

Second Impressions Were Best

WHEN Ginette Delmas arrived in New Zealand 16 months ago to open the French Press and Information Service, she was disappointed in us. She had been told, on visits to England, Canada, and the United States, that we were very progressive, and we did not strike her that way at first sight. But when she understood our ways better she became enthusiastic, especially about the New Zealand education system and the way technical education, in particular, is handled. That is what she told *The Listener* in an interview before returning to Paris.

The French Government has reduced its budget and the closing down of the Press and Information Service in New Zealand and other countries is part of its economy campaign.

"New Zealanders are, I still think, more conservative than the French," said Miss Delmas, "but the way the consolidated schools in the country areas, with their transport services, are handled, has impressed me greatly. They are better organised here than they are in France, and I think we could profit by an examination of the system. And the way the children's health is looked after—the dental clinics and so on—it is very good. These are not ex-

actly new ideas, but I do think there is something new and interesting in the way they work."

Interest in France

Pupils of secondary schools have made full use of the Press and Information Service, seeking material about French politics, geography, history, and the resistance movement. "They showed

moment my future is vague. I am disappointed at having to leave without seeing more of the results of our work. They were just appearing, and now I have to go. But my friends and I at home will always watch the French newspapers with interest for cables about New Zealand affairs."



GINETTE DELMAS
Vague ideas will be corrected

by their questions that they have been trained in research," said Miss Delmas, who was also impressed by the intelligent and searching questions asked at the close of addresses she had given in schools.

We asked her if the particular work she had started would be carried on in New Zealand.

"No, I think this is the end of it," she said. "But I would like to see a Press and Information Service set up in Paris by New Zealand. It could be a two-way service; a New Zealand office could tell us all about its home country and at the same time send back information about us. Whether that is possible, I don't know."

The friendly relations established with the Press of New Zealand had helped her tremendously in her work. And she was grateful for assistance given her in Wellington by university students of France.

The Kangaroo Country

Many people still have the vaguest ideas about New Zealand. They still think it is part of Australia, and refer to it as the "kangaroo country." Miss Delmas will take pains to put this right. When she was advised that the service was to shut down, she took a trip through both islands, gathering as much information as possible. And she will pass this on when she reaches Paris.

"My job has been to tell New Zealand all about France; now I will tell France all about New Zealand. I expect to be asked all sorts of questions and to talk to groups of students. But at the

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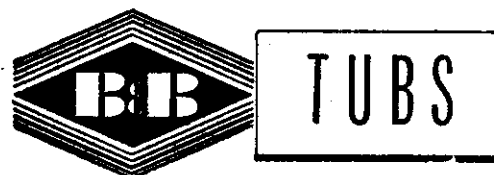
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to the Intelligence section of the A.I.F. During a leave period he recorded his first commercial pianoforte solos.

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THE housewife's lot to-day, standing in queues and carrying home the meat and groceries, is like the policeman's, so a session conducted recently by 12B was appropriate. Called "Housewives' Laugh," it attracted more than 20,000 entries and ran for five weeks. Jokes came from all over New Zealand and the sponsors found the job of selecting the winners a difficult one. Dudley Wrathall and Phil Shone conducted the programme.

* * *

ON Saturday, June 7, at 10.45 p.m., listeners to 3ZB will hear, in a variety programme, some songs by Vera Lynn, the London stage and radio artist. To date Vera Lynn has introduced more than 60 songs to the public. She is a Cockney who, in 1936, became vocalist to Ambrose and his Band. Later she started recording as a soloist; then she acquired her own orchestra. The story goes that she cannot read a note of music and that she learns all her songs by ear.

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