

LISTENER

Incorporating N.Z. RADIO RECORD

Every Friday Price Threepence

JUNE 28, 1940

EDITORIAL AND BUSINESS OFFICES:

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On With The Battle

THERE was a great deal of discussion last week about the terms the dictators would give France; most of it a waste of time. It mattered greatly to France whether her liberty would remain or be destroyed, but the moment she appealed to Germany what mattered to us was the strength of our own right arm. That is what matters still. It is of course important to know why France failed—why the best-trained army in Europe was crushed in thirteen days; but it is a problem for the General Staff and not for the man in the street.

The duty for the rest of us is to brace ourselves for the trials that are now upon us. Mistakes have been made and will have to be paid for, but the costliest of all mistakes is to forget the value of time. Germany over-ran Poland in sixteen days; brought Belgium and Holland to their knees in a week; broke France in less than a fortnight. To forget facts like those while we hold inquests into situations the facts of which may be established in ten or fifteen years is to do precisely what Hitler hopes we will do.

We must get on with the battle, rallying our resources, rallying our own souls, and never forgetting for a moment that we are in liberty's last ditch. But let us not forget at the same time that "sudden the worst turns the best to the brave." Although a poet said it, a thousand pages in history prove it. Need we turn farther back than Dunkirk? But faith without works is dead. Our confidence needs facts to feed on—and the facts are there if we will look at them: the world's strongest navy; not the biggest, but the boldest and hardest-hitting air force; the only limitless source of raw materials; the only direct access to the mass-production factories of the United States. We had far less than that to brace us before Waterloo.

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 Correspondents must send their names and addresses even when it is their wish that these should not be published.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.

AN "OUTSTANDING INTERPRETATION"

The Editor,

"The Listener"

Sir,—As a reader of your paper I must congratulate you on your "Notes on Sport," especially Questions and Answers about Rugby. Being interested in the code I appreciate this outstanding interpretation. I have spoken to several players on various questions given and it is surprising how many are ignorant of the rules. Your article has aroused much interest in the Club and this page has been posted in our dressing sheds where I am sure it will be a benefit to many players.

Looking forward to more articles of this nature.

Yours, etc.,

"LATE TACKLE"

Temuka,

June 18, 1940.

A PROGRAMME COMPLAINT

The Editor,

The Listener.

Sir,—Being a regular subscriber to *The Listener* since its inception, I wish to say that I am a little disappointed with the fact that the programmes are not always kept to the advertised time. I am listening at present to a serial ("The Marshalls"), and the scheduled time was 9.15 p.m. But the war news finished early and the weather report was given at 9.9 p.m. The serial was begun at 9.10, instead of at 9.15, and then when the serial was over, records were played to put the next item on time. Why not play records after the weather report and put the serial on time?

I could quote many other instances. Then take the "Dr. Mac" serial at ZB Stations. It is not listed in 12B programme, although it is on all other Commercial programmes. Why? Also ZB Stop Press news does not apply.

Yours etc.,

F. WILSON.

Auckland,

June 6, 1940.

SERIALS AT THE WEEK-END

The Editor,

The Listener.

Sir,—I would like to suggest to the National Broadcasting Service that there should be more serials presented on Saturday and Sunday nights. On Saturday night the only serial from the four YA stations is "One Good Deed a Day," and that is from 3YA. And on Sunday night there are no serials at all from the four YA stations. Can't it be arranged for two quarter-hour serials to be broadcast at 8.30 p.m. on Sunday nights from all the YA stations. The same on Saturday and Friday nights. I think it is only right that the week-end programmes should be as good as the week ones.

Yours etc.,

WEEK-END LISTENER.

Levin,

May 31, 1940.

NEWS IN ENGLISH

The Editor,

The Listener.

Sir,—I am writing to tell you what an excellent idea it is to have the times of the English news bulletins from the world's short-wave stations in *The Listener*. It's a credit to those responsible for getting

all the times. On Sunday morning (May 26), I heard the English news from Tokyo, Japan, at 7.30, from JZK on the 19 metre band, not from JVI on 31.41m. or JVV on 41.34 metres as listed in *The Listener*. I also heard an English news bulletin from Paris at a different time from that printed in *The Listener*, but forget the time at the present, and will let you know if I hear it again.

Hoping this is of some help to you,

Yours etc.,

B. PETERSON.

Clinton,

May 31, 1940.

VOCAL MUSIC

The Editor,

The Listener.

Sir,—During the last twenty years, vocal music seems to have deteriorated to an alarming extent, and bad habits are insidiously ruining the world's most promising vocalists. I refer particularly to the objectionable habit of demi-semiquaver every sustained note in a tremolo. This corrugated tremolo epidemic seems confined to the younger vocalists—a phase perhaps of war's aftermath—another instance where "the fathers have eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth are set on edge."

It may take years to eradicate, and it is difficult to suggest an acceptable remedy, but it is probable that if all vocal music were censored by a Mus. Doc. before broadcasting, quality would not be sacrificed for quantity.

Yours etc.,

ANTI-TREMOLO.

Palmerston North,

June 5, 1940.

WELSH RAREBIT

To the Editor,

"The Listener."

Sir,—In *The Listener* for June 9-15 (Page 6, Static) your contributor makes a remark about Welsh rabbit. Please see that it does not happen again. It is Welsh "rarebit." I have seen "rabbit" in books, so your writer is not the only offender, but in case he does not know, please let me correct him.

Christchurch,

Yours etc.,

G. H. JONES.

June 10, 1940.

[We hate having to tell our correspondent that he will see "rabbit" in the Oxford Dictionary.—Ed.]

ANNOUNCERS' VOICES

The Editor,

"The Listener"

Sir,—One of the letters in *The Listener* of June 7 showed poor judgment and poorer taste. Perhaps your correspondent has an acute accent, so hates to admit that our speech is a corruption of pure English.

The same education which has told him about the French of Stratford-atte-Bow should warn him to give decent respect to other people's opinions "even if they are wrong."

Visitors are worth listening to, especially in this matter of good speech where we are apt to be so pitifully complacent.

Yours, etc.,

VERSERBERLETY.

Levels,

June 10, 1940.