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EDITORIAL AND BUSINESS OFFICES:

#15 Lambton Quay, Wellington, C.1.

Box 1707, G.P.O.

Telephone 46-520.

Telegraphic Address: "Listener," Wellington.

## Gathering Clouds

IT is difficult to withhold resentment from those who continue talking about another war. Though the reason in most cases is mere feebleness of character and mind, the result could be a disaster if the habit grew. Sensationalists are always with us, but the man who would sooner have the excitement of rumour and lies than no excitement at all can sometimes be too dangerous to be allowed his liberty. Yet there is one greater menace than the man who proclaims loudly that war is inevitable, and that is the man who thinks that it is impossible. Whether he is a Henry Wallace or a Henry Dubb he is a danger to his country every time he adds two and two together and arrives at three. The less most of us say about war at the present time the less likely we are to discover what it now means; but silence should not end thought too. It is made plainer every day that the world situation is deteriorating. Everybody can see what is happening, and nearly everybody knows why, but no one knows how to effect a change soon enough to make the world safe again. All most of us can do, and it is much, is to avoid all the little follies that in the end pile up into the big folly of universal suspicion and strife. We can't directly influence events on the other side of the iron curtain, but we can do something on our own side if we have the courage to face facts calmly. We can keep our heads, to begin with, if we have any heads to keep; refuse to think either that war must come or can't come. We can work for peace, not by organising resistance to preparation or doing anything else as certain as that to hurry the calamity on, but by abstaining from the folly of provocation in all our public utterances and attitudes.

NEW ZEALAND LISTENER, APRIL 2

# LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

GIFFORD OF WELLINGTON

Sir,—I should like to express to you my sincere thanks and appreciation for the very fine photograph and article on the late Mr. A. C. Gifford which appeared in a recent copy of *The Listener*. In doing so, I know that I am also expressing the sentiments of not only amateur astronomers, but a very large number of interested people who came under Mr. Gifford's influence throughout the length and breadth of this country.

I. L. THOMSEN  
(Director, Carter Observatory).

NO MEAN CITY.

Sir,—C. A. L. Treadwell's simple and direct radio talk urging the Lord Mayoral title for Wellington has thoroughly convinced me, albeit at first against my will. I protest however against this statement: "As St. Paul said of his beloved Tarsus: I am a citizen of no mean city."

St. Paul was, of course, speaking of his Roman citizenship through his father. That he was proud of this there is evidence other than his statement above quoted. See also Acts 22, 28. There is some irony in his reply to the Tribune Claudius Lycias, who exclaims, "I obtained the being free of this city with a great sum." Paul said, "But I was born so!" There is, I think, no evidence that St. Paul loved Tarsus.

CITIZEN (Eastbourne).

CREDIT

Sir,—In Joyce Izett's programme from 3YA on March 9, the song "I Can Give You the Starlight" was written by Ivor Novello, not Noel Coward.

SYLVIA CRAIG (Christchurch).

APPRECIATION AND DEPRECIATION

Sir,—I agree completely with the letter written in your issue of March 5 "Interrupted Music" and signed "My Wife and I." Would you allow me to mention the following? From Auckland, on Sunday night, March 14, I listened to one of the loveliest voices it has been my lot to hear. With the first notes it was apparent that in Mrs. Narev we have a first-class singer and interpretative artiste. This is written in sincere and grateful appreciation and with the hope that the NZBS will allow us to hear more of this lovely voice and, if possible, with the backing of the National Symphony Orchestra. It is unfortunate that there must now be added, more in sorrow than in anger, the polite request that in future recitals the Broadcasting authority kindly and considerately allow an artiste to finish her recital and not "fade her out" as happened to Mrs. Narev just at that moment when many must have been wondering whether the singer would finish "One Fine Day" with a single or double high note as, for instance, Metya Seinemeyer did, and of whom Mrs. Narev fondly reminds this appreciative listener.

HOPEFUL (Wairoa).

DUNEDIN'S FIREWORKS.

Sir,—I read with interest a letter from "Opoho" (Dunedin) about the fireworks display, but I read with greater interest and pleasure the leading article on the same subject. I can remember seeing the Peace celebrations after the First World War, and what a joy that

was to me as a child; but how much more brilliant would this recent display be! Isn't it grand to fill the minds and hearts of our young people with some such beauty to mark such a wonderful occasion and also obliterate for young and old the tragedy the war years brought? I am certain Dunedin has never been lacking in support of any worthy cause and many times has topped the list. Has there ever been such a city of flowers, God's gifts put to such artistic use, in the show and cavalcade of progress? Carry on, Dunedin, you are doing a great work, and might even have something for the "Challenge of the Cities."

M.T. (Putaruru).

SHORT STORIES.

