

MAY 7, 1943

## "Squabbles By The Way"

IT is necessarily painful that two of the United Nations should have quarrelled, even temporarily; but it is not alarming. It is in fact not even surprising when we think calmly of the circumstances — of the horrors through which both have passed and are still passing, of the centuries of suspicion between them, of the unceasing subterranean work to separate them, and of the knowledge on both sides that what each most wants the other can least afford to surrender. Instead of being astonished or alarmed that the ground between them has given way we should be amazed that it has held so long. We should even be glad that it has given way at a point at which the gap can be bridged. A little sooner or a little later and the damage might easily have been irreparable. It would have been deeply disturbing to Russia if this incident—so far it is no more—had occurred while the German army was advancing on the Volga.

The position of Poland would have been deplorable if negotiations had been broken off by a Russia already triumphant. As things are there are the strongest reasons on both sides for a return to co-operation, and signs already that it will be achieved. But we must face the fact that in the meantime Germany has scored a political success and will know how to exploit it. The German people will be told, and many persuaded, that the United Nations are quarrelling because they are losing the war. Some Englishmen, some Americans, and some Russians will wonder if it is not true; and wonder again as often as we suffer a reverse. And it is no use pretending that this does not matter. It matters greatly. But what matters most of all is the fact that Hitler does not believe his own lies. He knows that there will be no serious breach in the Allied front as long as he remains to give it unity; that it is not a rupture he has precipitated but a mere "squabble by the way"; and that it is one thing to deceive the foolish but another to alarm those who count—his own generals and those now chasing them home.

NEW ZEALAND LISTENER, MAY 7

## LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

### "ALL'S RIGHT WITH THE WORLD"

Sir,—I am sorry to see *The Listener* (though perhaps half in joke) falling into the current error about the famous lines of Pippa's. On the ground that he said "God's in His Heaven, all's right with the world," critics of our time persist in convicting Browning of unjustified optimism. How, they ask in effect, can a poet say "all's right with the world" when there is obviously so much wrong with it? But Browning did not say anything of the sort. Browning put the lines into the mouth of a mill-girl enjoying her one holiday in the year by

verse. I wrote out the lines given without any breaks, and found this:

"So bow your heads not in sorrow, but rather in joy, for his life was spent in the service of his fellowmen. And what greater memorial could there be than written on his tomb these few humble words, 'He loved his fellow-men.'"

Isn't this just what everybody else said, in almost as many words? I tried this interesting technique with a typical passage from the same issue. You will recognise it as part of an address for the BBC by H. G. Wells.

"And what stands in the way of these Achievements? Fear. When I say fear I mean Fear of Life. Great multitudes Fear Life more than Death. . . . Multitudes of people have their minds deliberately

Crippled from Birth. They are told They must not read; they must not Listen. Down the ages there is a long Record of Book-burning and the Persecution Of Victims who have had No right to Reply . . ."

Any offers by publishers?

DENNIS HARTLEY (Waiouru).

### SEX INSTRUCTION

Sir,—Replying to "Out of the Everywhere" on the subject of Sex Education I must say that I cannot conceive of a child asking about the origin of babies and not being interested in a physical explanation. I have known children, even sensitive ones, shy away from a book that made a fairy tale out of the story of our beginnings, but I have never known one shy away from the simple physical facts properly presented.

The secret lies in answering the very first question simply and truthfully (but not brutally). A small child does not want details. It would neither welcome nor understand them. All he wants is a plain statement in understandable terms, given in a friendly manner and without too much emphasis, and certainly without an air of mystery.

One of the few comforting things about the whole sex muddle is the easy matter-of-factness with which a child, unspoiled by contact with sex misinformation, will accept the simple story of its own origin.

M. R. KENT (Kohu Kohu).

[In "Out of the Everywhere's" letter we inadvertently printed sub-normal for sex-normal.—Ed.]

### "YOUTH AT THE CONTROLS"

Sir,—"Just a Cadet" has missed the point of my complaint regarding the all-stations link-up for "Youth at the Controls." I do not deny the value of this session to those interested, but unless "Just a Cadet" or some other listener can honestly state that he is unable to hear this session from one of the YA stations, I still fail to see the necessity for broadcasting this or any other programme (including the war news), from both National and Commercial stations. With the exception of vitally important announcements, there should be no time at which all radio stations in New Zealand are broadcasting the same item.

MOVIE TONE (Wellington).

### ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENT

Interested: Anton Walbrook is Austrian. He was born in Vienna and is said to come from one of Austria's "greatest stage dynasties"—a family that has been in the theatre for 300 years. He himself appeared in 200 plays before he went into films, making his British screen debut as Prince Albert in "Victoria the Great."

### N.Z. News Broadcasts For The Pacific

THE first shortwave radio-telephone broadcasts of a public nature to be broadcast from New Zealand began last Monday (May 3). A news bulletin of 10 minutes' duration, originating in the office of the Director of Publicity, is being broadcast every evening in the week at 10 o'clock from Station 2YA for the use of New Zealand Forces in the Pacific Islands, and it will be transmitted simultaneously from the Post and Telegraph Department's Station ZLT7 on 6.715 megacycles (44.67 metres).

News was transmitted by Morse to the Cook and Chatham Islands and other dependencies of the Dominion before the war, and radio-telephone communication (i.e. speech as distinct from code) has been in use for point-to-point communications with Australia, but these news transmissions will represent the first actual broadcasts by short-wave from New Zealand.

Station 2YA's 60 - kilowatt transmitter has been heard all over the Pacific, and during the hours of darkness can be heard, under good atmospheric conditions, in virtually any Pacific island. The chief advantage of the supplementary transmission on short-wave is that when atmospheric obliterates 2YA in the tropics, the shortwave transmissions will be audible.

walking in the country. She doesn't describe "19th Century Italy" as *The Listener* suggests. She doesn't express Browning's philosophy. She just puts into words her own mood on a special occasion, just as you and I, on a fine spring morning, might exclaim how good it was to be alive.—A. M. (Wellington).

### VERSE OR PROSE?

Sir,—In your April 9 issue you published a picture of the New Zealand writer, Robert Solway, and quoted some lines from his poem entitled "A Memory of the Late Prime Minister." I have not read the poem in its entirety, but presume that you have taken the best lines for quotation, and thus have shown us the standard of the poem as a whole—a journalistic eulogy chopped up, sprinkled with capitals, and called

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