

## Appeal to Electors

THE aim of the Campaign for Christian Order is better men and women in the State. The purpose of its Election Message — sent last week to 200,000 homes — is better men and women in the State legislature. In other words it is an attempt to achieve government by the good—the noblest of all political plans and the least possible of full achievement. Unless the good are wise as well as good it is not wholly desirable that they should rule, for if it is impossible for a wise man to be a rogue it is not impossible for a good man to be a simpleton. All this the churches know better than we do, and this campaign has not been launched in the hope that it will fill Parliament with saints. Its aim is more modest and more practical, and our justification for discussing it in a secular journal is the fact that it is addressed to us as well as to nearly all our readers. Even then we are concerned only with its broad aims and not at all with its methods — whether for example guidance comes by prayer, by searching the Scriptures, or by some other method. Those are theological questions primarily, and the Manifesto is not primarily a theological document. It is a human document — an appeal to ordinary men and women to think before they vote, and to think especially of the problems to which it specifically draws their attention: the home; the family; the factory; the farm; the world after the war. These problems, it says, only good and wise men can attack with a reasonable hope of success, and it asks us all to do what we can to recognise such men and vote for them. And that is just another way of asking us to ask ourselves whether the blind can lead the blind — whether we can remain a healthy nation if we are ruled by men without standards, whether we can live safely without a faith to unite us and an ideal of righteousness to strive after, and whether we should not resolve in advance to reject adventurers and opportunists.

## LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

### THE VITAMIN BANDWAGON

Sir,—The letter of Pharmaceutical Chemist in your issue of August 20 was noteworthy only on account of the insinuation that Dr. Bell's statements had dubious medical backing. It, therefore, seems necessary to emphasise that the commercial exploitation of vitamins through the radio and the press has no scientific foundation in theory, and is contrary to public interest in practice. The vitamins are potent drugs which have actions as yet not fully understood. It is not known, for example, what is the effect on the absorption of other vitamins when one is administered in big doses. The sale and promotion of such preparations cannot be included in a campaign for good nutrition. It should be self evident that the study of vitamins has its practical application in preventive medicine, as distinct from curative medicine, only in guiding us as to what foods we should eat—certainly not in what pills we should swallow. The chemist plays only a minor, but very important, part in dietetics in as much as he distributes a considerable proportion of those necessary foods—the fish oils, or the more elegant preparations such as the emulsions and the malts, which, for practical purposes, are only as useful as is the content of fish oil. The chemist cannot take the place of the greengrocer, dairyman, etc.—  
ALBERT D. G. BLANC, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B. (Green Island).

### NORFOLK ISLAND HISTORY

Sir,—Referring to the report of the interview with Mrs. Judith Terry appearing in your issue of August 13, in which the statement that "when she was in Norfolk Island she raised money for an X-ray plant for the hospital by putting on his plays," I wish to point out that to my personal knowledge this is not actually correct if it implies that Mrs. Terry did in fact pay the whole cost of that equipment. The X-ray plant was purchased by the late Dr. L. S. Duke, at that time Government Medical Officer, and an "X-ray Committee" was set up, whose duty it was to canvass for subscriptions towards the purchase money. Each adult was asked to pay a guinea, in return for which he or she would be entitled to be X-rayed without any further charge than the cost of the plants. Much good work was done by the members of that committee, but the cost, £200, was a long way from being gathered in, after a period of a couple of years or so, and when an entirely new Hospital Board was elected in 1931, the committee was very glad to be relieved of its task, and the responsibility was placed where it should have been from the beginning.

It may be that Mrs. Terry assisted, as did many other people, in raising funds for the plant, but to what extent I have no idea. This information can only be obtained from His Honour the Administrator, as the accounts and records of the Hospital Board were all burnt when a fire destroyed the house of the secretary in about 1935 or 1936.—  
NORFOLK - MAINLANDER (Auckland).

### INDIA

Sir,—The Rev. G. W. Blair, of Auckland, ignores the true facts of India to-day. Instead, he expresses views of

her century-old times. India to-day is more advanced in every sphere of life. Mr. Blair says that India's vast population of 400 millions, as well as her different languages and religions, make it difficult for her to attain responsible government. He forgets ancient Europe with her many languages and religions. He is wrong, too, in his estimate of India's principal languages, because there are five main languages widely spoken in different parts of India, while Hindustani is the main language spoken by everybody and taught in schools and colleges all over the country to-day. Also the rigid caste systems of ancient India are disappearing in Hindu social life. Mr. Blair forgets that Mahatma Gandhi is the father of Modern India, and is removing the rigid caste systems as well as the untouchability. Under his creation, the "Temple Entry Bill" of the Congress Government, all the untouchables are allowed to enter and worship in the temples, side by side with the caste Hindus, and all the children of the untouchables are learning together in every school of India.

K. F. PATEL (Keri Keri).

Sir,—In reply to the Rev. G. W. Blair, I would like to say that I thought the article by Miss A. Lantis gave a very true account of conditions prevailing in India, while the reverend gentleman's letter bristled with inaccuracies. He states that "Hindus and Mohammedans are violently antagonistic the one to the other." Mr. Jinnah, leader of the Moslem League and at one time a congressman, states that the riots of to-day are nothing to those of 10 years ago, and are often among Moslems themselves. As regards the differences in language and religion, advanced as an argument against the recognition of Dominion status for India (which could be preceded by a series of Development Commissions), the Government of post-revolutionary Russia had a far greater task, and has succeeded in uniting her peoples, composed of a very similar peasant population to that of India, and in wiping out illiteracy almost entirely in 25 years.

The quarrel between Moslems and Congress is a domestic matter, and must not be used as an argument against Dominion Status by parties with an axe to grind. Mr. Churchill has spoken of "the forward march of the common people in all lands towards their just and true inheritance." Every patriotic Britisher should work to see this carried into effect.

E. B. HOLLAND (New Lynn).

(This and the preceding letter have been considerably abridged).

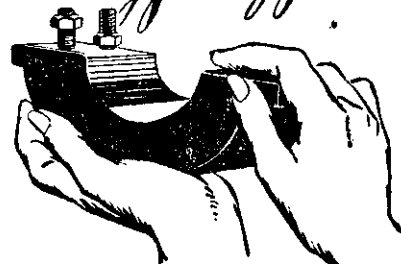
### POINTS FROM LETTERS

"Technician" (Christchurch), supports what Mr. Towsey said recently in praise of Nomi Wright, who is, he maintains, a "goodwill ambassador de luxe for New Zealand in London."

"Twenty-two" (Wellington), asks if the "little time given to classical music" in Wellington could not be "built round some definite plan." She suggests "featuring either one composer, a group of composers of the same period or a programme of one particular type."

Douglas P. Walker (Wellington), expresses appreciation of the singing of the New Zealand artist, Valerie Shorter, and asks if other New Zealand singers could not be found "to take the place of the eternal gramophone record."

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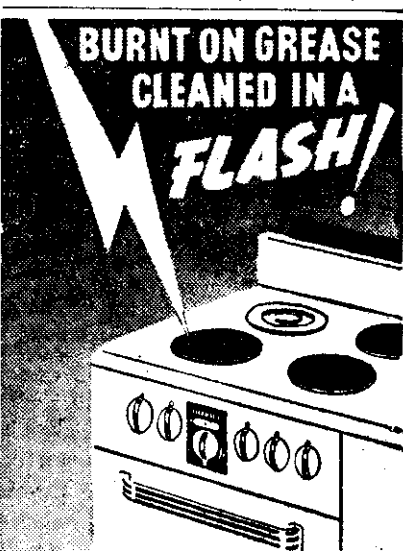


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