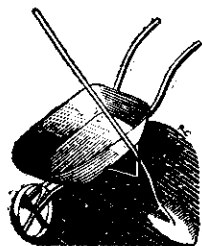


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difficulties under Social Security can be hammered out into something reasonably smooth.

LOCAL BODY ROADMAN

I'M an old man now—64—worked hard all my life and for the last two years or so, I've been in and out of hospital. Without this Social Security business I don't



know how I'd get on. I haven't been able to save much, so where would I find the cash to pay the solid bills for medical attention I must have piled up? I suppose I'll get better. Anyhow, when I get out I'll be free of money worries. I

hear some people growling about Social Security not paying out enough; what do they want—everything for nothing? Suits me, and you can put that in your notebook.

CITY MISSIONER

THIS is the finest measure ever put on the Statute Book. It makes life really worth-while. The spectre of insecurity is out once and for all. Actually it can be described as Christianity in action—the strong helping the weak, and everybody paying for it. It gives the old people a sense and an air of independence; those who are less fortunate than others are no longer dependent on charity. In times of illness—when the breadwinner is in dry-dock—there is a guaranteed income for the home. The community aim can be much more intense in a properly-ordered society with Social Security than in a society of want, but a lot depends on how we take it. You'll always get those who will grab all they can, but the majority of people are good; and in New Zealand they are as good and decent as anywhere in the world. Don't you yourself find that those who are against the scheme are pretty secure themselves? I do. It's something worth working for and defending.

SCHOOLTEACHER

I'M a headmaster, and I've had a good many years' experience in primary and secondary schools, in a number of districts, country and town. My opinion is that the general effect of Social Security has been good. You see it in cultural as well as material things. Children are better fed and clothed than before. They and their parents are better read; there are more books in the home. More children are taking music lessons. These things have happened because parents have more money to spend on their children. You see it, too, in the growth of savings bank accounts in the schools. It's common for parents to give a child a sum—sometimes quite a large sum—to put in the school savings bank every week. Some children have quite large accounts.

On the other side of the ledger there is a certain amount of lack of attention

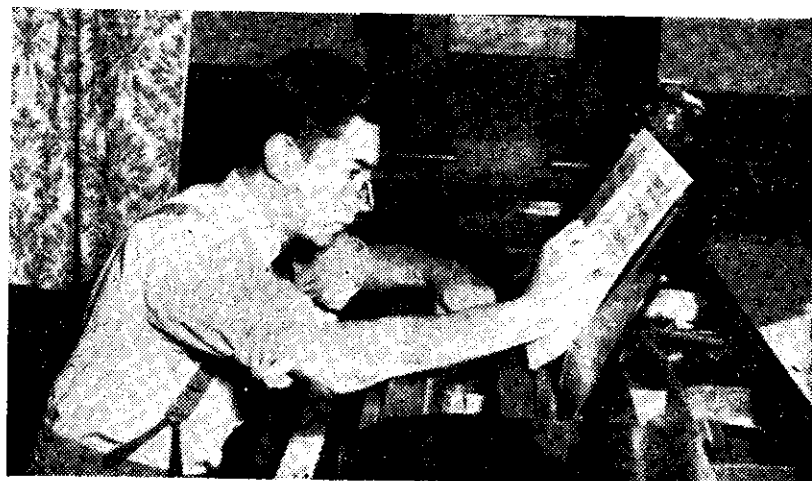
RETURN OF A PRODIGY

Tour by Richard Farrell

NEW ZEALAND has not been noted in the past for her musical prodigies, but many will remember at least one in recent years whose ability gained for him the highest praise from overseas critics—Richard Farrell. Richard Farrell was a Wellington boy who went to Australia while still a youngster to train at the Sydney Conservatorium. Since 1945 he has been studying in America under Madame Samaroff-Stokowski. Next month he will return to New Zealand, no longer a prodigy but a mature concert pianist, to tour the country under contract to the NZBS. He will give solo recitals and appear as guest artist with the National Orchestra, and his tour should be of particular local interest, for he is one of the few musicians whose study abroad has been financed by a Government grant.

