

was that the Church purged itself during the pre-Reformation and Reformation days, and disowned the ascendancy of the Pope; otherwise it carried on as of yore. Any changing was not done by the Church now known as the Anglican Church.

I am not an Anglican, but I am a lover of historical truth, whether it hurts or not, for only by knowing the truth can man rise out of the slough of despond and misery in which he now struggles.

SEEKER FOR TRUTH (Wellington).

#### SURPRISES IN TARANAKI

Sir,—When I read "Surprises in Taranaki" by "Sundowner" I was reminded of an anecdote told to me by a Taranaki farmer living in the Whangamomona district, who vouches for its authenticity. Here is the story. Bill (not his correct name, but I must not be personal) was a bachelor farmer. His nearest neighbour was a couple of miles distant, and not having seen Bill for some time, wondered if he was ill and in need of help. As Bill had a telephone, the neighbour decided to ring him, and receiving no reply, he decided to pay Bill a visit. With a friend he duly arrived at the bach to find Bill sitting on the front door step. While they were explaining the reason for their visit, they noticed through the open door that the receiver was off the telephone. One of them said, "No wonder we couldn't get you on the phone, Bill. The receiver is off."

"Yes," said Bill, "I got that bally thing put in for my own use. I don't want any of you blighters ringing me."

E.H.S. (Palmerston North).

#### SOUTHERN ENGLISH

Sir,—As a Southern Englishman I take a dim view of A. R. D. Fairburn's statement in a recent article, that Southern Englishmen in general seem to be incapable of using the letter "R." They will pronounce (Fairburn says) "re-write" as "we-wite." This is not so. Only two people have I met suffering from this affliction and they came from the Midlands. In fact they claimed it was hereditary and were proud of it.

Years ago this impediment of speech was regarded as "rather pretty" and a sign of good breeding. It was to some extent affected by young curates, and even dog fanciers. I assure A. R. D. Fairburn that the habit has suffered the same fate as the monocle, spats, and the chinless aristocrat.

N. BARWELL (Wellington).

#### UNITED NATIONS

Sir,—Permit me to express appreciation to LYX for the United Nations Week programme *The End is Where We Start From*. It was forceful, provoking, well produced. And congratulations to the NBS for declaring, by such means, that the human race is in danger, and that we can no longer afford to feast our minds only on saccharine fare. R.J. (Takapuna).

#### NEWS IN MAORI

Sir,—May I take this opportunity of expressing the gratitude of my folks for the extension of the time allowed for the Weekly News Summary in Maori. As you probably know, the Maoris have no national newspaper of their own, and the only instrument there is for tribal communication is the radio. Last Sunday night's broadcast of over 20 minutes was a treat, thanks to "Reo Irirangi," who is doing a fine job of work for his people.

"KAUMATUA" (Whangarei).

NEW ZEALAND LISTENER, JULY 18

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