

ABOUT 16 organisations of various kinds operate in Wellington alone to welcome men of the fighting forces, and most of them have either affiliated branches or local equivalents in other centres. The Hon. Vincent Ward, M.L.C., who is secretary of the Wellington Provincial Patriotic Council, showed us the notice that is made available to the men, giving the localities, descriptions, and telephone numbers of the various places of entertainment. They include the Y.M.C.A., Toc H, Everyman's Club, Seaman's Institute, Spinsters' Club and so on. Wellington will shortly have a Combined Services Club in Dixon Street with 200 beds, showers, games and cafeteria, but no dancing. This club is under construction now. Mr. Ward said that on general lines, these provisions were similar to those of the other centres, and if American troops came they would be welcome to share them with the present users. Some extension might become necessary of course. Mr. Ward also showed us a notice which is posted on all ships in port saying that commissioned ranks are honorary members, while in port, of the Wellesley Club and the Commercial Travellers' Association, while all ranks will be welcome at the Wellington Working Men's Club.

A useful service performed by the Department of Internal Affairs is the subject of many letters of appreciation written to Mr. Ward. This is the provision of transport to inland districts. This would be available to Americans.

"Worship the Primary Duty"

THE Catholic Church does not forbid recreation, but regards worship as the primary duty on Sundays, according to an authority of the Church. "We are actually in favour of Sunday entertainment, provided it does not interfere with the fulfilment of religious duties," he said. "In other words, we think that such entertainment should not be in progress while services are being held." It was explained to *The Listener* that though the Catholic Church had already decided its attitude in detail, it was not prepared to amplify the statement of principle until the situation became concrete.

A Presbyterian View

"A NEW ZEALANDER in the States wouldn't ask the Americans to give up baseball just because he happened to hate it, would he?" asked the Rev. Gladstone Hughes, a Presbyterian Minister of Wellington. "I'd make a strong point of saying that I think the last thing the Americans — as good democrats — would want, would be to interfere with the customs and institutions of the country which is their host." Mr. Hughes said he spoke only for himself, and did not claim to represent the views of the Presbyterian Church as a whole.

"If they come here, naturally our Church wants to join in making them welcome, but the Presbyterian Church likes to be conservative in the best sense, and it regards Sunday as one of those institutions which are valuable and essential to the best life of the community. We have consistently opposed entertainments on Sundays: we don't question the right of the individual to use Sunday in his own way; that is a matter for his own conscience. But we feel that anything organised would be

NEW ZEALAND has more men in uniform to-day than ever before in its history. Soldiers, sailors, airmen—our own and some from the United States—crowd our cities every week-end. Soon the number will be greatly increased, and the problem of entertaining them greatly complicated. It will in fact be a bigger problem of its kind than the Dominion has ever before had to face.

"The Listener" has therefore looked it over a little, and asked some representative people for opinions about it. These opinions we now pass on to our readers in the spirit in which they were first offered to us. They are perhaps, at this stage, impressions rather than opinions, but they at least show what the situation already is or will soon become. The problem is no longer, in these days, what shall we do with the drunken sailor, but how shall we fill the leisure hours of soldiers, sailors, and airmen far from home and drawn from every section and class of the community.

For convenience we have made our inquiries in Wellington only, but it is a case in which what is true of one centre is more or less true of all.

against the purpose of the institution."

"Cinemas and theatre entertainments of all kinds came under the category," Mr. Hughes said. It was quite possible, though, that the Church would continue what it was already doing in the way of providing teas for men of the armed forces, and would make the same services available to Americans.

"The Only Limitation"

"THE important thing is the highest possible usefulness of Sunday, and no mere sectarian usefulness," said the Rev. H. W. Newell, a Minister of the Congregational Church. "The only limitation is that free opportunity should remain for men to attend services of worship; entertainments need not in-

terfere with that at all. But I certainly don't think that those whose consciences will not permit them to have organised entertainments on a Sunday should deny them to the others.

"As for the nature of Sunday entertainment—I think that we should keep it more sober and worthy than the things some of the reports from Australia describe. I imagine that the general Christian conscience of New Zealand is actually in favour of retaining a fairly dignified character for Sunday functions.

"A word of praise is due to *The Listener* for attempting to forestall some of the confusion that has occurred in Australia," said Mr. Newell. "I don't

know what your findings will be, but I hope we can go into this matter with a unified spirit. We don't want to leave a sense of grudge, as there undoubtedly would be if all the Churches put their foot down and denied men of the armed forces the right to enjoy themselves on Sundays."

"The Safeguards of Sunday"

THE Rev. W. A. Burley, Chairman of the Wellington Methodist District, said: "Sunday is a gift of God to man, to be used for man's highest interests. It is made for man, not man to fit into it.

"Christians observe Sunday because it commemorates the day when Jesus rose from the dead. From the very nature of it, this use of Sunday cannot be imposed by compulsion on the whole community.

"Still, it has been proved that man in general needs periods of rest and one day in seven is an ideal proportion. In its own interests the community should not allow any demand to encroach on this day of rest. Any organised games or entertainments mean work for some. At present there is a good deal of necessary work and some that is totally unnecessary. The number already engaged in work on Sundays should not be increased."

The Advantage to Us

"WHAT overseas troops will need," said a prominent educationist, in an interview, "is not so much things done for them as the facilities to do things for themselves. Actually, it is we who should cash in on this. People with a different background to our own may be coming to New Zealand. Whatever we have to offer to them, they will have a lot to offer to us. We have suffered from our isolation from the outside world. If American troops come, they will bring their own Army Educational Schemes and their own amusements, though, of course, coming as they do from a country where Sunday entertainments are usual, they will naturally expect Sunday entertainment here, too."

"Do you think places of entertainment should be open on Sunday?"

"I cannot see why an American soldier should be expected to conform to our ideas just because he is sent to defend New Zealand, but Sunday entertainments are only a small part of the problem. This is a chance to get an understanding between two peoples, and that must be done on a broader basis. The planning should be on various levels. Highbrows on one level if you like, and lowbrows on another. Take sports. Even there, where we might expect to mix most freely, we will find that there are not so many sports that we play in common. The American would shudder at the things that we do with a football. The whole scheme should be thought out constructively, so that we may have a cross-fertilisation, so to speak, between the two peoples. The first problem is to have something of our own for our men and then to gear it in. We need a big organisation with lectures, discussions, concerts, games, wrestling—every sort of activity, not just sporadic entertainment. We need to make any visiting soldiers and sailors feel at home and get to know

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What shall we do with Soldiers and Sailors?

