

# LISTENER

Incorporating N.Z. RADIO RECORD

Every Friday Price Threepence

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## The Home Guard

IT is good news that the Home Guard is being enrolled for the "definite purpose of forming a line of defence against a potential enemy" and "ensuring the continuance of communal activities" in the event of national disaster. Soundly and broadly based like that it provides the opportunity that most men over forty-five are looking for: and there is at least a hint in the statement made in this issue by the Minister of National Service that it may provide wider opportunities still. Nothing must be read into his statement that he does not plainly say, but many people will hope that his reference to those who have conscientious scruples about "active military campaigning" means that such persons will be given an opportunity to link up with the Emergency Precautions organisation.

Those people, however, make a very small proportion of the Dominion's man-power. The overwhelming majority accept war when it comes as they accept the necessity of fighting against fire and flood when they come, and the Home Guard opens the ranks to everybody. It makes universal service a reality and not merely a phrase; gives us not merely a citizens' defence force but a defence force of all citizens; and—a far more important fact than some of us realise—makes it possible for old men to cheer on young men with reasonably clear consciences. The "feeling of frustration" to which the Minister refers has been in part at least a feeling of shame. What worries so many of us who are over forty-five is not only that we are "doing so little." It is also that we are saying so much.

But all that embarrassment now ends. The Home Guard makes the whole nation one in service and sacrifice. It is also supremely important, as the Minister emphasised in a public statement last week, that it throws us all into one common camp. We are no longer Catholics or Protestants, Pagans or Jews; employers or employees; "old school" or no school. We are New Zealanders defending our hearths and homes and preparing for a new order when the storm passes.

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 Correspondents must send their names and addresses even when it is their wish that these should not be published.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

## AS OTHERS SEE US

Sir,—I regret that I cannot congratulate you upon your leading article of September 13 in reply to Mr. Fred L. Garland. Some of your writings have been very good. The one referring to Anzac Day was very fine. But in replying to Mr. Garland you drop to a level which is regrettable.

I personally have very little to complain of in the matter of radio programmes; or, for that matter, in the publication of programmes in *The Listener*. Three national stations—2YA, 2YC, and 2YH when local power leaks are bad—with an occasional switch to short-wave, meet my requirements; and as I share Mr. Garland's dislike of a mixture of cough cures and music, Commercial Stations have no appeal.

If you read Mr. Garland's letter again carefully, you will find that it is completely sound and logical throughout. He makes no complaint as to the class of entertainment, nor does he suggest any curtailment of "hill-billies, Sandy Powell, or Gracie Fields." He asks for no increase in the amount of classical music broadcast, and apparently this is his taste. In fact, he expresses no desire to interfere in any way with the tastes of any listener in New Zealand.

But he does ask that *The Listener* do the job which justifies its publication at our expense, and that the job be done thoroughly and efficiently. He rightly draws attention to the fact that you are a monopolistic concern in that our programmes are copyright to your paper. My only reason for subscribing to *The Listener* is to obtain radio programmes, and no doubt that applies to the vast majority of your subscribers. Personally I do not object to the inclusion of other secondary matter, but it would not concern me at all were it all eliminated.

I have always considered that a complete weekly copy of the New Zealand radio programmes posted in advance to all licence holders should be part of the service rendered for payment of our annual licence fees. When, on the score of economy, you eliminated the programme chart (double spread) and retained other irrelevant matters, such as cookery, fashions, etc., you slipped up on your job.

However, Mr. Garland puts his case soundly and quite moderately; and I would therefore just refer you back to his letter for your further (careful) consideration.—M. T. B. Hail (Gisborne).

(Our correspondent is right in saying that Mr. Garland did not ask for a "curtailment" of the things he did not like. He asked for a 75 per cent. cut which, with his inclusive demands, meant complete abolition.—Ed.)

Sir,—I entirely agree with what Mr. Fred L. Garland says in his letter published in *The Listener* of September 13.

The Government claims the copyright in the programmes provided by the Broadcasting Service for the licenceholders on whose fees the service exists, and the Government then compels those who wish to ascertain the programmes which are to be presented, in advance, to pay an extra threepence a week for a copy of your paper in order to do so. I think it is fair to assume therefore that the majority of subscribers take the paper for the programmes, and not for the rest of its contents which, I think, Mr. Garland classifies accurately. That being the case I do not think the paper has been improved by the condensation which the section allotted to the programmes has recently undergone.—E. R. Dickson (Russell).

## THE FIRST FOOD.

Sir,—I listened with great interest and very mixed feelings to the talk by Dr. Elizabeth Byson on "What Shall We Eat?—the First Food," on Friday evening last. We are all agreed that the fruits of the earth are for the good of man, but how can the average family to-day buy in sufficient quantity for health butter at 1/6 per lb., milk at 7d. per quart, eggs at 1/9 per dozen, fish at 10d. per lb., oranges at 2d. each? To bring these foods and others to the homes and tables of the people of New Zealand we need not a change of heart on the part of the mothers and fathers and guardians of the children of this fair land but in the pockets of these same people a sufficient number of tickets with which to

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obtain these health giving foods. We pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." Let us not continue to live in fear of the future, but in reality, moment by moment, that we may be a healthy and contented people now.—A. S. Mew (Dunedin).

## MODERN MUSIC

Sir,—I have no time whatever for this cacophony which is called rhythm.

And I abominate all crooners and the hideous noise you get along wythm.

Anyone with the rudiments of a musical education, like Mr. Austin, knows

Is to be found only in the melodies of blokes like Beethoven, Brahms, and Mozart.

As for these modern composers like Walton, Honneger, Bartok, and Ravel,

One can only hold up one's hands in pious horror, not to mention despair, and mavel

At the idea of such men so far forgetting themselves as to take even so momentary

Interest in niggers, creoles, boleros, Jews, and other things equally non-Aryan.

PURITY (Auckland).

## BIRTHPLACE OF THE QUEEN.

Sir,—In a recent radio talk Mr. A. J. Sinclair referred to Glamis Castle as the birthplace of Queen Elizabeth. A book I have just read states that she was born at St. Paul's, Waldenbury (England), and that though her father belonged to an old Scottish family her mother was English. Will you kindly inform me whether our Queen was born in Scotland or in England?—H. Jordan (Parnell).

(You are right: St. Paul's, Waldenbury, Herts, England.—Ed.)

## FEDERAL UNION

Sir,—Before replying to "Federal Union's" claim that I merely skimmed over "Union Now," I decided to make a careful study of that work. Hence this delayed reply. As a result of this study my original convictions on the subject are more firmly established. I believe with the "Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post" that this movement is a financial racket with Wall Street written all over it.

E. G. MARTIN (Napier).

(With this sharply abridged re-affirmation of our correspondent's belief this correspondence may close.—Ed.)

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

P. Malthus. We thank you. Our lapse has, however, been pointed out by an earlier correspondent, whose letter is already in type.

A.McD. The men who composed the music did not start the war.