

LISTENER

Incorporating N.Z. RADIO RECORD

Every Friday Price Threepence

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United Nations

THE purpose of the celebrations last Saturday was to bring the united nations closer together. It was in no sense at all to make them one nation. Union has not been even a remote object of the war in London and New York, and if those who speak the same tongue do not yet want to coalesce it is moonshine to talk of fusion anywhere else. Union in that sense is nonsense.

Why then did we wave flags and give ourselves the illusion of unity? Not because we are children and love playing games, but because there was reality behind the illusion. No group of nations since the world began ever achieved absolute unity; nor, for that matter, did any group of individuals. Nations cannot, and should not, shed all the qualities that first made nations of them. That would not be progress but retrogression. They can however come together for mutual protection, and that raises problems of moral as well as of material. It is not sufficient to join armies and make a common pool of munitions. The men who march and the men and women who keep them supplied must feel that they fight in the same cause. Nor are they the friends of one group or the other who make that cause other than the thing it is. Britain, for example, is not fighting for Communism any more than Russia is fighting for Capitalism. China is not fighting for a white Australia any more than Australia and New Zealand are fighting for a New Life movement in Chungking. All the Allies without exception are fighting in defence of the things that they themselves most value, and to protect these they must destroy the same enemy. Therefore they fight together, taking the same risks and sharing the same hardships, but only fools think that victory will find them speaking the same language and wearing the same clothes.

They remain united but themselves, and we celebrate their unity, not to beat it into uniformity, but to make it more vital and real. They have all, from the outset, been free partners. No member has coerced another or been itself coerced. It is an advance and not a drive, and it is natural and necessary that we should cheer one another on.

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

PETER DAWSON, TIME, AND SPACE.

Sir,—Your interesting article about Mr. Peter Dawson in your issue of May 15 prompts one to suggest that Mr Dawson should devote no further time to singing since, according to your reporter, he has already apparently solved the problems of space and time which have been puzzling scientists for many years. The article states that since 1905 Mr. Dawson has MADE more than 12,000,000 recordings. Let us examine this astronomical figure in the cold light of mathematics rather than the warm glow of journalistic enthusiasm.

According to statistics taken from catalogues issued by gramophone companies Mr. Dawson has recorded ten-inch and twelve-inch records in the ratio of two to one. Allowing three minutes to each side of a ten-

To Save Paper

TO save paper "The Listener" has ceased displaying a contents poster. "The Listener" itself will of course continue to be sold at all the usual places, and these fortunately our subscribers all know.

Do not therefore misunderstand. The poster will not be there but "The Listener" will be. You will help your newsagent, and guard against disappointment, if you order in advance.

inch record, and four minutes to each side of a twelve, we may take six minutes forty seconds as the average playing time of one double-sided Peter Dawson record. Taking the round figure of 12,000,000 records and doing a slight multiplication sum, we discover that, singing every second of every hour of every day of every year, it would have taken Mr. Dawson 152 years, 75 days, 13 hours and 20 minutes to MAKE these recordings. Since Mr. Dawson is now but 60 years of age, one can understand why, in the last fifteen years, he has found no time to practise.

If the article intended to convey that 12,000,000 copies of Mr. Dawson's recordings have been made, the whole situation becomes understandable, but one would be loth to credit a *Listener* reporter with a terminological inexactitude of these startling proportions.

CALCULUS (Wellington).
(We would not rob "Calculus" of his joke. After all, what are a few millions among friends?—Ed.)

A QUOTATION.

Sir,—Allow me in turn to correct W.H.M. of Wharehine, who himself has evidently become mixed while correcting E. M. Perry. This is how W.H.M.'s verse should read:

*For it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an'
'Chuck him out, the brute!
But it's 'Saviour of 'is country',
When the guns begin to shoot.*

He has become mixed with this:

*Then it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that,
'An' Tommy, 'ow's yer soul?
But it's 'Thin red line of 'eroes'
When the drums begin to roll.*

A. W. BLUNDELL (Horeke).

(Two other correspondents have written to the same effect.—Ed.)

"SCOTS WHA HAE."

Sir,—I wonder how many Scots ears were grated last week while listening to 4YA's session "For My Lady." The commentator's pronunciation of the place names was atrocious. Dunfermline, and Langholm were bad, but when Hawick was murdered into Haw-witch, surely it's time to protest.

"A BORDERER IN ARMS" (Lochiel, Southland).

POINTS FROM LETTERS

"AROUSSED READER" (Te Kauwhata) says that if the great composers of the past had not been appreciated in their day posterity would never have heard of them, and that music lovers of the future may wonder why the present generation made such a fuss about Sibelius and Vaughan Williams.

"INTERESTED" (Wellington) wants to know where the Liberty Loan money comes from—how if it was invested once it can now be invested a second time.

D. M. GRIFFITHS (Takapuna) says that the E.P.S. Talks broadcast recently from the National Stations should have been broadcast from all stations, for which he "feels sure any patriotic firm would have given up time."

"SUNDAY CINEMAS" says that the plea that soldiers have nowhere to go on Sundays is "unworthy of a Christian nation." Soldiers have "souls to save" and "need of the means of Grace which God has provided."

ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENT

"KHANDALLAH": We do not want a controversy on "Divine Services." Send your appreciation to the preacher himself.

Beau Sheil Resigns



THE resignation has been announced of B. T. Sheil (above), deputy-controller of the Commercial Broadcasting Service, one of the men chiefly responsible for the organising and building up of commercial broadcasting in New Zealand. Formerly personal representative of the late Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, Beau Sheil had a big hand in the planning of many of the famous pioneering flights made by "Smithy" and Ulm. He flew to England to join "Smithy" on what was to be his last flight, but in London "Smithy" asked him to go on to the United States on trans-Tasman air service business. He learned of "Smithy's" disappearance the day he arrived in New York.

Mr. Sheil tackled the "selling" of commercial radio with single-minded energy. He had first of all to overcome advertisers' prejudices against a new medium and then to persuade them that the early evening was not the only effective time for advertising. Before many years had passed, it was difficult to buy any time at all, day or evening, on the ZB stations.

As the CBS network expanded, Mr. Sheil played a big part in the planning and designing of modern studios for the new stations. He kept abreast of the latest developments in broadcasting overseas by making visits to Australia and America. Several innovations which he introduced into commercial broadcasting in the Dominion, notably the rotation of "spot" announcements in order to give advertisers the benefit of a variety of times, have been copied in Australia. Commercial broadcasting will miss his imagination and drive.