ABC's Fatherly Interest

When he was at the Conservatorium—he worked, by the way, under Alfred Hill and Sverjensky—Richard Farrell's playing attracted the attention of Artur Rubinstein and Eileen Joyce, who predicted a great future for him, while the late Richard Tauber was so impressed with him that he made arrangements for him to go abroad. But unfortunately the war intervened, and Farrell had to remain in this part of the world until 1945. He returned to New Zealand for



a few months in 1939 to play over the air and at the Centennial Exhibition, and in 1942 he was back again giving a series of classical recitals from the ZB stations.

Throughout his years of early training in Australia he was encouraged by the Australian Broadcasting Commission, which took quite a fatherly interest in his career and presented him in "Young Australia" broadcasts, and at Young People's Concerts. He was a finalist in the ABC Concerto Competitions in 1944, and was also associated in public concerts with Peter Dawson, Arnold Matters, and the English violinist Thomas Matthews.

"Talented Young Man"

During 1945 he was sent on an interstate tour by the ABC, and played at symphony concerts in Hobart, Sydney, and Melbourne. A recital at the Sydney Conservatorium was reviewed by Neville Cardus, who described Farrell as "perhaps the most promising of young Australian pianists." He said: "Pianists are two-a-penny nowadays, but the possibilities or potentialities of Mr. Farrell should carry him beyond routine standards here, for his technical facility

is obviously supported by understanding of the materials of music, and the way it is put together, and the meaning of a composer's style. So talented a young man must be encouraged and given every chance."

Study in New York

Shortly after this, on the recommendation of William Kapell, he was awarded a scholarship to study in New York with Kapell's old teacher, Madame Samaroff-Stokowski, former wife of the conductor. His last Australian concert was a two-piano recital with Noel Newton-Wood, at which they played music by Benjamin Britten, Stravinsky, and Bela Bartok. Some time before he sailed a letter appeared in an Australian paper suggesting the formation of a trust fund to help him live during the three years of his scholarship. It was signed by Sir Malcolm Sargent, Dr. Edgar Bainton, Neville Cardus, William Kapell, and Noel Newton-Wood, and the appeal was so successful that the Australian and New Zealand Governments decided also to assist with financial grants.

Success in New York

In May, 1946, he gave his first public concert in New York. It was considered a great personal triumph. "Until Farrell played," one critic said, "the atmosphere in the Broadway auditorium was one of polite informality, but his performance of Copland's modern Sonata was followed by a great wave of applause." The composer himself was said to be so impressed by his playing the work without a score that he complimented him on his feat of memory and on the manner in which he approached and understood modern music. Madame Stokowski was reported to have said, "There is no Australian pianist of his type and age in the picture. He has a brilliant future."

Of other recitals at which he appeared in the United States during this year and the 1947-48 season, critics commented generally on his depth and range of tone and his remarkable promise for one still barely 21.

Richard Farrell will leave San Francisco by air towards the end of the month, and his first recital will be at Auckland on Tuesday, June 8.

and waste. There are children who get too much pocket money. There always were, but Social Security has made more money available. These children waste their money on ice-creams and picture shows and other luxuries. I have actually seen children eating ice-creams before going into school in the mornings. And it would be interesting to know what the expenditure on fireworks is when November 5 comes round. Then there are what may be called shiftless parents, who take the Social Security money but don't look after their children. The youngsters come to school in poor shape. Such parents have always been a problem. There are intermediate grades of parents, and it's hard to draw a clear line between them. Lack of care such as I have mentioned is commoner in the cities than in the country. But in bad cases I think more should be done to



protect the victims. If such a case is reported, then action might be taken by the Child Welfare Department or the Health Department to see that the money the parents receive is better spent. I may add that I have had a good deal to do with Maoris, and I have not found more waste among them than among Europeans.

MAN IN THE TRAM

I PREFER dealing with an insurance company. You pay your premiums and you know exactly what you'll get at a certain age or what your dependants will get when you die. Insurance people don't put you through a means test. It doesn't matter how much money you've saved, inherited or won, with a bit of luck at the races or in an art union, the company pays out the sum to which it is committed. I don't like the limitations imposed by our Social Security scheme. The man with several thousands in the bank is just as much entitled to share in the benefits as the chap who hasn't saved a bean. He's made his contributions like anyone else.