

★ VOICES FOR EXPORT ★



RED MOORE, the star impressionist of the Kiwi Concert Party, who left New Zealand the other day for the United States, where he will appear under contract to the Marx Brothers. Moore, who served in both the Army and the Air Force before joining the concert party, had his first public success at Christchurch nine years ago when he won a 3ZB talent quest with his impersonations of Bing Crosby and other screen and radio personalities. Since then he has perfected this act under the title of "Command Performance" and listeners to the Commercial stations the other evening heard excerpts from it in the course of a farewell broadcast originating from 3ZB.



ANOTHER New Zealander who hopes eventually to take his voice abroad is the baritone William Clothier (above), who begins a four weeks' tour of National stations at Invercargill on January 17. After serving for five and a-half years as an artilleryman in the Pacific and the Middle East, William Clothier was on his discharge from the Army awarded a full-time bursary by the Rehabilitation Department to allow him to study music in New Zealand. During the coming tour he will be heard from 4YZ on January 17, 18, and 20, from 4YA Dunedin (January 22, 25, and 27), 3XC Timaru (January 30), 3YA Christchurch (February 1 and 2), and 2YZ Napier (February 6, 8, and 10).

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week or two after my visit to Longbeach only the pine trees showed where the homestead had been. There were however several farms of 225 acres, and I was interested to discover that one of those was still in the possession of the family who occupied it when the district was first settled, and neither bigger nor smaller.

It is a hill farm, and I can still remember the heroic, and I imagine finally useless, work done by the owner in obliterating benches and smoothing down sidelings with a spade. I wonder, too, whether it has proved an advantage to get rid of the tussocks in the gullies. But all those things were done by one tough little man from Somerset, with a growing family, very little money, and no reinforcement for his muscles but two horses, with which he had no special skill, a pick, a shovel, a spade, and a hillside plough.

Roads were made, swamps were drained, a dam was built, debts were paid, the family were reared, and two members, a brother and a sister, live there still in modest and philosophic comfort. It is true that neither has married, but they have been to Australia and to Europe, one of them I

think twice, and I am sure they have never owed a penny to anybody for 20 or 30 years.

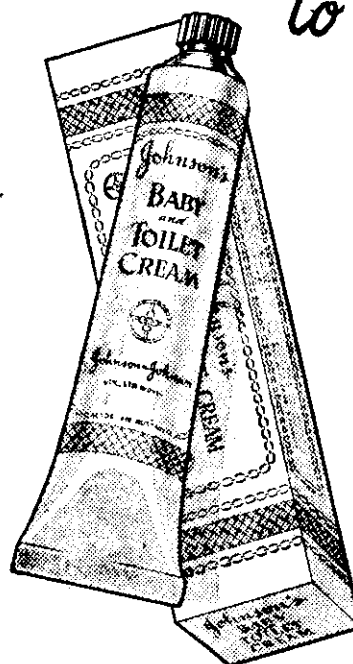
In their early days there were of course rabbits to be caught and sold—at early day prices (six for a shilling). There were station sheep to be shorn—at fifteen shillings a hundred. No doubt there was a little harvesting to be done (at ninepence an hour), or a day on the roads occasionally (at eight shillings). But everything else came out of that small farm, which was not overworked or over-stocked, but from a very early period was a free farm, bringing dividends in good years and a living at least when seasons were bad, and care-free sleep every night.

Not every family would have done as well in the same circumstances, even if it had been as diligent, as cautious, and as wisely careful of expenditure. A success like that is built on character as well as on energy, on wisdom within as well as on good husbandry without. But I suspect that far more successes would come if we waited for them, and that New Zealand is paying a heavy price for the impatience of most of its farmers, their big notions, and their ambitious gambles.

(To be continued)



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