

NOVEMBER 6, 1942

EDITORIAL AND BUSINESS OFFICES:

115 Lambton Quay, Wellington, C.I.

Post Office Box 5004.

Lambton Quay, Wellington, C.I.

Telephone 46-520.

Telegraphic Address: "Listener," Wellington.

Boots And All?

ONE of the most interesting developments in the training of the Dominion's army is the inclusion of deer-culling as field practice. How useful it will be to the army will depend on the time spent over it, and on the speed with which the knowledge and skill of experienced hunters can be passed on; but for the purpose for which it is intended—the mastering of country, climate, commissariat, and small arms simultaneously—it can't fail utterly even if it does not achieve miracles. It is in fact necessary not to expect miracles. To begin with, not every man who tries becomes a mighty hunter; and in the second place, a good hunter is not necessarily a good soldier. The most we can say is that a man who can look after himself in rough weather and in rough country, judge distance, and approach and destroy game without wasting ammunition is better military material than the man who can't do those things or can't do all of them. It is obvious, too, that if his military task turns out to be the defence of the country on which he has been trained he will be vastly better material, and too good man for man for any stranger who can be brought against him. But it is to be hoped that this bush and mountain training will be made a test of his equipment as well as of the soldier himself. A fully clad New Zealand soldier is a heavily handicapped soldier where speed is a consideration. To put him against a light clad Japanese is very much like asking a fourteen-stone policeman to run down a schoolboy wearing running shoes. The policeman may succeed, since he may have a bigger margin than his handicap; but he would succeed more certainly and more easily if he shed his helmet, coat and boots. It will be interesting to see how much of their equipment these bush companies are still carrying at the end of their third week.

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

INDIA AND GANDHI

Sir,—I have seen and read many different views about M. Gandhi, but he is the only person who can lead India to her goal. He has given and sacrificed his entire life for the welfare of the poor and oppressed masses of India. M. Gandhi has enlightened the real spirit of patriotism in every heart among the masses, even in the remote villages of the unbroken tracks of the vast jungles in India. The poor and rich alike adore him, and they are able to sacrifice everything dear to them, for the country's cause, by his call. He has created many Martyrs in India, whose spirits are still haunting every self-respecting people in every corner of the country. Those spirits have been kindled for ever, and they will not be crushed or diminished by brute force.

K. F. PATEL (Keri Keri Central).

Sir,—I enclose the report of an interview with Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, President of the Labour Party and Labour Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, with the request that you will print the most important statements. In a democracy it is necessary to judge a situation from all angles.

—W.R.M. (Palmerston North).

Dr. Ambedkar, who as the first leader of the depressed classes to attain a voice in the Government, is peculiarly qualified to speak for the rank and file of India's millions, declared in an interview with *The Christian Science Monitor* that the Congress Party would find that it had lost much of its influence over the Indian people.

"The people are in no mood for civil disobedience," he said. "They are too much distracted by the war and the problems arising from it."

"The mainstay of the Congress in the field of political action consists of the working class," Dr. Ambedkar added. "I personally feel that if the Government takes care to see that price control is rigidly enforced and regularity in the supply of essential commodities is assured the civil population, and if the workers are kept contented by an appropriate rise in wages so that their standard of living is not lowered, there is no need to fear that any very great upheaval will take place. The industrial workers are unlikely to be drawn in. Their leaders have already shown antipathy to the idea."

"But if there is discontent, Mr. Gandhi will try to exploit it. It is therefore immensely important that all just grounds for discontent be removed so far as possible."

Replying to a question as to whether he has any suggestions of a constructive nature regarding the situation in India, Dr. Ambedkar said: "My view is that India's independence was conceded by the Cripps proposals, and even if proposals were in a sense withdrawn, the position of the British Government is that it stands committed to that promise."

CHRISTIAN ORDER

Sir,—You say that "the Campaign for Christian Order is a campaign for moral, social, and political order and concerns us all." No section of the community would be likely to oppose such a campaign if that was its only object. But if we can judge by the Rev. Mr. Ryburn's broadcast address, the Churches are to follow up with an attack on our priceless heritage of free, secular, and compulsory education. Mr. Ryburn says: "Whoever uses the present crisis to push the interests of his party against the interests of the nation is a traitor." What of those who use the present crisis, while so many fathers are on military service, to push the interests of their creeds

against our secular educational system? Why choose the present time, when we should all be preparing to repel the brutal followers of the Shintoist religion from our shores, to try to force into our schools creeds and doctrines that are rejected as false by so many of the world's leading scientists and thinkers?

