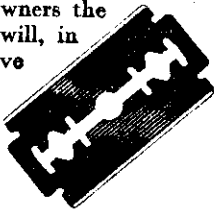




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SONGS OF THIS WAR

None As Popular As Last Time

COMPOSERS of war songs (words and music), will be interested in some remarks made recently in London by Leslie Boosey, the well known music publisher. We quote from the "Piano Maker, Music Seller, and Radio Retailer," by the courtesy of Charles Begg and Co., Wellington.

"Speaking at the annual luncheon of the Performing Rights Society, the chairman, Leslie Boosey, said that the country needed people to write its popular tunes as well as to build its aeroplanes and tanks. So far, no one song had caught the popular imagination as did "Tipperary" or "Keep the Home Fires Burning," in the last war. To-day the most popular song was "I'll Walk Beside You," but, curiously enough, there were three older songs which were now enjoying very great popularity. The first was Adams' "Holy City," published nearly 60 years ago; the next, Parry's "Jerusalem," which was nearly as old; and the third, "Bless This House," published about 16 years ago.

"There is, I believe, a direct connection between their popularity and the war," said Mr. Boosey. "In the first two cases, they express an ideal which lies deep in the minds of the vast majority of the people, and the third is an unconscious prayer in this time of danger. So I give this hint to composers, authors, and my brother-publishers to-day—this war is a war of the mind and the spirit, which the last war never was. It is a clash between two different ways of thought; one might say between good and evil. For that reason, the sentiments of the people do not find their expression in the things of everyday life as they did in the last war.

"If there is really to be a popular song which will give an outlet to the people's feelings in this war, it will have to have three attributes:

"(1) It must be completely sincere; (2) it must be utterly without bombast and vain-glory; and (3) it must express in a way which does not make the man in the street feel self-conscious the hopes and ideals which we have in us to-day."

Music in Factories

Speaking of the use of music as an aid to production in factories, Mr. Boosey said its value was recognised by all who had investigated the question, though

there still were people who questioned the right of the composer to be paid for his work. Happily, the society could maintain with complete confidence that it was entitled by law to collect fees for the use of music in factories, and in this it was supported by legal judgments of outstanding importance. For the labourer was worthy of his hire, whether he were a composer or a munitions worker. And whatever the legal position might prove to be, and they were prepared to test their contentions in the Courts, the moral claim of the composer was incontestable.

And what did industry have to pay for the right to use copyright music in factories? Actually, it worked out at one penny a year per employee for an hour's music a day.

Visit To The Aleutians

(By JOHN FISHER, representative of "The New Zealand Listener" in Moscow)

THE official organ of the Russian Army, *Red Star*, in a recent review of the Pacific war position, referred to the action of the Japanese last May in capturing Attu and Kiska.

I saw that part of the world fairly recently, as a representative of the ABC, and I was one of the first journalists of any nationality to visit the Aleutian Islands since hostilities began.

Most of the Aleutians are prehistoric volcanoes, which have sunk half beneath the waves in the course of the last million years or so. The islands I saw in the war zone were picturesque, but lonely and forbidding.

They were huge scraggy piles of rocks rising up to thousands of feet from the sea like a hundred Gibraltors, cloud-capped mountains, lightened only when the sun shines for a few hours, when it does shine, on the target-like tracery of black scarred peaks, and the shining of perpetual snow.

There are no trees on these Aleutian Islands, and apart from the area of sea and air warfare, there are few signs of life, except the swarms of seagulls taking a toboggan ride on the water whenever it happens to be calm, and the sea animals, including some whales, disporting themselves.

The brightest part of my time in the Aleutian Islands area was the day at Dutch Harbour when I managed to tune into a concert broadcast by the ABC from an Australian town hall, which came through very clearly.

Beneath us on one side was the Pacific Ocean, where Abel Tasman, just three centuries ago, was helping to open up the unknown lands of Australia and New Zealand.

On the other side was the Bering Sea, which exactly two centuries ago was explored by the Russian navigator of that name.

This is just another reminder that our Russian Ally is also a great Pacific Power.

CABINET RESIGNATIONS

THE REAL FACTS

Thinking people are now able to learn the real facts about the recent political events involving the resignations of members of the National Party from the War Administration.

The public have so far been able to study only partial reports of what happened. A new sixpenny pamphlet is now on sale entitled "Cabinet Resignations—And Why." It gives a consecutive account of the origin of the coal strike, Mr. Holland's speech on his motion of No-Confidence and the full text of the "Censored Statement" written by Mr. Holland as Minister for War Expenditure. Get this booklet to-day at your newsagent, price 6d, or 7d posted, from the Publishers, P.O. Box 1155B, Wellington.