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Latvia, of course, the winters are very severe, but our houses are very warm, no draughts. Not like here, where you light a fire and leave the door open. Of course, I do not know how they may have lived in these camps for the last few years, and they may well be hardened to privations. But I think it important to see to it that they have plenty of warm clothing."

Although most of the settlers were from the working classes there would possibly be quite a number of intellectuals in the English-speaking Latvian group. They would find the cultural isolation hard to bear, she said. On the other hand, New Zealanders were so natural and friendly in their attitude to foreigners that it was easy to feel at home.

HUNGARIAN

A SLIGHTLY more cynical note was struck by Mrs. E., a Hungarian woman who has also been here 10 years.

"Most of these people will be grateful for anything," she said, "after all those years in camp. But you're bound to get a few with a martyr-complex who feel that everything should be done to make up to them for what they've suffered."

After 10 years here she herself feels a thorough-going New Zealander, all the more so since the very recent arrival of her brother and sister-in-law from Hungary. "They can't get used to the food," she said. "I cook my vegetables the New Zealand way now, in water, and even like mutton. But my sister-in-law after three months here still cooks the Hungarian way, and won't look at mutton. It makes it a bit difficult with only one kitchen."

New Zealand, she thinks, is quite the best country to settle in, particularly if you have children.

"I had a letter last week from my relations in America, suggesting I go there," she said, "and I would have gone if it hadn't been for my little boy, but I think New Zealand is quite the best country to bring up children in. And it will be no time at all before the parents of the children at Pahiatua realise that. On the other hand, it's possibly the worst country for women. They're never given a chance here to do anything besides the housework, and though of course it's a good thing to have so much food to carry home for the week-end, I'm almost half-dead on Friday afternoons."

RUSSIAN

MRS. B. is of Russian birth, and came to New Zealand to be married at the end of the first World War. Now she is up at Pahiatua taking the Russian immigrants under her wing, teaching English and acting as interpreter. "I do enjoy speaking Russian again," she said.

Most of the families Mrs. B. has already sponsored have very quickly

come to terms with life in New Zealand. She quoted one young Czech who had spoken in glowing terms of the helpfulness of the men he worked alongside in his first New Zealand job: "They always took care that I was given the easy part of the work. But what I liked very much was the fact that if I was ever able to do anything for them they let me. It was not that they wanted all the kindnesses to come from them."

"I'd like to see New Zealand open her doors to at least another thousand Europeans. New Zealand is so empty," she said. "Yes, I know it's the housing, but it's labour you're short of rather than materials. And if your pioneers could build raupo huts or sod houses so can these people. They'll find plenty of stones in your rivers. All they ask is a chance to settle in somewhere after all these years of shifting from camp to camp. They need so much the reassurance of permanency."

She had one concrete suggestion to make for the well-being of the Russians and Ukrainians at the camp. "At present there is no Russian Orthodox priest for them," she said, "and I feel it is very important that they should have one. In times of great emotional stress religion becomes very important, and if you have left your native country forever it is necessary to feel you have not been deserted by your church as well."

POLE

MISS K. is a middle-aged Polish woman who could speak no English when she arrived three months ago, but is picking it up gradually. She does housework at a private hotel, and her opinion of New Zealanders is not so glowing as that of most of the other women *The Listener* has spoken to—

"They ask me, the people in the hotel, why I come out here and I say, 'Because it was the only country I get a permit for,' and they shrug as though to say 'Poor New Zealand.'"

Asked about the Poles who had recently arrived in New Zealand she



WAR ORPHANS

"Already immunised against despondency."

Broadcasting the Empire Games

ONE of the major tasks which the NZBS will undertake next year will be the covering of the British Empire Games which are to be held in Auckland from February 4 to February 11, inclusive. During the eight days of sport there will probably be representatives of other broadcasting organisations in New Zealand who will co-operate with the NZBS men in sending the commentaries, summaries and results round the world. It is likely that the Australian Broadcasting Commission will send two representatives here to cover the purely Australian angle of the Games, and that they will be Bernard Kerr and Talbot Duckmanton—possibly with some other part-time commentators.

