

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

Letters sent to "The Listener" for publication should be as brief as possible, and should deal with topics covered in "The Listener" itself. Correspondents must send their names and addresses even when it is their wish that these should not be published. We cannot undertake to give reasons why all or any portion of a letter is rejected.

WHAT SHOULD WE EAT?

To the Editor,
"The Listener"

Sir,—Congratulations to R. T. Kohere for her very sensible and interesting letter which appeared in last week's *Listener*. We Pakehas pride ourselves on our sense and civilisation, but both sink into significance in the face of a letter such as this and especially when it comes from one of our Maori sisters.

If eels were used in our daily menu in preference to so much meat the health of our families would be much better. Personally I would sooner have a good eel than a sole or flounder, and I am looked on as a highly civilised Pakeha.

So much for eels. And I quite agree with all she has to say regarding "painting the lily" and making work. Some of my friends think our family are cranks because we never bake cakes or pastry or have a butcher. We have plenty of vegetables, fruit, cream, mussels, and other fish foods as well as edible sea-meal cooked, and because of this manner of living we never have to buy any medicine or pills. If by accident we have a scratch, burn, or cut, as long as it is kept clean there is no need for

salves or pomades, and our Maori sister could tell you why: because our blood is clean.

I remember a doctor's wife telling us one time of her husband's dislike for decorations and flavourings for food. If he had rice pudding, it had to be rice, not eggs, vanilla, and what not.

I trust that R. T. Kohere's letter will set some of our civilised Pakehas thinking, with the result that their indigestion and similar ailments will soon be a thing of the past.

(I enjoy your articles in *The Listener*, so much so that I post two every week to my boys overseas. Good luck.)

Yours, etc.,
SOUTHLANDER.

Riverton,
February 15, 1940.

DX NOTES

To the Editor,
"The Listener"

Sir,—Not one listener in 5,000 is interested to know that WPIT and WBOS are to broadcast advertising; nor that Budapest can be heard on "one cat" power, or that the South Pole transmission cannot be heard in New Zealand. Why worry about a Berlin

station which can be heard on 10.29 mc/s when there are hosts of other German transmitters that come in like locals?

The whole thing is absurd. It might have been of interest 15 years ago, but not now, when 90 per cent. of listeners can get Germany, Russia, Rome, Daventry, Paris, and, of course, "Nigger Music" stations in North and South America at excellent volume. These DX notes are a sinful waste of nine inches of valuable space in your interesting and widely read *Listener*.

Yours, etc.,
"BORED."

Eltham,
February 15, 1940.

PIONEERING THE PUMICE

To the Editor,
"The Listener"

Sir,—I would not have ventured again to trouble you, but both your reviewer and the criticism of "Effigy" give the impression that my book contains matter repulsive to modern thought.

This is by no means correct. "Pioneering the Pumice" is what it professes to be—a straightforward account of the struggle and the achievement of proving the suitability for close settlement of the huge central plateau of the North Island—the greatest area of habitable and cultivated land in the Dominion.

I make no excuse for brief allusions to other subjects. They illuminate and enliven the book, while the chapters on such subjects as the Maoris, afforestation,

and the work of development, are the result of much study and lengthy practical experience.

Nor do I offer any apology for decided opinions. The great undertaking in which I was engaged required a sound knowledge of many things, as well as a well-balanced, decided, and bold mind. I fear that my ridicule on the equality of man may have offended some. But the equality of man is the greatest lie ever invented, and is even now bringing democracy to ruin.

I could say much of the hundred years' struggle between the two Islands, in which the South has always succeeded in securing the lion's share through the complaisance of Auckland. A professor in an American University has just written to me most enthusiastically about the book. He says: "Your book should be on every New Zealand bookshelf, for it is a most valuable and original human document." This gentleman is a professor of sociology, and was recently in Auckland making investigations.

Yours, etc.,
E. EARLE VAILE.

Auckland,
March 5, 1940.

To The Editor,
"The Listener"

Sir,—It is seldom nowadays that we find such a charmingly unblushing conservative as your correspondent, E. Earle Vaile—at least few of them are so bluntly outspoken in print, whatever they are in private. So let us have another tilt at him. He has guaranteed his ability and willingness to instruct. Here, then, is a problem to tax his logical faculties.

He says in effect that he cannot visualise prosperity with sanctity of contract abolished. Let us take the case of the Allied war debts. As Coolidge said, in the simplicity of his conservative business mind, "They hired the money, didn't they?" But what happened? First of all, Britain and the other debtor nations were granted a moratorium (has Britain granted New Zealand a moratorium "for the duration"?), and then the whole question of repaying the debt was quietly forgotten. In other words, Britain tacitly repudiated her liabilities. To add insult to injury, she proceeded to devalue her currency and by abandoning the gold standard altogether managed to recapture these overseas markets which the United States had entrenched on in the war years. If that does not represent prosperity with the sanctity of contract abolished, I, for one, would like to know what it is.

But, of course, when a Liberal or Labour Government finds difficulty in repaying the liabilities incurred by its predecessors in office it is termed spendthrift and bankrupt, whereas, when a conservative financial policy demands repudiation on a colossal scale, exchange manipulation is lauded as economic genius. It's all in the political point of view. For myself, I do not like breach of contract, but it does seem like good business. Most of our difficulties arise from the fact that good business is so very, very seldom good morality.

Yours, etc.,
LOCKSLEY HALL.

Auckland,
March 1, 1940.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS
"Interested".—One and the same.

CLOSING NEXT WEEK

LUCKY THIS TIME



No 92 ART UNION
£5000
ALLUVIAL GOLD

Secretary: N. McARTHUR, P.O. Box 110, Wellington.
Treasurer: B. L. HAMMOND, P.O. Box 110, Wellington.

POST THIS COUPON NOW!

Send it to nearest Agent (see list below)

Please send me..... tickets in "LUCKY THIS TIME" Art Union (Tickets 2/6 each). I enclose Postal Note for £....., also stamped addressed envelope for reply. (Postal stamps not accepted in payment of tickets.)

NAME.....
ADDRESS.....
Mr., Mrs., or Miss)

By License issued under section 42 of "The Gaming Act, 1908."

OBJECTS: To raise funds to the extent of the profits available for the objects to be specified by the Hon. Minister of Internal Affairs.

1ST PRIZE	£2000
2ND	1000
3RD	500
4TH	400
5TH	300
6TH	200
7TH	100
100 PRIZES of £5 each	500
TOTAL PRIZES	£5000

ALL PRIZES PAYABLE IN ALLUVIAL GOLD

CLOSES:
30th MARCH, 1940
DRAWN:
12th APRIL, 1940

Tickets obtainable from: AUCKLAND: Hammond & McArthur Ltd., P.O. Box 1505, Auckland. HAWKE'S BAY and POVERTY BAY: F. Cray, P.O. Box 33, Napier. WELLINGTON, WAIRARAPA and MANAWATU: Hammond & McArthur Ltd., P.O. Box 110, Wellington. WANGANUI and RANGITIKEI: Goodey & Son, P.O. Box 436, Wanganui. TARANAKI: W. G. Watts, P.O. Box 268, New Plymouth. NELSON and MARLBOROUGH: The District Agent, "Lucky This Time" Art Union, P.O. Box 135, Nelson. BULLER, GREY and WESTLAND: C. H. Rose, P.O. Box 171, Greymouth. CANTERBURY: D. McCormick, 146 Manchester Street, Christchurch. OTAGO: W. B. Steel, P.O. Box 393, Dunedin. SOUTHLAND: J. F. Dundas, P.O. Box 286, Invercargill.