

College Concerts, the Primary Schools' Festival, and similar community efforts, are proof that the faith and work of the pioneers associated with the founding of musical societies were not in vain.

It is not easy to assess the results of the art societies in terms of public support. Only the quality of the legacy the artists leave behind—their works—is final proof of the sincerity and success of their efforts. Otago is showing in an exhibition this month of March that there is much retrospective work to be re-discovered by our present generation. Contemporary sections of the same exhibition will show, we hope, that the light then lit still burns undimmed. It is timely, and just, that the light under the bushel should now be placed where all may see.

COUNT OUR MANY BLESSINGS

By the Hon.
F. WAITE,
C.M.G., D.S.O., O.B.E.



HAVING lived in many countries during the past seven years, I am more than ever thankful that my mother and father came to New Zealand when they did. There are very few countries in the world where life is so free and conditions so good as in New Zealand. That was borne in on me when I visited Egypt, Turkey, and the Old Country in 1914-16. Then I was shocked by the conditions—the low standards of the peasants on the Continent and the way women in England and Scotland had to spread the "muck" on the farms.

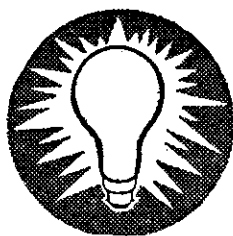
During 1940 to 1946 I had the opportunity of going over the ground again. There was a wonderful improvement in England and Scotland; in many ways their standards have become as high as ours. But in Egypt, Greece, and Italy the working farmers are very poor, even in normal times. It is no wonder that small farmers from Italy were ready to participate in Mussolini's scheme of land settlement in Cyrenaica and Tripolitania. The lot of the country women in Italy and in Greece is very hard.

THE settlement of Otago was one of the boldest in Britain's glorious records of colonising history. Determined young men and women, dissatisfied with conditions prevailing in the Homeland, looked around to see where they could secure a home overseas, where their children could live a free life, unhampered by the restrictions and the poverty of the Old World.

They might have gone to America or Australia, but after a good deal of heart-searching, decided to go farther than British stock had ever gone. For in the days of small sailing ships, New Zealand was far, far away. When Robert Burns wrote that lovely song, "My love is like a red, red rose," one of the phrases he used was: "Tho' it were ten thousand mile." In his day that was comparable with "Till a' the seas gang dry." These young people in Scotland decided to go to New Zealand—more than ten thousand mile. And those who came to the Otago settlement pushed on the

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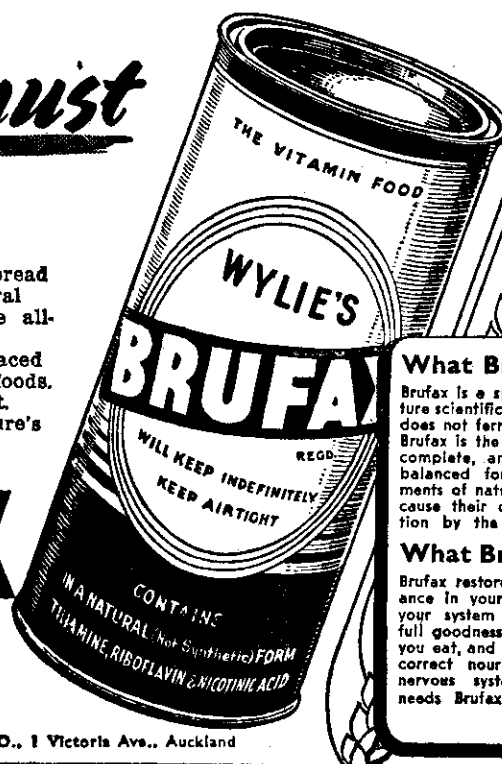


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