The BBC will, as far as is known at present, send two commentators and the South African Broadcasting Commission one. The NZBS will have available two mobile recording units, as well as tape-recorders and the studio facilities in Auckland. There are no definite details available yet as to the number of countries competing, the number of entries, or the events in which they will participate, and therefore no complete list of the broadcasting networks which will be interested. All the radio commentators will be given full press facilities so that they will be able to go to and from the recording studios to prepare their reports, summaries and impressions with a minimum of inconvenience. There will be one actuality broadcast of each event by a com-

mentator on the spot, and the representatives of other radio organisations will be able to make use of these broadcasts when editing their own material.

The last Empire Games meeting was held in Sydney in 1938, when athletes from 13 countries took part. They came from England, South Africa, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Southern Rhodesia, India, Ceylon, Trinidad, Scotland, Wales, Bermuda, and British Guiana. In the course of seven days 60 new records were created in track, field, and athletic events and 11 in swimming, and New Zealanders were prominent in many departments.

The programme for 1950 will cover nine branches of sport—athletics, cycling, swimming, rowing, boxing, wrestling, bowls, fencing, and weight-lifting. Provisional arrangements have been made for the athletics to be held at Eden Park, the rowing on Lake Karapiro (near Hamilton), the cycling at Western Springs Stadium, the swimming in the Olympic Pool (Newmarket), and the boxing, wrestling, weight-lifting, and fencing in the Auckland Town Hall. The bowls contests will be played off on various Auckland greens.

It is proposed that athletics should be held on four afternoons, with a marathon race starting at 11.0 a.m. Swimming is expected to take up four sessions, with one session for water-polo; wrestling and boxing, six sessions; weight-lifting, four sessions; rowing, one day; bowls, six sessions; cycling, two night sessions and a morning session, including provision for a road race; and fencing, 15 sessions.

said, "New Zealand is very lucky to get them. Very good workers and very good fighters."

AUSTRIAN

A LARGE-SIZED sop to our cultural aspirations was provided by Mrs. D. who has been here for 18 months. Before that she was teaching music in Vienna. "I cannot speak for these others who have just come," she said, "but I am happy here because I am happy wherever there is music. New Zealand people are so interested in music—there is a piano in almost every house, and already I have more pupils than I can deal with."

CZECH

THE last person we spoke to was Mrs. S. who got away from Prague with her husband and little girl in 1938.

"I think they are going to a lot of bother for these people," she said. "This four weeks of schooling! But it will certainly make it easier for them. But me! When I came I could not speak a word of English, and my husband about two words, but we managed in the end. And all we knew about New Zealand was from something we got from the Immigration Department while we were in Vienna, called *New Zealand in a Nutshell*. And then we got a book written by some well-known Czech who had toured New Zealand years before and it

was an account of all the receptions he had been to. And according to him everything in the garden was lovely. But at first, of course, it was different for us.

"Yes, we are all right now. The children are regular New Zealanders. They won't eat garlic and they like their vegetables plain boiled, but they still eat my apple-strudel.

"Homesick? Yes, of course I'm homesick. Probably nobody—certainly no woman—stops being homesick no matter how long she spends in another country. It is easier, of course, with time. It will be very hard, just now, for those who have just arrived. I am happy here, but perhaps I am at the pictures, or turning over the pages of a magazine, and there is a picture, it might be of Prague, and then I am walking down that street and round the corner I will come to that tall apartment building where is the flat where we live. Then I come back, *bump!* and I know that I shall never see that street again."

She shrugged, philosophically, the gesture of one who has accepted the inevitable with good grace. Possibly at Pahiatua at this moment the hundreds of exiled Europeans are making the same gesture. It is a good one from New Zealand's point of view, since it argues a willingness to leave the past behind and come to terms with what is both New Zealand's future and their own.