

LISTENER

Incorporating N.Z. RADIO RECORD

Every Friday Price Threepence

OCTOBER 9, 1942.

New Zealand and China

IT is an accident that so much space in this issue is devoted to China. That was not our plan to begin with, and when things take shape without a plan the fact is apt to be obvious. It is obvious in this case, and yet not inappropriate. Anything cut and dried about China, over-simplified, or over-emphasised, is a distortion. China is not simple, or orderly, or fully awake, or completely united. The Chinese are not, left to themselves, all smiles and kindness and peace-loving and philosophic. They are human beings, millions and millions of men and women, occupying half a continent and presenting every human type from the animal to the sage and the saint. It is never sensible, or helpful, to reduce human motives to a *plus b*, and human beings to standard types. China is so wide, so deep, so confused, and so confusing that the generalisations we can occasionally risk of smaller groups are reckless nonsense when applied to its four hundred millions. The most we can say is that something has been happening there since October 10, 1911, which will either shake the world or steady it for two or three generations. China will either beat off the Japanese and stabilise the East on a new level of civilisation, or it will be conquered and used to uproot the culture of half a hemisphere—the half to which we ourselves belong. Its "Double Ten" is therefore a day of destiny for New Zealanders as well as for the Chinese themselves, and it is almost incredible that a New Zealander has done more than almost anyone else in the world—far more than any other non-Chinese—to ward off disaster so far. To convey what he has done is difficult if we are to avoid extravagance; but it would come near the truth to say that a man who started to cut down a kauri tree with a pocket-knife or to move a fair-sized hill with a teaspoon would be showing no more courage and no more faith than the man who set to work five years ago to rebuild the industries that the Japanese were systematically blasting out of existence.

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 Correspondents must send in their names and addresses even when it is their wish that these should not be published.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,—In your Editorial "Christian Order" of September 11, you stated that as the number among us who would question your view that the Christian way of life is the only sure foundation of peace, justice, liberty and kindness is negligible, therefore the Campaign for Christian Order is a campaign for moral, social and political order. I wish to question four points in that short statement. (1) Your deduction, (2) Your use of the word "negligible", (3) Your statement that Christianity is the only sure foundation for peace, etc. (4) Your statement that the Campaign for Christian Order is a campaign for moral, social, and political order.

On (1). Surely no man or woman of substance can say that the opinions of the minority are either true or false solely on the ground that they are those of a minority.

On (2). In the matter of ideas surely no number is negligible. Can we take no account of an invention because the inventive mind or minds happen to be few?

On (3). I think the last two thousand years of history should here give pause.

On (4). It isn't. It's a campaign to get people to believe in God and go to church.

D.K.A. (Christchurch).

(Our correspondent has either read us carelessly or finds it difficult to condense us accurately. We said (1) that tens of thousands of people who would hesitate to call themselves Christians would agree that the Christian way of life is the only sure foundation of peace and justice and liberty and kindness and (2) that those who would question that view are a negligible number. If we say that these are two simple statements of fact with which only a negligible number would disagree, we are not saying that those who disagree are not entitled to be heard. We are saying simply that their number is negligible by comparison with the number of those who do agree.—Ed.)

Sir,—In his Auckland address, Professor Sinclair spoke of the foundations of freedom as mystical or religious—a laborious way of saying that they are simply "moral." The essential aims of any new moral order to govern the life of mankind should be the promotion of social justice within the State and a recognition of the principle of equal freedom among States. Freedom, like happiness, must be shared for its full realisation. Professor Sinclair quoted Professor Einstein in his support. All freedom-lovers will support Einstein's championship of the stand taken by the churches in Germany, but this does not make him a Christian. He is a rationalist and an honorary associate of the R.P.A., London. According to the German "Who's Who," Hitler was christened a Catholic, and is presumably still one, as he does not appear to have been excommunicated. Goering, too, is a Christian of sorts, as *Picture Post* some time ago gave photos of the christening ceremony of his daughter. Stalin is an atheist. The Campaign for Christian Order is clearly

a propagandist effort by the churches to recover ground lost through their failure to teach a real religion of humanity. It will surely fail. A moral way of life needs no tag to advertise it.

"VERITAS" (Invercargill).

