

SIR MAUI POMARE

MAN OF TWO WORLDS, by J. F. Cody; A. H. and A. W. Reed, 15/-.

(Reviewed by David Hall)

THE old-style Maori leader, eminent by lineage or skill in affairs, had a straightforward task, whether he accepted or resisted the European settlers. He was firmly rooted in a strong tradition. The next generation, born into the disillusionment that followed war and confiscation, had to make up a new tradition for itself and impose it, first on Maori, then on Pakeha. The contrast between Te Whiti and Pomare in Taranaki is the measure of this difference. For all his spiritual potency Te Whiti remained the leader of a resistance movement which could not succeed. Pomare led an acceptance movement, which might lack romanticism (noble losers are always romantic), but which meant new life in a real world. But Te Whiti and his like made an involuntary contribution: the Maori people owed it to its old leaders that it was still a people with an inherent pride of race which made regeneration possible. The career of a man like Pomare was itself built on the



"Strong will and stronger loyalty"

strength of this ancestral pride, and was a manifestation of it.

Maui Pomare seemed all his life to have been filled with an attractive optimism. This biography gives an impression of a man of strong will and

stronger loyalty, pliant and skilful in negotiation, much of whose success was due to a personality at once robust and refreshing. He showed his strength of character at an early stage in going to America and working his way through college (doing anything from lecturing on Maori life to washing dishes), coming home with a degree in medicine and a firm determination to raise the health standards of his people. Once he entered Parliament he showed qualities which justified his almost immediate admission to Cabinet. He put relations with the Cook Islanders on a new footing. Later as Minister of Health he reorganised the mental hospitals system. More important than any concrete achievements was his passing on to the Maori people his own gift of self-confidence and faith in a viable future.

One sometimes regrets a little that this book has not a fuller background of scholarship, but it is designedly popular. It gives a clear idea of Sir Maui Pomare's contribution to racial partnership and provides us with a needed portrait of a man who was all his life an unselfish servant not only of the Maori but of New Zealand as a whole.

ARCHITECT OF FORTUNE

FRANCIS GREENWAY: HIS LIFE AND TIMES, by M. H. Ellis; Angus and Robertson, Australian price 30/-.

THAT a man who was sentenced to death for uttering a forged document, reprieved, and then transported

to Australia for 14 years should within a year or two have been working in close association with Governor Macquarie as Government architect in Sydney, is in itself enough to make one rub one's eyes. But this was only one major happening in the life of Francis Greenway, who to this day holds a place of the highest honour among Australian architects.

Greenway, who was previously in practice in Bristol, was fortunate in obtaining a letter from Admiral Arthur Philip introducing him to Governor Macquarie, and recommending him for favourable treatment. It was lucky for him, too, that just at that moment Macquarie was desperately in need of a first-class architect. Greenway was put to work without much delay, was allowed to bring his wife and family out, and before long was behaving in the most lordly and high-handed way possible towards the Governor. Macquarie (a temperate and magnanimous man) held him in check, but allowed him considerable freedom and authority, with, architecturally speaking, the happiest results.

Greenway was an extraordinary character—vain, self-assertive, chock-full of the artistic temperament, yet greatly gifted. The story of his life in New South Wales is just as extraordinary. Mr. Ellis has admirably adapted his style and manner of presentation to his

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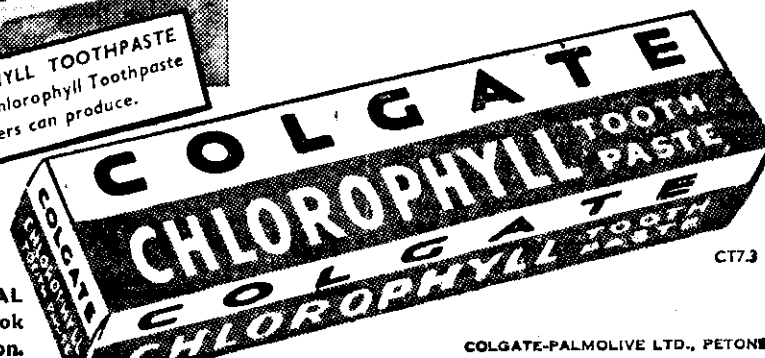


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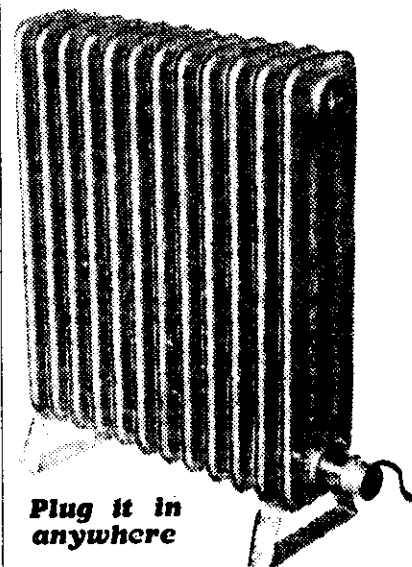
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