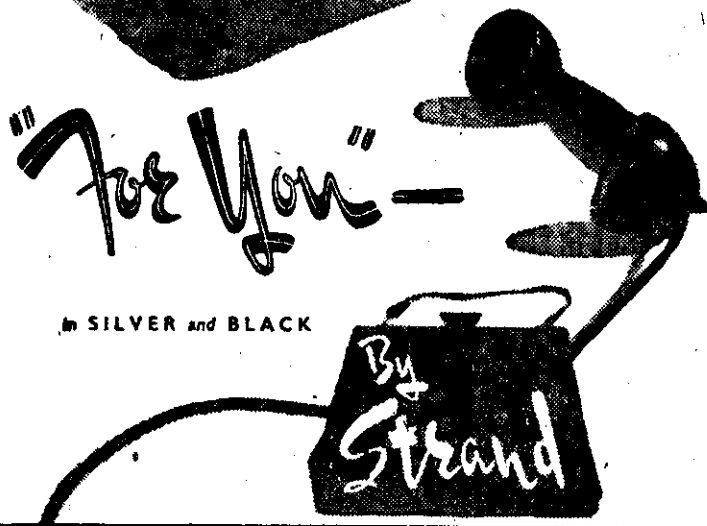
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