Sir,—After listening to the discussion on the questions in the Campaign for Christian Order (Sunday, September 20), I am convinced that the speakers have all missed the point. It is not by knowledge in the ordinary sense that the world will be changed or brought into the Christian faith, but rather by the dynamic Spirit of Christ. This, as many of us have seen, is not of necessity brought about by men of academic training, but often by men of low educational status: for instance, Peter a fisherman, but full of power; Moody, shop assistant but full of power. So Wesley, full of academic knowledge, was useless until he received the power. Booth, a pawnbroker's assistant, lacked education, but was filled with power. It is not discussions we want—not college titles, but rather power of God flowing through the instrument whether the instrument be college trained, artisan, or peddler.

HOPEFUL (Auckland).

SUFFERING FOOLS GLADLY

Sir,—In your article the "Church takes the offensive," Archdeacon W. Bullock is quoted as saying that "he does not suffer fools gladly." Apart from the fact that the foolish are in no way responsible for their foolishness, but are to be pitied rather, may I draw the attention of the Archdeacon to Matthew 5-22, where we read: "but whosoever shall say thou fool shall be in danger of hell fire."

CHRISTIAN (Auckland).

(Archdeacon Bullock replies: It would be a queer world in which, as your correspondent asserts, the fool was no longer held responsible for his folly, not even the fool who says in his heart "There is no God." Yet it is easy to understand the craving for immunity from the consequences of folly. "Christian" must find our real world very hard. Matthew 5-22 will not help much till we know what kind of a fool was meant. For fools are of many varieties—from Den Leno, who was a public benefactor, to Hitler, who is an international nuisance).

NEWS FROM LONDON

Sir,—Can you explain why reception conditions of the 6 a.m. news from London has been so unfavourable of late? This morning after the 2YA announcer remarked that reception conditions were unsatisfactory, I hurriedly tuned in to London on the 31-metre band, and was surprised to receive the news quite clearly! On other days at 6 a.m. when news was being received accompanied by strange noises from Wellington, I have changed over to 3YA, from which station the news came through free from the accompanying noises. It seems strange that this should be so for I understand that 3YA re-broadcasts from 2YA.—W. (Tauranga).

(Conditions for reception of BBC short-wave broadcasts usually deteriorate at this time of the year. It is not unusual for reception conditions to be worse in one part of New Zealand than they are in another, and this would explain the correspondent's favourable reception of the BBC direct when conditions were said at Wellington to be unfavourable. 3YA, Christchurch, does not always re-broadcast 2YA's transmission of the news as it is sometimes possible to get a better pick-up by going direct to the BBC transmission, as the correspondent did).

TRAINED MEN

With 1942 Knowledge and Ideas ARE WANTED!

To-day, more than ever before, men with the latest specialised training are required for war work and in business and industry. This is YOUR opportunity! Send now for the I.C.S. Free Prospectus. Clip this coupon and mark the occupation in which you wish to succeed.

Accountancy — Professional exams., Cost Accounting, Secretarial.
Advertising—Retail, Mail-order, Agency.
Aero Eng.—Ground Eng. Licences, Rigging.
Architecture—Structural, Concrete.
Aviation Radio. Building Contracting.
Bookkeeping—General, Store, Station.
Mining (Coal and Gold).
Chemistry—(Analytical).
Civil Eng.—Surveying, Municipal, Bridge.
Diesel Eng.—Illuminat. Eng., Welding Eng.
Draftsmanship—(Mech. Arch., all branches).
Dress Design—Drafting, Cutting, Millinery.
Elec. Eng.—Lighting, Power, Wiring License.
Farming—Livestock, Dairying, Poultry.
Free Lance Journalism—Short Story Writing.
Gas and Electric Welding.
General Education—Business & Sales letters.
A.M.I.M.E., A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.E.E. Inst.
Struct., Eng.—Professional exams.
Illustrating—Newspaper, Fashion, Poster.
Internal Combustion and Steam Drives.
Exams., N.Z. Highways Certificate.
Matriculation.
Mechanical Eng. (All branches).
Motor Eng.—Motor Mechanics' "A" Grade.
Plumbing—Sanitary Eng., Sheet Metal Work.
Radio Eng.—Radio Servicing, Radio Exams.
Radio Play Writing.
Refrigeration—Elec. Refrig. Servicing.
Salesmanship—General, Specialty, Retail.
Window Display—Show Cards, Shop Tickets.
(Underline your subject above—if not on list write it here.....)

Enquiries cost only a 1d. Post Now.

Name
Address

WRITE NOW TO

INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOLS

Dept. L, 182 Wakefield St., Wellington.

For
**COUGHS
COLDS
&
INFLUENZA**
ALWAYS TAKE
WOODS'
GREAT
PEPPERMINT
CURE
IT NEVER FAILS