

Through N.Z. To-day

(continued from previous page)

sure it was quite innocent, but it put temperatures up for the rest of the month. Some found motives in it, some obscurities and subtleties, and if it was

LAMBS AND HOGGETS

put to me once in three weeks it was put a dozen times. In the end I counter-attacked by asking when a district became a province.

The answer of course was when its name was Southland, but I had to go there to find it. I was surprised, disappointed, sometimes annoyed, and sometimes thoroughly ashamed to discover how uneasy life was psychologically in a situation where there need never have been tension at all. It is pardonable (though futile) to be worried if you are uncomfortably poor; if class distinctions press on you from directions where you least expect them; or if religion or politics separate you from those to whom you are most deeply attached. There is an excuse for irritability if your turnips won't grow, your oats won't ripen, your cows won't calve, or your bull won't gender. But Southland has none of these troubles. It has 45 inches of rain, and a mean annual temperature of 50. It averages five hours of sunshine a day, and its crops never fail. It has no very rich people and no very poor; no mansions and no hovels. Everybody knows or can know everybody else, and there are no families with their roots in antiquity. The shearer who gets 50 shillings a hundred knows that the farmer who is paying it got on his feet himself by shearing for 15 shillings a hundred, and he has no reason for jealousy. The schoolboys know that the man in the station homestead used to be a butcher, and they grin when they remember that their Sunday-school teacher owned a draught stallion in pre-tractor days and was his own groom.

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THERE is nothing in Heaven above or the earth beneath or six inches or six feet under the earth to justify rivalries, jealousies, strain, or disharmony of any kind in a province so incredibly rich and fortunate. But Southland is not happy. If it had a harbour (you are soon told) Invercargill would be the biggest city in the South Island. If they didn't have to

PURITANISM WITH PROSPERITY

grow winter feed, Southland farms would carry more sheep to the acre than the Waikato. If they were in the North Island, Manapouri and Te Anau would be so crowded with launches most of the year that they would require their own oil stations. If the roads had not been so good before sealing was thought of, they would now be the best in the Dominion. And so it goes on.

Southland's eyes are green—God knows why! Instead of enjoying life it throws life away. I hesitate to say it, but I came away wondering why the happiest people west and south of Gore seemed to be those who drank whisky and raced horses and resolutely refused to follow football. If contentment with godliness is great pain, puritanism with prosperity can be a creator of conflicts, and perhaps must always be.

QUICK QUIZ ON POLISHING

What do you use on a dull floor? Floor Polish. Yes, but suppose you want a quick shine, an easy shine, and a lasting shine. The answer is LIQUID POLIFLOR of course. This new Poliflor quality product is now available everywhere. LIQUID POLIFLOR is a product of extensive research and is made of high quality constituents. The more you use LIQUID POLIFLOR the better floors and furniture will look and the longer they will last. Ask your grocer for LIQUID POLIFLOR in the handy sprinkler tin.

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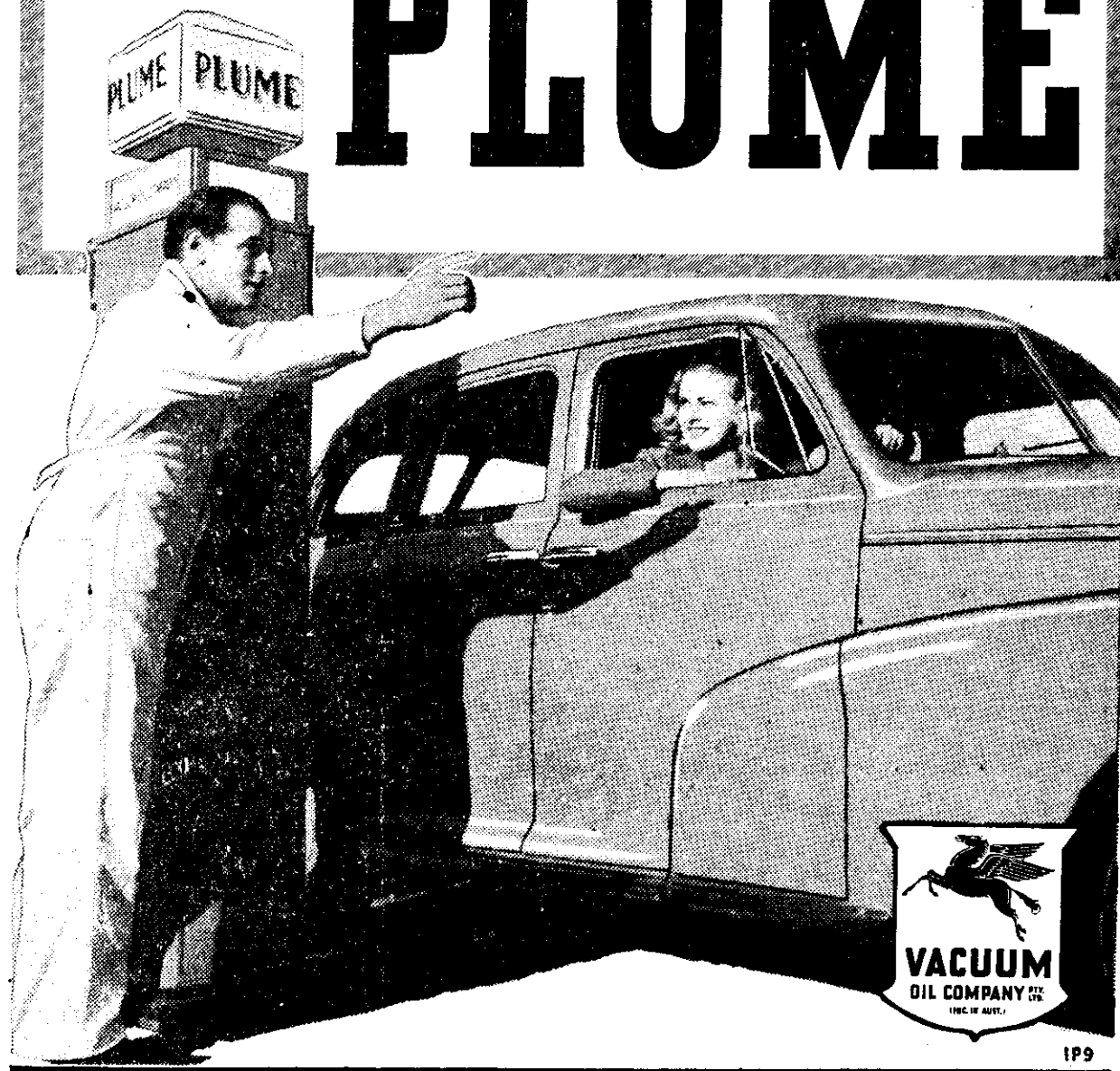
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