

# LISTENER

Incorporating N.Z. RADIO RECORD

Every Friday

Price Threepence

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EDITORIAL AND BUSINESS OFFICES:  
115 Lambton Quay, Wellington, C.I.  
G.P.O. Box 1707,  
WELLINGTON, C.I.  
Telephone 46-520.  
Telegraphic Address: "Listener," Wellington.

## When They Come Home

THE Prime Minister has never minimised the difficulties with which the community will be faced when the war is won and the fighting forces return to their homes and their jobs. For that we must all be thankful. One of the reasons why so many hopes were dashed after the last war was that we were all too sentimental to face the facts realistically. We were so determined to provide homes and jobs and all other good things for heroes that we would neither count the cost ourselves nor allow any one else to do so; and in the end the difficulties overwhelmed us. Much was done, of course; far more than many people remember now. But so much was not done that should have been done, so much attempted without adequate preparation, that we were still, twenty years after fighting ceased, unable to recall without a blush the glowing and deeply sincere promises made when our men marched away. To-day we have perhaps moved to the other extreme. We are afraid to make promises in case they are not carried out — either because we do not know what to do or because we are prevented by world forces from doing what we had planned and intended. Very properly therefore the Prime Minister warned the recent conference of the Returned Services Association that rehabilitation is one thing, reconstruction another, and that the first may be impossible without the second. And this of course means that we are inviting disaster if we plan for three or four years and no longer. If the problem went no further than keeping unemployed off the streets it would be sufficient to adjust demobilisation to the demands of industry and concentrate them on the wounded and the sick. But the whole Dominion is sick, and the whole world wounded, and to talk about justice for soldiers without working for a juster world everywhere comes perilously near to political false pretence.

## LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

### BROADCASTS IN MAORI

Sir,—I would like to place on record my keen appreciation of the Sunday night's broadcast in Maori from 1YA. I am sure that many members of the Maori race derive great pleasure from hearing the world's news in their native tongue. The Maori broadcast has also a high educational value for the younger natives who are rapidly forgetting their own language.

I feel, however, that one night a week is all too brief a period to be devoted to such an estimable undertaking. I suggest that an excision be made in some of the cacophony we have to endure in other sessions, and that a daily broadcast in Maori be substituted.—RORE TE MAKAREI (King Country).

### THE "NEW" MUSIC

Sir,—For many years I have earnestly endeavoured to educate my taste down to the so-called "new music," but without avail. It is still to me a collection of harsh discordant noises, evolving from the distorted brains of clever (?) mechanics, of which the world is only too full. We have at our disposal the glorious inspired music of the old masters which elevates the heart and soul of every listener. I can find very few to whom the "new music" has any meaning or appeal, and those few are so superior, that they disdain the broadcast programmes entirely. Could we not therefore have less, instead of more—of the new music? We should then have fewer objectors to classical music, if it really were classical and not mechanical.

E. G. WADE (Christchurch).

### SHAKESPEARE AND THE "WORKING CLASSES"

Sir,—"The Pariah" is quite a Peter Pan. I expect to hear that he has run away to sea as a cabin-boy. When I was young we got over our attacks of "Revolt against authority for the sake of revolt" in our late 'teens and early twenties. By

the time we reached 34 we had shouldered enough responsibilities to make us feel entitled to wield a little authority ourselves—on strictly democratic lines, of course. We were not so concerned with revolt as with trying to find the culprits who had seized the authority belonging to the people and shelved their own responsibilities. In the struggle those things for which Shakespeare and the other immortals stand are all that are left to some of us. Personally I cannot recall instances where Shakespeare showers scorn and contumely on those of lowly birth, but I do know that his plays would lose much of their liveliness for me if the lower characters were removed.

I take it that the quotation from Ernest H. Crosby means that Shakespeare toadied to aristocrats and not that he was an aristocrat. He might have been a toady, but he would probably be more at home among a mob of British working men than either Tolstoy or Bernard Shaw. "The Pariah," I am sure, enjoys the company of intelligent, cultured, travelled people and it is probably owing to the fact that he lives in the twentieth century instead of the seventeenth that he hasn't to toady to meet such company. Shakespeare may not have shown princes and noblemen their kinship with the working man, but he showed working men that princes and noblemen thought, felt, and acted as they did, and that laid a wonderful foundation for later reforms.—LLEW (Dunedin).

### HUMOUR, PLEASE!

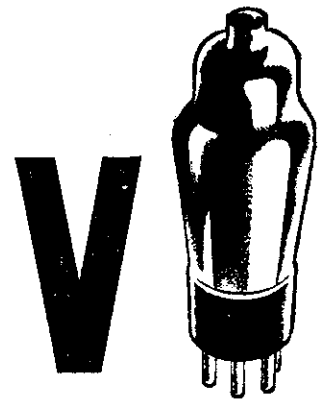
Sir,—May I submit a reply to a recent letter from Jim Douglas? He does himself and many others an injustice by claiming the title of lowbrow. It is not a case of our not possessing the same cephalic qualities as the so-called highbrows, but rather of our not possessing the same morbid temperament as the person who can sit and listen to the dreadful noises emanating from symphonic orchestras with all their clashing and discords. I heartily endorse his statement that what this sad, worried world needs is fewer dirges and more humour.—E. DAVIDSON (Timaru).

Sir,—Jim Douglas hits the nail on the head when he calls your attention to the fact that there are not enough humorous items in the programmes for the "lowbrows." I guess he means listeners who received a high school or sixth standard education, and they, I believe, constitute the large majority of those who pay the radio licence fee. I agree with him that there are too many of the symphony A sharp major and E flat minor dirges. Pity my mentality if you like, but I would sooner hear a sailor's hornpipe or an Irish jig.

L. SCOTT (Hastings).

Sir,—Your correspondent Jim Douglas says that "highbrows can sit around the radio all day." I don't suppose it ever occurred to him that highbrows also work hard, and that some of the tired businessmen and war workers enjoy good music at the end of a hard day's work just as he enjoys swing bands, etc. I think that it is best to be broadminded in these cases and see both points of view. There are always plenty of stations to turn to if you don't like one type of music, and the New Zealand stations put over plenty of variety.

"A.C." (Wanganui).



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## From The Belgian Congo

THE following information has been supplied to us by the Consul-General for Belgium (M. Armand Nihotte):

On Sunday, May 16, a powerful short-wave broadcasting station was inaugurated at Leopoldville, in the Belgian Congo. Among the principal speakers on the occasion was Anthony Eden, British Foreign Secretary.

For the time being, the programmes from this station are intended primarily for listeners in occupied Belgium, and are divided into three parts:

(a) Re-broadcast of the London emissions of the Belgian National Broadcasting Service.

(b) Re-broadcast of the New York emissions.

(c) Broadcast of the Belgian Colonial Broadcasting Service.

The re-broadcast service of the new station will be at the following hours G.M.T.:

1. On 25m. 70 band: from 3.43 to 5.30 and 19.15 to 21.00. 2. On 16m. 66 band: from 10.15 to 12.00 and 16.30 to 19.15.

M. Nihotte will be glad to receive reports on reception from "Listener" readers who tune in.