

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

(Continued from page 5)

FEDERAL UNION

The Editor,
"The Listener."

Sir,—In *The Listener* of May 17 a letter appears under the above heading by a writer who appears to favour the idea.

Let us see how an International Government such as "Federal Union" would work out in practice.

Take for instance the position of New Zealand. No doubt we would still continue to elect our Government on democratic lines; but the Government when elected would have absolutely no power over our more important functions such as defence, finance, customs and trading.

Suppose we wished to alter our customs or otherwise control our external trading conditions, we could not do so, as all such things would be controlled by the Federal Union Government. Again, suppose we wished to alter our financial system so that it would truly reflect our productive possibilities, and allow us in New Zealand to live our lives in the way we wish to live. Such action would be quite impossible as again the Federal Union would have the power.

If all the electors in New Zealand wished to alter any or all of the conditions governing the financial or external trading systems, they would not be allowed to do so unless they could influence the decision of the Federal Union Government. If we were so determined on a change that we suggested using force, the super Air Force would be used to keep the peace.

Suppose then we tried to get the things we in New Zealand wish for, by the influence of our elected representatives to the Federal Union. Two difficulties would arise. First, would it be

possible to elect the best men in New Zealand to the position, and in the second place could they influence decisions when elected?

To elect two representatives (which would be the quota for New Zealand), it would be impossible for the candidates to be known to most of the electors except through the newspapers and the radio. That being so, no person would have a chance of election unless he was acceptable to the people who controlled the newspapers and broadcasting.

The second danger is even more obvious, as the combined population of the suggested Federal Union would be something like 230 millions, and of these the U.S.A. would probably have a small majority over all the other nations combined. On a population basis, New Zealand would have two representatives out of about 230 odd, so what possible influence could we have over any of the institutions controlled by the Federal Union?

Whatever might be the intention of the supporters of Federal Union, the only possible result would be a complete loss of our powers of self-government.

Yours etc.,
C. F. CLAASEN.

Rawene,
June 8, 1940.

TAMPERING WITH THE CLASSICS.
The Editor,
"The Listener."

Sir,—I feel that I should protest against the radio version of George Eliot's "Silas Marner," which has been adapted and produced by those merchants in sudden death, blood, and hair-raising horrors—George Edwards and Company. It is indeed sacrilegious to make such fantastic alterations to the original plot, and it amazes me that such stuff is sanctioned by the NBS.

I need mention only a few of the absurdities in this radio production: Nancy Lammeter's ridiculous interview with Squire Cass, the death of Molly in Marner's cottage, Godfrey's accusation of Silas Marner for the murder of Dunstan, the subsequent Court case, and the apparent invention of the character Felix Henderson. I do think that, if classical literature is to be adapted for radio, and I have no objection to this, it should be placed in more competent hands than those of George Edwards and his associates, whose proper themes are "The Case of the Night of Dread," etc. It would be more pardonable if these changes were necessitated by the different medium of expression, but this is not the case.

If we must have trash, let us not tamper with the classics.

Yours etc.,
OWEN R. LEE.

Christchurch,
June 11, 1940.

CLASHING SERIALS.

The Editor,
"The Listener."

Sir,—I wish to bring to your notice that 4YO have the serial "Out of the

HOW MUCH DID YOU KNOW?

Here are the answers to the questions on page 14.

SUNDAY: "A Children's Overture" (Quilter) (2YA at 9.15 p.m.)

MONDAY: Henry Kingsley's "Ravenshoe" (1YA at 8.45 p.m.)

TUESDAY: "Semiramide" Overture (Rossini) (1YA's Dinner Music)

WEDNESDAY: Mabel Constan-duros (2YA at 9.46 p.m.)

THURSDAY: Sir Edward Elgar (4YA at 9.27 p.m.)

FRIDAY: "Shepherd's Hey" (Grainger) (2YA, 9.50 p.m.)

SATURDAY: "The Yeomen of the Guard"—Selection (Sullivan) (3YA at 8 p.m.)

Recorded Personalities in Caricature (25): Ambrose, Dance Band Conductor

Silence" at the same time as "Marco Polo" on 3YA. As I follow all serials, I am wondering if the time of one or other could be altered, so that all could listen to both.

Yours, etc.,
A READER OF THE LISTENER.

Dunedin,
June 10, 1940.
(It is an almost impossible task to arrange programmes without clashes of serials. However, as all serials presented from the National Stations are sent to each of the main centres, what is lost from one station may be picked up later from another.—Ed.)

JUST TO LET YOU KNOW.
The Editor,
"The Listener."

Sir,—I do not like crooning or swing music—they are horrid, and should not be broadcast. I like a good comic, a good band piece, a good song, and hymns. I like such things as "Dad and Dave" serials; but not yarns like "Out of the Silence," "Black Moth," or anything like that. Serious or not, murders or not, taking radio on the whole, there is far too much talking.

Yours etc.,
A. HOWE.

Auckland,
June 15, 1940.
(Other passages in our correspondent's letter have been referred to our Sports Writer.—Ed.)

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