

JULY 30, 1943

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.

Grow Your Own

THE vegetable-growing campaign is based on two assumptions: one, that commercial growers will not be able to meet next season's demand; and a second, that we can't afford to devote public time and labour to the production of any crop that can be grown privately. Or to put it another way, the campaign means this: that some people will go short of vegetables if they depend on the ordinary sources of supply, and that everybody will go short of other essential things if unnecessary effort is put into market gardening. The first statement is an estimate, and may be wrong; which will not matter. The second is a fact from which there is no escape. The more vegetables we grow in our own time—whether we dig up our lawns or get the use of vacant land—the sooner we shall escape from travel and transport restrictions and all the other forms of rationing that war shortages impose on us. For the chief cause of all restrictions is the human cause—lack of labour to restore vanishing supplies. But growing our own vegetables does more for us than we intend when we begin. It is not necessary to be a mystic to believe that the cabbage which we plant and bring to maturity ourselves is a good deal more than a cabbage when we meet it on our dinner-plates. Apart from all the other things it stands for, it is the sign and symbol of saner minds and healthier bodies than we are likely to have had if it had come to us on a green-grocer's barrow. And gardening need not stop at vegetable production. If vitamins are not just a physiological joke, the backyard should be made to add berries to the sources of supply—gooseberries, and currants, and raspberries, and strawberries, as well as leaves, stalks and roots. All these things grow quickly once we know how to encourage them, and it is a crowded garden that has no room for them.

NEW ZEALAND LISTENER, JULY 30

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

Correspondents Please Note

Letters sent to "The Listener" for publication should not exceed 200 words, and should deal with topics covered in "The Listener" itself. Correspondents must send in their names and addresses even when it is their wish that these should not be published. We cannot undertake to give reasons why all or any portion of a letter is rejected.

NOT ENOUGH OF US

Sir,—Your correspondent "P." of Christchurch, talks of "nothing more tiring than feeding a baby," gardening to be done, a three and a-half year old child to be cared for, and ends up by saying that after her second child arrives soon it will be her last. I wonder what New Zealand women are coming to, poor worn-out creatures they must be. If some of these letter-writers lived on a farm they might know what work means these days. In my own case, our farm worker had to have his holiday when I had been home from hospital a fortnight. This meant helping my husband milk and also feed-out 140 head

News for the Pacific

THE New Zealand news for the New Zealand Forces in the Pacific Islands, which was previously broadcast by 2YA each evening of the week at 10 o'clock, has been changed to 9.30 p.m. This change came into operation last Monday and, as far as possible, the consequent amendments have been incorporated in the 2YA programmes published in this issue.

of stock, besides pulling and carting swedes to feed pigs, and I may say the healthy life outdoors has worked wonders for me. I lost my young baby, but no matter if 10 more arrive, the last will be as welcome as the first. Before marriage, I worked for my living, and did my best for a family of seven young children, the oldest 10, who had lost their mother—so don't say it would be different if I knew what kiddies meant. A lot of work, I know, but aren't they worth it, or is everyone just thinking of a good time for themselves? Haven't we all been taught to trust in God, that he will provide?

ONE OF MANY (Putaruru).

DIVERSITY OF TASTES

Sir,—"Unprejudiced" would scoff into silence any listener with an itch to exchange his thoughts if those thoughts are critical of radio administrators. What a bunch of grand poobahs we would have administering our radio if they were totally immune from what Wendell Willkie enthusiastically calls "the whip-lash of public opinion." I believe Dr. Findlay right in his opinion that New Zealanders are deplorably uncritical, and I would add, inarticulate. A lot of administrators of various things would have liked to silence Beatrice Webb. But Beatrice Webb went to the forefront in the struggle for change. We are fighting this war so that we can still

read the criticisms of Beatrice Webb—and Beatrice Smith and Beatrice Jones. I hope that fact exposes the reaction inherent in "Unprejudiced's" letter.

PREJUDICED (Henderson).

APPEAL TO WOMEN

Sir,—There has been much said recently on the subject of Christian Order both in connection with Social Justice and the Church's Appeal to Women. To generalise would be imprudent, but from correspondence on the subject one widely held and pernicious attitude appears evident. I refer to the growing habit of making human behaviour the criterion of our code of ethics.

To condone a lowering of our moral standards because their retention is difficult; to condemn Christian faith by imperfections of Christian practice—these are growing and alarming indications of weakness. An ideal may be difficult to attain: fidelity is not an accident, but is the fruit of courage and self-discipline. In the same way, faith is not manifested by perfection but by a difficult and imperfect struggle towards that end.

Many, if not all, of our present social problems are due, I think, not to human evil or greed, nor to economic necessity, but entirely to our reduced mental horizon. We have no philosophy of life—we do not know what we want of life; we are too pre-occupied in wasting it. In short, the future of our race depends not upon social works, not on protestation of faith, but solely upon an awakening of a sense of race, a realisation that we are a responsible unity—not a collection of apes, and that our individual happiness is dependent upon the development of that unity.

CASTOR (Christchurch).

Sir,—When the Churches realise that they are intended to be schools of spiritual guidance instead of cages wherein all the creeds contrive to imprison God, they may be able to regain the confidence of the people. God cannot be shut up in any cage (or church) constructed by man, for the simple reason that He is the Great Spiritual Life Force which permeates the whole universe. Human beings are free to contact this Force which strengthens them, or to stumble along in the darkness of their own limitations, which can only lead to their ultimate extinction.

C.M.L. (Christchurch).

POINTS FROM LETTERS

"Yvonne" (Hamilton), raises "a psalm of praise to those responsible for 1YA's recent breakfast music which, contrary to its usual wont," has delighted her "middlebrow ears." She hopes that such programmes, "consistently melodious, may change from the exception to the rule."

"Ex M.T.C. Coy" (Greymouth), expresses appreciation of the military camp concerts from 2YA, and says he knows from experience how popular these concerts are with the troops in camp. "We gulped our tea down so we could get to the head of the queue and obtain a good seat."

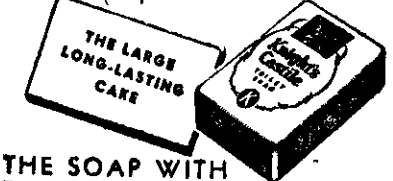
N.M.F. (Onehunga), congratulates those responsible for "the very valuable series of programmes just concluded from 3YA on Chopin And His Music," and suggests that the works of other great masters be similarly treated.



MOTHER BORROWED
MY KNIGHTS CASTILE
JUST FOR A TRY—NOW
SHE BUYS IT FOR THE
WHOLE FAMILY!



Knight's Castile used to be my own special complexion soap. Now everyone goes for it! Gives Dad a real pep-up when he's tired—such a grand refreshing lather! And Mummy fancies the fresh lavender fragrance. (Don't we all?)



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BLACKOUT BRIGHTLIGHTS



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