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Royal Visit

THERE is not much more to be said about the Royal visit next year than the Prime Minister said when he announced it—that it will be an opportunity for Maori and Pakeha alike to express their loyalty to the Throne. But it is worth emphasising that the King and Queen are not coming to New Zealand to discover our loyalty, to ask for it, or even to stimulate it. They are coming to receive it, and to give something in return. For loyalty is two-way or it is nothing. It is not something demanded of us and given grudgingly, though it may have been that once. It is something we give because it is there to be given, and there for no other purpose; something that exists only in being given. In other words, the King is our king not by external authority or decree but by internal desire; because we wish it to be so. The proof of our loyalty in the constitutional sense is the fact that we have a king, since we are under no external compulsion to have one. We have one because we want one, and we can want one, as free people, only if the bond between us is goodwill on both sides. It is no doubt true that the King is coming to strengthen that bond; but he is not coming because the bond is weak. He is coming because it is already so strong that the desire for a closer relationship is active on both sides. The King is a man and the Queen a woman. They are of the same human stuff as their subjects, with the same need to exchange emotions to keep them healthy. We want to see them in the flesh and not merely in photographs and print. They want to see us so that they may go away feeling that what they have left behind in New Zealand are loyal and friendly men and women and not merely a million-and-three-quarter subjects.

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

THE NATIONAL ORCHESTRA

Sir,—Hearty congratulations to Andersen Tyrer and the National Symphony Orchestra for a very beautiful rendition of the "Pastoral" Symphony on March 13. It is good to observe that the critics are unanimous in their praise of Mr. Tyrer's treatment of Beethoven on this occasion. I am sure music lovers would appreciate the opportunity of hearing more of Frescobaldi in the future. The "Toccata" arranged by Hans Kindler was a sheer delight. The Orchestra grows in stature with each public performance. O. J. PLUMMER (Upper Hutt).

Sir,—May I voice my appreciation of the wonderful performance of the National Symphony Orchestra which I was privileged to hear over the air this week. A bit more of this type of music, instead of the trash we hear so much of to-day, I am quite sure, would be enjoyed by other music lovers like myself. MUSIC LOVER (Helensville).

PAYING FOR TALENT

Sir,—I should like to congratulate you on the admirable sense of proportion which you displayed in your leading article on "Paying for Talent." The confused comments of V. J. Chapman hardly merit attention, but perhaps it is worthwhile to consider the principles by which salaries should be determined. There is firstly a broad dichotomy of payment according to market rates and payment according to "value" of service. I think we must firmly grasp the simple (but apparently neglected) fact that New Zealand has a population equal only to that of a large city. It is as ridiculous for New Zealand to try to retain all her distinguished students, as it would be for Edinburgh or Chicago or Calcutta to confine their intellectual leaders within the city walls.

Again, it is false to assume that New Zealand does not benefit from the scientific progress made by New Zealanders abroad. Scientific knowledge is rapidly disseminated throughout any political area. Further, there are many leading scientists who see in the spread of international scientific co-operation a powerful aid to world peace. A narrow and perverted nationalism seems to me to be the only excuse for the policy of "New Zealand Brains for New Zealand Only."

As to payment according to value. It is a platitude to say that our present rate of salaries for various professional groups is purely conventional, but since your correspondents seem to deal in platitudes, they may appreciate mine. Now there has been for many generations a world-wide tendency towards greater equality in rates of payment, and in this respect New Zealand is probably one of the most advanced countries in the world. This movement has been most persistent in the democracies and has been a product of the Western humanitarian philosophy aided, belatedly, by the radical element in Christianity. To reverse this trend, and give more to those that already are near the top of the scale is surely contrary to our social ideals. It is also bad economics.

With regard to the payment of £1200 a year to professors in arts subjects, I refer your readers to *Education and World Tragedy*, by Mumford Jones, reviewed in *The Listener* of February 27. I have just completed an Arts

degree and consider that attendance at lectures in most subjects is a waste of time. It serves only to foster the comforting double illusion—of the students that they are getting something for their money, of the teachers that they are earning their salaries. It is superfluous to add that there are honourable exceptions.

Finally, it seems to me that if salaries of professional workers are to be amended in the interests of justice, a substantial levy should be imposed on our host of doctors and dentists (most of whom have mediocre talent) and the money used to subsidise the salaries of members of the D.S.I.R.

JOHN CHILD (Lawrence).