D. I. MACLEAN (Waipu).

Sir,—What has a bishop's apparel got to do with the morals of a people? A postman wears a uniform, but it is his ability and promptitude in delivering his message that makes him a good postman. The same may be said of any religious leader. To my mind our Lord's injunction to "Love thy neighbour as thyself" is the foundation for a better national future. I would like to hear some really worthwhile questions asked, and less evasion of a straightforward answer.

SEMPER FIDELIS (Leeston).

FILM CRITICISM

Sir,—If we readers were to accept each of G.M.'s reviews as Gospel we'd go to very few pictures. G.M. doesn't "review" the films, he just uses valuable space to "throw off" in a most sarcastic way at actors and actresses who, in these war-torn days, endeavour to take our minds away from murder. A G.M. review of a murder film is better than his reviews on classy films. Couldn't he use his fine literary knowledge to keep our local administration up to scratch? That would, of course, be harder for him, because politicians can defend themselves, while celluloid characters, miles away, cannot.

For example, Nelson Eddy's new film *The Chocolate Soldier* was the victim of harsh sarcasm from G.M.: references to Chocolate and Aunt Daisy are amusing, but they don't review a film. A review on that film could be done thus: Eddy's acting is better than any of his earlier films; his impersonation of a Russian was excellent, and his songs were excellent, the best being "O Star of Eve" and "Song of the Flea." The story, although slightly drawn out, was amusing and a change from war films.

Now, that's only a précis, but if G.M. reviewed on those lines, he'd be—well, he'd be a reviewer.

L. WALLER-EDWARD (Blank Camp).

POINTS FROM LETTERS

KOWAI (North Canterbury) says that those who ask "why there are so few women ministers in the Church" should read the Second Chapter of the First Epistle to Timothy.

NANCY PARSONS (Wellington) suggests that the broadcasting of the whole of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony was a convincing answer to those who say that "most people are incapable of attention for more than thirty minutes." (And also, she adds, to the fears of those, including herself, who dread intellectual snobbery.)

"SPRING OFFENSIVE" (Mount Eden) says: "With all due respect to Eric Bell, who is undoubtedly a fine pianist, I find only one word can adequately describe his foxtrot renditions, and that is 'corn.' His playing of a solo foxtrot reminds me of a musical box playing duets with a tuba. I think the novachord deserves different treatment."

ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENT

GILBERT JACKSON.—Sent to Aunt Daisy.

Instructions

• FOR USING YOUR

TORCH IN A BLACKOUT

Reviewed and Passed by the
DOMINION LIGHTING CONTROLLER

1—Every home should have one or more torches. But before seeking to buy new ones, inspect and repair old ones. They may need only a new bulb, or fresh batteries.

2—Keep your torch in an accessible place—and always in its place. Indoors never point it towards unshielded skylights, windows, or open doors.

3—Do not use unshielded torch outdoors in a blackout except when essential. Keep beam level or downwards—always! Never point it towards reflective surfaces.



4—How to Shield your Torch for outdoor use: Cut 2 discs of paper, one black with half-inch hole in centre, the other of white tissue paper, or something equivalent, to cover hole in black disc. Insert both discs between bulb and lens of torch.

Keep Your Torch Loaded with
Fresh EVEREADY Batteries
—and have an extra set on hand in case of long-continued use of your torch.

Inserted for the National
and Individual Welfare by
National Carbon Pty., Ltd.
(Incorp. in N.S.W.)
Manufacturers of

ER/42/B22

EVEREADY TORCH
and RADIO
BATTERIES

NO COUPONS REQUIRED

HEALTH, BEAUTY, STRENGTH,
AND ENERGY YOURS FOR
THE ASKING!

Fortunately for those in ill-health, no coupons are required, nor is there

any rationing of R.U.R., the world's greatest health remedy. No other remedy can claim to have benefited people in so many different ailments as those listed below, for which the R.U.R. Company has received heart-felt testimonials:

Sciatica, Lumbago, Headaches, Rheumatism, Constipation, Broken Sleep, Liver Weakness, Smoker's Heart, Muscular Pains, Rheumatic Fever, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Piles, Neuritis, Influenza, Indigestion, Listlessness, Skin Diseases, Stomach Ulcers, Kidney Troubles, Rheumatic Heart, Bladder Troubles, and many other complaints.

Let the five-fold health action of R.U.R. cleanse your blood, system, joints, sinews, and muscles of all trace of pain-making acid and poisons. Take R.U.R. and Right You Are! The best in the world—that's all! —4