Sir,—E. A. W. Smith condemns the modern short-story writer for his loyal portrayal of life as it is. He wants romantic make-believe. I fully understand and sympathise with his desire—so does the bookseller. In any bookshop he can see rows and rows of Romance (true), Sentimentality (false), and

More letters from listeners will be found on page 16

Nursery rhymes (authentic). As a New Zealand writer of short stories I would ask him: (a) How would he compete against the hundreds of women's magazines imported which contain the same old plot of sentimental slush, the story of the Prince Charming and his beautiful Princess who lived happily ever after? (b) To whom would he sell his work? (c) How much does he think he'd get for it? and (d) If I undertake to cease "revelling with the Russians," and write (as I assuredly could) a string of modern tales modelled on Hans Anderson or the Grimm Bros., will he pay the publisher, the distributor, and allowing 25 per cent profit to the retailer, take a chance on his judgment of a "seller" being correct? After all—why, does he imagine, do we write?

LEO WATERS (Christchurch).

AESTHETIC JUDGMENT

Sir,—Your correspondent G. S. C. Doyle rises in his righteous indignation to defend his tastes against the rather strongly-worded attack of J. D. Parkin, but his defence is ludicrous; "Who is J. D. Parkin to use such words to people, who though differing on music and programmes, I am sure are on as high a social plane as the correspondent himself." (Italics mine).

Does Mr. Doyle really believe that social position has any relevance to an aesthetic judgment? Does the fact that the common lot of genius is to be ignored by the upper crust diminish the value of its contribution to civilisation one iota? Surely Mr. Doyle did not mean to inform us that, since he knows the right people, his tastes in music and literature are beyond reproach. I think it a pity that Mr. Doyle made such a mistake. How much more effective it would have been had he been content gently to rebuke Mr. Parkin for using abusive language, without any reference to "social plane."

I deprecate a violent antipathy to "lowbrowism" almost as much as the condition itself. Mr. Doyle would be quite entitled to believe that the world is flat, and should he do so, it would

be impolite for Mr. Parkin to call him an ignoramus, even though everyone except Mr. Doyle agreed that it was true. And when it comes to a question of aesthetics there is a large element of subjectivity in our judgments. In fact, the degree of objective evaluation in aesthetics tends to increase with the height of the brow, but I doubt if we ever say "that's good" without meaning "I like that," and we must be tolerant of those whose training has ignored the objective element.

R. J. BURNS  
(Palmerston North).

PROGRAMMES FOR THE MAORI

Tena koe, He maha nga tangata i tuhituhi ki a koe i te reo pakeha. Na, ka tuhituhi ahau ki a koe i te reo maori, kia kite ahau mehemea he tangata mohio koe, i te reo maori. Nonamata he iti rawa te moni i hoatu e te pakeha ki te iwi maori mo a ratou whenui nui. Inaianei he nui te moni i hoatu ki te rangatira waea-kore e te iwi maori; a, he iti rawa nga korero, nga waiata, me nga haka mo te iwi maori. Kahore i kitea te reo maori ki roto i *Te Listener*. Ko te reo pakeha anake. Ka kino nui enei mea. A, ka ui matou i te rangatira waea-kore kia mahi tika ia ki enei mea. Kia ora.

TERA POOTI

(Christchurch).

(The following is a translation: "Greetings. A number of people write to you in the Pakeha language. I am writing to you in the Maori language, to ascertain whether you are a person who understands that tongue. Formerly a very small sum of money was paid by the Pakeha to the Maori people for their extensive lands. To-day a large sum of money is paid to the Wireless Chief by the Maori people, but very small are the talks, the songs, and the haka for the Maori people. The Maori language does not appear in *The Listener*, but the Pakeha language alone. These things are very bad, and we ask the Wireless Chief to rectify these matters." The phrase "waea-kore" means "lacking wire," that is, "wireless." "Waea" is the English word "wire." The usual Maori term for radio is "reo-irangi," or "spirit voice."—Ed.)

AUXILIARY PROGRAMMES

Sir,—Your issue of February 20 had a letter from "Listener," of Hawera, which should interest most Canterbury listeners. Down here we have no alternative programme Saturday or Sunday afternoons (winter Saturdays excepted), and there must be as many race or other sporting broadcasts from Christchurch as in the northern centres. There is no "Third" programme at all like 12M, 2YD, or even the pioneer part-time 42D. As the NZBS overtakes its war-delayed expansion plans do you think we shall have, say, a 3YB, and are transmission hours of existing "Thirds" likely to be standardised at 12M level?

Perhaps you will be good enough to put these questions to the NZBS for answer in your columns. Good wishes for the continued success of your journal.

"HOPEFUL" (Christchurch).

(When the new 10 kw. transmitters are installed at Gebbie's Pass to replace the present transmitters for 3YA and 3ZB, and the power of 3YL is increased to 10 kw., listeners to Christchurch stations will have three stations of equal power to which they can listen. The hours of transmission of Station 3YA and its auxiliary 3YL will then be reviewed, and the question of maintaining a further programme on the present small station considered.—Ed.)

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

T.R.A.M. (Marton): No radio programmes anywhere contain all you ask for, nor could it be supplied without swamping important items in the mass of such detail.

"Anxious" (Masterton): We cannot open a correspondence on policy in Japan.