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LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

(continued from page 5)

"HOMES IN THE HILL COUNTRY" Sir,—I was very interested in Miss has obtained, I am convinced that pro-Northcroft's article "Homes in the Hill gress toward improved industrial rela-Country." I have lived in hill country now for over 12 years. My own beginnings were a country area in Great Britain among very different conditions, where the "village" was the focus of life for many miles round. We hear much talk of "shortages." The one basic shortage in the hill country is shortage of labour. In a recent Brains Trust broadcast it was stated that the New Zealand farm worker produces five times as much in value as does his opposite number in Britain. This sounds a creditable achievement, and when one considers the work done by one man on hill country, almost a credible one. When one considers further, however, that besides actual farm and stock work he is constantly obliged to turn his hand to all sorts of work which, properly speaking, is not part of his job, one wonders how it can be done at all. These extra jobs are, as often as not, rushed through, and are seldom done efficiently owing to lack of training. One wonders whether our high rate of production per man is such an asset after all and whether it is not achieved through overtaxing our available manpower and through the gradual depreciation of farm land and farm buildings.

In our district there are herds of from 30 to 70 cows, and the land rises to limestone hills suitable for sheep farming. There is a Post Office-Store and the local hall is close by and the school is not far away. A County Council house has been built recently to accommodate a roadman. seems a promising start. What is needed now is several more houses, possibly four. Two houses could be occupied by casual workers, men who would help with the work on the surrounding farms. Fencers would be useful (for many farmers are not efficient fencers), also shearers. Men who could combine a knowledge of these jobs and turn a hand to other work in season, would have as much work as they cared to do all the year round. Another house could be the home of a carpenter, who could repair farm buildings. This man would do many of the jobs which the farmer now does himself and does badly, owing to lack of technical training. Such workers would be housed in uncrowded conditions and their children would grow up in more healthy surroundings than they would in town. Also there should be a house for a trained nurse.

"HILL COUNTRY" (Te Kauri, Waikato). (This letter has been abridged .-- Ed.)

WORKER PARTICIPATION IN MANAGEMENT.

Sir,-Ignorance of the points involved among the speakers concerned might be a humble employee's assessment of the "Worker Participation in Management" broadcast from 2YA on Monday night. No speaker while I listened gave any indication that he realised that the employees want to share with managements and owners responsibilities and profits as an absolute right, not as a generous concession to some vague humanitarianism mingled with expedi-

After some 20 years' experience in industry where so-called co-partnership tionships will be slow until most employers and many employees realise that the "interest of the owner" is the kernel; incentive payments, etc., merely hover around the husil of the problem.

Without the "interest of an owner" employees are merely puppets dancing on the narrow stage presented to the restricted vision of the businessmen who control the strings-employees always asking, begging, demanding; employers always opposing vigorously and then giving way grudgingly as they complain about the excessive interference their attitude makes inevitable.

When a professional man requires assistance in his growing enterprise he does not string a puppet; he invites a partner to join him. Could not the foundations be laid to-day so that the industrial structure of to-morrow might grow gradually realising that man's natural right to ownership? Or shall we just muddle on into Communism?

URIAH (Hamilton).

APPRECIATED TALKS

Sir,-I should like to express my thanks for your reproduction of the broadcast talk by Ngaio Marsh. It is often of inestimable value to have the written record of something worth while, even though one may have heard the talk; the memory being at best a fallible affair.

I wonder if you could do the same in regard to the admirable series of talks by Professor Lipson on the American election this year. It is hardly possible to over-estimate the importance to this country and to the world generally of the result of the Presidential election: and the illumination shed on this complicated subject by Professor Lipson should make the series in print well worth while.

J. P. STEVEN (Timaru).

(Before our readers could have the first of Professor Lipson's talks events would have run ahead of the last.—Ed.)

CHURCH BROADCASTS.

Sir,—I wish to enderse the views of "Picton Listener" regarding the value of church broadcasts from a devotional point of view. A service from the studio, such as the regular morning one, can be very helpful, particularly when the preacher speaks slowly and distinctly; but it is both pleasurable and profitable to feel part of the unseen congregation, and to join in the hymns and prayers. Anthems and solos would be much more appreciated if the words were clearly enunciated.

Some ministers do state the hymnbook that is being used, as asked for by E. Lacey, of Petone. My request is for all ministers to read out the first line or two of the hymns, so that if we listeners have not the book used, we may find the hymn in another. The daily devotional services can also be more appreciated when we are told what the hymns are to be.

I suppose ministers rarely, if ever, have the time or opportunity to listen to the services. That is rather a pity, for if they did, they would understand better what is needed. There are, however, a few "super" ones about whom no complaint can be made.
"EGLISE" (Croixelles).