

NEW ZEALAND  
**LISTENER**

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## One Year

**I**N a few days the war will have lasted a year—a year that to many of us may have seemed the most dramatic in history. But history is a long stretch of time. Even in Europe—which is only a corner of the historical world, neither the oldest nor the most populous—stranger and viler things have been done than any recorded during the last twelve months. The most we can say of these twelve months is that they have brought more dramatic changes than anyone living can remember. And it is the living who most concern us.

It is necessary also to face the fact that many of these changes will remain. The evil that tyrants do lives after them, and some of the things done by Hitler will not be undone whatever happens to his armies. Small nations will no longer determine their external destiny, though a British victory will leave them free at home. No Continental country will function freely as a democracy, unless France stages another revolution. No nation will live without fear because none will have faith in promises. Art and letters will not flourish since few will have time to think. Even if our victory is complete—as it will be if we endure to the end—the spiritual damage of the war will be as real and as lasting as the destruction of materials and men. We shall not again see, and we must not waste our energies looking for, the world we lived in before the fire swept through.

Our consolation is that fires do good as well as harm. The world will be poorer and harder after the war, but it will be juster. It will hardly be freer, but there will be more co-operation. Political democracy will have receded, but social democracy may be nearer than it has ever been before. There will be a vast increase in the activities of the State, which in itself is not necessarily an advantage; but it will be a long step forward if the monopolist and the profiteer disappear, if all men, and not merely the rich and the privileged or the angry and truculent poor, feel that they are the State, if no Government dares any longer to tolerate slums and unemployment, and if barriers are abolished that forbid trade with other countries. Some of these changes are here already, and the others, with many more, will come. But it is worth remembering as we enter what may be a more terrible year still that it depends largely on our unity now whether we have unity afterwards.

# 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.

## HOW TO PRONOUNCE MAORI

Sir,—In fulfilment of a promise to give readers of *The Listener* a few hints on Maori pronunciation, I submit the attached lesson. It may not be as scholarly as students would like, but it will be found practical, concise, and to the point.

New Zealand is the home of the Maori people and naturally it still retains a large number of Maori place-names. As Maori pronunciation is very simple there is no reason whatever why Maori place-names should not be correctly pronounced. I may mention that it is a pleasure to listen to a pakeha announcer of 2YA radio station, who pronounces Maori correctly. I wish other announcers and also teachers would follow his example. If one pakeha can pronounce Maori so well, I can't see why others should not be as proficient if they would only take the trouble. Here is the lesson.

To pronounce Maori correctly all that is required is to know the sounds of the five vowels, A, E, I, O, U, and to place the accent on the first syllable. Surely there is nothing simpler, and yet a century has passed and Europeans will mispronounce such well-known names as Taranaki and Waikato.

The root of the trouble is that Europeans do not sound the vowel A correctly; they sound it like A in *hat* instead of A in *about*. A Maori vowel has but one sound, although it may be either short or long. A vowel can be sounded by itself but a consonant cannot—it is the vowel that gives a consonant its sound.

### Examples:

A = short as in *about*; long as in *father*; never as in *hat*.

E = short as in *pet*; long as in *fed*; never as in *eat*.

I = short as in *pit*; long as in *feed*; never as in *kite*.

O = as in *awe* and *caught*; never as in *bone*.

U = short as in *put*; long as in *food*; never as in *butter*.

The accent falls on the first syllable except in some words with the prefix *whaka*, when the accent falls on the third syllable, that is, on the first syllable of the root word.

Example: *Whaka-mate*, to cause to die, where the accent falls on *ma* of the root *mate*, to die.

Exercise: Place accent on first syllable in Otaki, Awatea, Rotorua, Patea, Awarua, Poneke, Waikato, Karori, Akaroa, etc.

The Maori consonants are: H, K, M, N, P, R, T, W, NG, WH.

Note: NG and WH are taken as single letters. WH is not F. Europeans find difficulty in sounding NG when it comes at the beginning of a word. Why I don't know, for it is the same sound as in *sing*. It is neither *na* nor *ga* but "*nga*."

R. T. KOHERE (East Cape).

## A ROYAL COMMISSION ON LOYALTY

Sir,—My attention has been drawn to your leader (August 9) that concerned my suggestion that a Royal Commission should be appointed to inquire into the relation to loyalty to the Crown and Empire, of our educational and library system; and I should now add radio broadcasting.

It is very gratifying to me to find that a paper, which afforded unusual space for Douglas Seymour to make an attack on Great Britain for not paying its debts to the U.S.A., should be so perturbed at my suggestion, and so supply evidence of its importance and of the likelihood of its adoption. It is particularly gratifying to me to see you gruelled for lack of argument with which to counter my reasoned statement, and to see you reduced to the ruse of making a futile attempt at ridiculing me

personally and an appeal to disruptive local prejudices. The cause I advocate is so just and great that your outburst serves only to reveal its greatness and its strength!

It is, to solve the fundamental problem of democracy how to foster an enlightened loyalty without interfering with the free expression of opinion by seekers of truth.

STUART MOORE (Dunedin).

(Our correspondent complains that we tried to make him ridiculous. There was no need to try.—Ed.).

## STAMMERING ON THE AIR

Sir,—I must congratulate the NBS on some of the records it puts over the various stations. We get some beautiful music at times. But when I happen to turn on to such a record as I heard just now from 2YA my blood boils. I cannot understand the mentality of those who record such stuff in the first place, or who in the second place would so insult the intelligence of the average listener as to put it on. As far as I heard it, it was a record of a man trying to be humorous by telling a story involving a number of ridiculous situations and placing his words back to front, etc. That was bad enough, but he added insult to injury by stammering badly over every third or fourth word.

Now, sir, would it be considered humorous for anyone to try to make fun of a person suffering from cancer, tuberculosis, or any dreadful disease of that sort? Then why so insult the stammerer, whose suffering, though not physical, is just as hard to bear, and just as incurable, as the diseases I have named. I hope you will publish this protest from

—THE WIFE OF A STAMMERER.

## CHURCH BROADCASTS

Sir,—“Oliver” has put the attitude of the present materialistic age towards things spiritual only too plainly when he advocates the deletion of church services from most of the Sunday programmes.

I feel, as I am sure many thousands of other listeners do—particularly those unable to attend church services—that far from wanting “clever” speakers on Sunday evenings, we would like to see all secular matter, such as political addresses, deleted. I am sure I echo the opinion of a large body of listeners when I say that a selection of good church services on Sundays is appreciated and desirable, and that many of the enlightened addresses—such as that given from 3YA last night (Sunday, 11th instant)—provide the class of mental food that is so much required by the world in its present time of testing.

The churches, in putting these services over, are fulfilling a definite need.

“ROLAND” (St. Heliers).

(Another Roland.—Ed.).

## MUSIC PROGRAMMES

Sir,—Probably it is a matter outside your control, but you can perhaps influence the choice of programmes for the breakfast sessions. From Auckland and Wellington we get about 1% good light music and 99% hopeless rubbish. Why must it be thought necessary to supply such poor numbers at such times? I regret to observe, too, a distinct decrease in the number of symphonies played. There are literally hundreds which we never hear, and perhaps thirty which we get about once a month. Chamber music too, has fallen off both in quality and quantity.

May I also ask for the restoration in *The Listener* of the “Programmes of the Week” feature which was a very useful and convenient way of finding what one wanted to hear?

—“ORPHEUS” (Wellington).

## ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENT

“N.Z.”—The discussion has been closed, though the initiator of the correspondence may still reply briefly. Also, you do not send your name and address.