

OCTOBER 2, 1942.

## Farming If You Like It

WE have received for review a pamphlet\* on the future of farming, written by Professor E. R. Hudson, Director of Canterbury Agricultural College. It costs only sixpence, and runs to only sixteen octavo pages, but it may easily mark a turning point in our agricultural history. It is not forgetting any of Professor Hudson's predecessors—all those whose work, thoughts, agitations, and dreams have helped to bring him to his present position—not forgetting the humblest of them to say that he has probably now started a revolution; that his pamphlet ends one era and starts another; since it offers an alternative to freehold that free farmers will be able to accept, and an escape from the two evils of lack of capital and lack of capacity that, taken together, threaten both our peace and our prosperity. Professor Hudson is not a politician. He is a farmer. He preaches neither socialism nor capitalism, communism nor fascism. He preaches the land and its most effective use; the life of the country in all its richness and fullness. But like Sir Daniel Hall in Britain he thinks that the State must own the land for its most effective use. So he proposes land nationalisation with a "rational system of freehold," knowing, the moment he sets this down, that there will be howls of protest, but feeling in his bones that there is no other way. On the other hand he is not rash enough to suppose that this rational system of tenure can be reached in a professor's study. It must be tried out over a period of years behind the plough and among the cows and sheep. It must make the farmer sure of his farm as long as he works it efficiently, give the landless a chance when he has proved himself the right type, protect the community at large from land booms, land sharks, and land waste. Professor Hudson is not sure that his plan in practice will achieve all these ends, so he advises caution and offers alternatives. But he knows that the present system must be changed, and he says so at a most opportune time—when the whole world is uneasy and confused but most people still feel vaguely that security begins with the soil.

\*The Future of Farming. By E. R. Hudson. Reconstruction Series, No. 6.

## LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

### Correspondents Please Note

Letters sent to "The Listener" for publication should not exceed 200 words, and should deal with topics covered in "The Listener" itself. Correspondents must send in 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.

### CHRISTIAN ORDER.

Sir,—I want to say thank you for your article on Christian Order. It is very fine. It seems to me it is only the spiritual life which matters. It doesn't matter to what church or creed one belongs. What counts is the vision of the world beyond and of the beauty of holiness.

E.P. (Christchurch).

Sir,—I agree with your correspondent "Rev. III. 16." The Campaign for Christian Order is too polite: it is trying to be all things to all men. If it trod on some toes the resulting squeals of protest would be sweet music; instead of that, official blessings are crooned over it by all sections of the community. One is reminded of the saying "Beware of peace when all men speak well of her." The Church's explanation is that the Church as such is concerned only with the general principles of politics, not with their practical application, yet the Archbishop of Canterbury, who inspired the Malvern Conference, which in turn is supposed to have inspired the present New Zealand campaign, is an avowed Socialist. So was Christ.—CHRISTIAN SOCIALIST (Wellington).

### NEWS BULLETINS

Sir,—Couldn't we have the 8.45 a.m. news bulletin retained as a repeat of the 7.45 new one, from 2YA at least? It has proved a very suitable time for a large body of listeners, and 7.45 is going to be difficult for the eight o'clockers. Thousands of listeners who have cultivated the habit of listening at 8.45 would appreciate the opportunity of continuing. It is a long break between 7.45 and 12.15.

"WAR NEWS" (Nelson).

### GARDENING TALK

Sir,—I listened recently to Mr. Ben Roberts, M.P., exhorting everyone to do his utmost in the war effort by growing vegetables. I would suggest that to this end considerably more time could be given on the air to our garden experts. We are at present limited to about fifteen minutes a week from each station. However good our experts may be they cannot give much information in that time.

NOVICE (Hastings).

### SOME FIGURES.

Sir,—On the classical hours we hear on the whole very good music, but in the sessions coming under variety, light popular and dinner music, everything is played "as it comes out of the box". The most neglected section however is swing. The following figures may prove revealing. They were taken from the programmes dated August 24—30, and represent the total broadcasting hours of

all stations. They are of course only approximate, as certain programmes may be grouped under different headings. Variety, 777 hours; News, 178; Talks, 165; Serials, 147; Classical Music, 107; Children, 52; Church, 33; Dance Music, 25; Swing, 7. Surely the large number of swing enthusiasts in New Zealand are entitled to more consideration.

—G. W. (Tauranga).

### PIANO TONE

Sir,—In his column (September 18) your music critic "Marsyas" says: "The upper register of the piano used in the recording (of a Hindemith Sonata) has an extraordinary quality of tone, or else Sanroma has had a set of detachable tack hammers made to fit his fingers. It is a most unpleasant stinging sound that he makes."

Science, however, has proved that it is immaterial whether the key is depressed by the finger, a tack hammer or a walking stick. Intensity, and therefore quality of tone, is determined only by the velocity of the hammer at the moment at which it leaves the escapement mechanism and by the action of the pedals. But if the theory of "Marsyas" is correct someone (perhaps George Anthell) may yet write a "Tack-hammerklavier" Sonata.

T.A. (Wellington).

### GRAMOPHONE RECORDS

Sir,—Can anything be done to ease the shortage of good gramophone records? If there is no possibility of increasing the import licences could records be produced in this country? It seems to me that the Government has a duty to the people to see that the cultural needs of the country are met in this respect, and it is also up to people of good taste to rally round and make their needs known. If we cannot increase the number of records available I suggest that recordings by good artists should be given preference over cheap dance music and hill-billy stuff; the distinction would be arbitrary but that is unavoidable.

D.H.H. (Invercargill).

### GANDHI

Sir,—Gandhi is stated in an article in *The Listener* to have owed a debt to Thoreau, Tolstoy and Ruskin. I think much of his strength is due to a sound knowledge of British law.

The Church has failed the people (and looks like failing them again). Politicians have failed them. Wouldn't it be strange if the law came to their aid?

A.G.M. (Green Island).

Sir,—Can you tell me when it is possible for a Cabinet Minister or even a Prime Minister to give a promise of legislation at a future date? Isn't it fundamental in a democratic parliament that every issue must be debated in the two Houses and run the risk of being defeated? If that is so, would not the course of action be to pass legislation immediately even though it did not come into force till a later date, if we wished to prove Britain's sincerity to Mr. Gandhi?

STRAIGHT FORWARD (Nelson).

## IF YOU MAKE THE DANDRUFF SIGN-



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