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Liberty Loan

"Air Force Week" Broadcasts

NEXT week, the fourth of the Liberty Loan Campaign, is Air Force Week, and these are the special programmes to be featured by the main National and Commercial stations in network broadcasts:

Sunday, June 27 (1.10 p.m.): Inauguration of Air Force Week.

Monday, June 28 (7.0 p.m.): "Wings for Victory"—dedicated to the airmen of New Zealand who, along with their colleagues of the Allied Nations, are engaged in the ever-increasing tempo of Allied warfare.

Tuesday, June 29 (7.0 p.m.): "Winged Investment"—telling the story of the training of a New Zealand pilot.

Wednesday, June 30 (7.0 p.m.): Talk by a high-ranking Air Force officer.

Thursday, July 1 (7.0 p.m.): "Birth of a Bomber"—what it costs to build a bomber, in skill, labour and material.

Friday, July 2 (7.0 p.m.): "Information, Please!"—another broadcast by what is now popularly known as "the Financial Brains Trust" (see photograph on page 4).

AS ANOTHER SEES US South African Discusses The New Zealanders

(Continued from previous page)

of communities that were small and poor but nevertheless fruitful in the things of the spirit.

Mrs. F: But don't you think travel difficulties will limit the scope of our experience unduly?

Dr. F: I used to think I should be horribly restricted when I couldn't rush about the country in a car. Now I am glad I haven't got one. I find that I appreciate the spirit of individual places much better and more intimately than I used to. It seems to me that we might do this with our country. We might know it more completely and more intimately. We might demolish our present expensive luxury hotels and replace them with a series of inexpensive youth-hostels. It is more important to widen the experience of our own people than to cater for the tiresome type of tourist.

Mrs. F: What obstacles would you say stand in the way of New Zealand's achieving the desirable destiny you are sketching?

Dr. F: Apart from the war, I should say that the only important obstacle is lack of confidence. The New Zealander's modesty often leads him to be unnecessarily cautious. He tries to model himself only on the best patterns. He tries to be up in everything that is current and well received. He wants to be correct at all costs.

No Time for Minorities?

Mrs. F: Do you think the New Zealander's lack of self-confidence leads him to adopt too uncritical an attitude to many things?

Dr. F: Certainly I think so. The New Zealander tends to think that a person who complains and criticises is invariably a nuisance. Whereas a critic or complainer is frequently a great social benefactor.

Mrs. F: You wouldn't say that there is much place for originality and eccentricity in the New Zealand way of life?

Dr. F: For originality there may be a small place. For eccentricity there is practically none at all. Which is unfortunate. We haven't even that tolerance of harmless Bohemianism which one finds in older countries. A woman who doesn't kill herself with housework and die before her gas-stove baking her last scone, is morally frowned upon. A man who fails to keep his garden in order is regarded as a dangerous character. And keeping one's garden doesn't merely mean surrounding oneself with an agreeable profusion of herbs and shrubs and trees. It means plastering the paths with concrete and torturing the earth into heart-shaped beds. It is certainly not the case in New Zealand that a man can do as he likes on his own acre. And if laxity in this sphere is not tolerated, it follows that there is absolutely no tolerance of more serious irregularities of conduct and manners. I don't think these features admirable, because I very much like seeing a diversity of creatures.

Mrs. F: Do you also think that New Zealanders have insufficient patience with unorthodox views in various fields?

Dr. F: They certainly haven't enough patience. They think diversity of opinion

DR. J. N. FINDLAY who conducted this discussion from 4YA with his wife, is a former South African Rhodes Scholar who took up the chair of Philosophy at the University of Otago about nine years ago. He has therefore had time to get to know a good deal about us. He took his M.A. at Oxford, his Ph.D. at Graz in Austria, and for some time was lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Pretoria in South Africa. In 1939 he made a world tour to study philosophical problems in the U.S.A., Germany, Scandinavia, and Great Britain.

somewhat unnecessary, and are inclined to attribute it to perversity of spirit. And if anyone defends the right of some unorthodox group to peculiar opinions and practices, everyone imagines that the defender must necessarily be sympathetic to their particular brand of unorthodoxy. I am afraid I regard this whole matter very seriously. I sometimes think that any body of opinion could at any moment be arbitrarily snuffed out in New Zealand and hardly anyone would care.

Mrs. F: Surely you would admit, however, that there is much criticism of any government which is in office and of its general policy?

Dr. F: Certainly there is much criticism. But it is seldom reasoned criticism. And it seldom offers constructive alternatives. I listen gladly to any view, whether radical or conservative, that tries to take account of physical and moral actualities. But I am not interested in abuse. It does not throw light on any problem. And I can't think that a man is unfit to rule the country merely because he wasn't born in Remuera or Maori Hill, any more than I can believe that he is necessarily stupid and reactionary because he happens to live there.

"The Most Hopeful Thing"

Mrs. F: You have been very Olympian, Dr. Findlay. You have rapped everyone over the knuckles very sharply. As a New Zealander, I have thought you rather hard in places and much too airy in others. But tell me before we finish, what you would regard as the best and most hopeful thing in this country?

Dr. F: The only answer I can give to that question sounds rather trite and somewhat sentimental. I regard the youth in this country as its most hopeful feature. I am speaking sincerely when I say that I find them very admirable. They have minds that are pleasantly free from fog, and definitely unresponsive to various types of propaganda that seem to me nonsensical; they are liberal-minded, their patriotism is of a reasonable rather than a tribal order, they are interested in the best things, they wish above all to base their policies on knowledge. One doesn't need to influence them, but merely furnish them with the tools and information that they want, in order to see them arriving at very good solutions of the problems that confront them. The present is rather a painful interim period when the best brains and energies in the country are engaged in stamping out a number of particularly undesirable and evil persons and policies; when that is over, and the young are in our midst again, there is nothing excellent that I do not venture to hope for.

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