Sir,—Your correspondent Professor V. J. Chapman complains that few university teachers are able to run yachts or launches, or to frequent racecourses. If he will consult the statistics he will

More letters from listeners will be found on page 17

find how few people earn more than university professors and senior lecturers—not nearly enough to account for the throngs at race meetings nor the boats in the Auckland harbour. There are probably few luxury craft in New Zealand waters. When Professor Chapman knows Auckland better he may find that most of the yachts and launches are jointly owned by their crew, who have learned seamanship in smaller boats and worked thriftily upwards; and that many of us think it more important that everybody should have a chance of being an amateur sailor, than that any one class should have the right to begin at the top. In this we may be influenced still by a former Governor-General, Lord Jellicoe, who raced around here in a swift and perilous but inexpensive 14-footer and incited many others to do the same.

But if yachts and launches and racecourses are mysteriously denied to university teachers, other wholesome and innocent pastimes are not. The professors who lectured to me at A.U.C. included a national bowling champion, a distinguished mountaineer, an elderly tennis ex-champion who could still keep us all on our toes, the town's most indefatigable amateur cellist, and its most tireless writer of letters-to-the-editor. Many people in other walks of life would be thankful for enough leisure and surplus vitality to maintain such efficiency.

Professor Chapman would have done greater service to science in New Zealand if he had confined himself to the cause of many other scientific workers who are much less favoured than those in the university. As it is he has drawn an editorial footnote which shows that university salaries are higher than the public probably imagined. And he makes me wish to mention that to these must be added considerable examining fees, and fees from broadcasting, journalism, outside lecturing and consultation. The salaries are paid during very long vacations, during frequent or prolonged illness, and during sabbatical leave. There has been a healthy bias towards appointing young men to senior posts, so that these incomes are drawn in many cases by people in their thirties—a material point. Moreover, in New Zealand the university teacher's children are not handicapped by accept-

ing the free education provided by the State, which is far from being the case in some of the countries where salaries are sometimes higher.

I am by no means complacent about the position of intellectual workers in this country, but we get nowhere by general statements about New Zealand's inability to retain her gifted sons. The nature of a man's talent, as much as its earning-power, may lead him to change his country. He may require to work in a team, or to accept different conditions for specialisation. Does the flow of talent from the universities move only outward?

For every senior post advertised here, overseas New Zealanders apply. Englishmen apply, too, and many have been appointed lately. Are we to believe that they are not gifted, these sons that England has failed to retain?

GRADUATE (Auckland).

Sir,—You published recently several letters on the subject of the salaries paid to New Zealand scientists. I hope you can find room for one more on a subject very similar. In the most recent *Education Gazette* applications are invited for the posts of Women Vocational Guidance Officers at Auckland and Christchurch. The applicants are expected to hold a University Degree and a Diploma in Education and to have some experience in teaching. Anyone who is familiar with the work done by these women knows that the post demands knowledge, experience, tact and personality of a very high order. The Vocational Guidance Officer must be a person of mature judgment, able to mix on terms of equality with the leaders of the community in every walk of life. The salary offered for these posts, in Auckland and Christchurch, is £315 to £415 per annum, and that is not merely the commencing salary, but the salary.

I have no axe to grind: I am not a woman and I am not in the Civil Service, and I am not connected with anyone doing or seeking this work. But I have seen something of the work of these women and have the highest regard for it. How long can we expect to command the services of able women in work of national importance if we pay them hardly any more than a half-educated boy or girl can earn within a few months of leaving school? Is it fair to exploit the spirit of service like this? Can we afford as a nation to have such a poor sense of values?

I have written to your paper on this subject because it covers the whole Dominion, and because I believe there are many people among your readers who care about these things and who may not know what a low value we set on ability, experience and a sense of public service. I know a schoolboy of 16 who earned £15 a week plus sea money for easy unskilled work during the last holidays!

C. N. MACLEAN (Wanganui).

ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENT

E. de L. (Timaru): (1) The use of vinylite for processed records is a matter solely for the manufacturer to consider in terms of business policy, capitalisation charges, invested interests, etc. (2) The Australian authorities also have a very large expansion project under development requiring the use of higher powered stations and new frequency allocations, so that it is unlikely that any relief in the matter of interference by Australian stations will be possible. However, the interested parties are conferring on the subject. (3) You should see your local radio inspector of the Post and Telegraph Department about the interference.