

fade away. Now comes the astonishing announcement that a handy atlas on a different plan and plane will be undertaken by an entirely new staff without any acquaintance with the work done and the problems involved. It is not even clear whether any full-time research officers will be appointed. The new atlas will admittedly tax the resources of the Lands and Survey Department less, but it appears a meagre substitute for the excellent one formerly projected. Surely more time is needed to prepare the new than to complete the old? The Government has changed horses midstream, but hardly for a better nag.

RUTH ALLAN (Wellington).

Sir.—At the recent annual meeting of the Historical Association some discussion took place among post-primary teachers present, concerning the New Zealand historical atlas; and I was instructed to express the views of the association as follows:

1. The Association deeply regrets that the original scheme for an historical atlas appears to have been abandoned.

2. From such information as is available to us, it does not appear that the publication now proposed would meet our schools' needs for a New Zealand historical atlas.

3. Members of the Association believe the atlas as proposed originally would have a most stimulating effect on history and geography teaching in our schools. It would be a most valuable adjunct to our task of building in the rising generation a knowledge of and a pride in New Zealand history.

We earnestly request that every possible consideration be given to a restoration of the original project.

ERLE ROSE, Hon. Secretary,
The Historical Association, Wellington.

SOUTH-EAST ASIAN FORUM

Sir.—The stimulating trans-Tasman forum on Indo-China and South-East Asia has just concluded. Fairly wide differences of opinion were revealed by the speakers, ranging from respect for "the genuine nationalist aspirations of the South-East Asian peoples," of L. R. Palmer, to detestation of the "yoke of Communist slavery," by R. W. Robson. As one who has many valued Asian friends on both sides of the bamboo curtain I was continually struck, however, by the common note of patronage, unconscious, I hope, and believe in most cases, used by all speakers. Even Messrs. Wood and Palmer, despite their open-mindedness and humanitarianism, could have given offence to any educated Asian by their tacit assumption of Western moral superiority.

Now while few Europeans have any inhibitions about expressing their opinions about Asian peoples and institutions, most Asians are far too polite to volunteer their opinion of the Europeans. However, their private opinions are far from flattering. No educated Asian will for a moment concede any superiority to the West except in the twin respects of military organisation and scientific knowhow. A little honest historical self-criticism will show that in this he is absolutely right. Europe has dominated Asia for over a century, not because of any superiority in morals, philosophy or the finer elegancies of life, but because of a sudden and comparatively recent revolution in the techniques of war and industrial production.

Three centuries ago the Asian States provided a more secure, a more cultured and altogether a more splendid picture than did any European kingdom. Even in matters of public health, education and living standards there was precious

little difference. Some Asian lands were far ahead of many Western ones even here. The kingdoms of Viet-Nam, Laos and Khmer had an ancient culture, a highly philosophical religion, a beautiful tradition of art and architecture, and a settled civilised way of life when Europeans were still struggling to get back to the forgotten civilised ways of Greece and Rome. Educated Asians well realise this. It is up to us to show them that we are not mere barbarian parvenus upon the historical scene, inflated by a sense of our recently-acquired importance and moral superiority. Self-conscious patronage, whether it takes the form of napalm bombs and flying box-cars or of grudging technological hand-outs will not win us friends and influence the people who are busy making the new Asia.

H. W. YOUREN (Napier).

"MIDSTREAM HORSES"

Sir.—Congratulations to 3YA for their series of talks "Midstream Horses." The accounts of these men who have changed one career for another at some stage of their lives have a markedly individual and interesting approach to the subject. All affirm their present choice as superior to the original. But why should not one more talk be added to the seven? Of all the midstream horses, the outstanding example is Woman. Every woman who marries gives up her career to take over the vitally important job of running the homes and raising the families of New Zealand. Her midstream change is surely the most important and fundamental of them all.

DENISE McCULLOCK (Sumner).

SPELLING OF WHANGAREI

Sir.—My acquaintance with the Maori language is so slight that it is with some hesitation I venture to cross swords with Mr. W. W. Bird. Is it not a fact, however, that though there is no such word as "Wanga," there are several meanings to "Wa"—one of them "region"; and several meanings to "Ngare"—one of them "multitude"? And anyway, if "Whangarei" is correct, how explain the phonetic spelling of the early missionaries—"Wangare"?

A. H. REED (Dunedin).

CHARLES EDWARD DOUGLAS

Sir.—I am editing the papers, diaries and reports of Charles Edward Douglas, who explored the mountains and remote valleys of South Westland between the seventies and the turn of the century. I appeal for the loan of any relevant manuscript, sketches or photographs, which would be copied and returned promptly. My address is 289 Muritai Road, Eastbourne.

The bulk of the Douglas records is in the William Wilson collection at the Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington. The late Dr. E. Teichmann, Messrs. Arthur P. Harper, Peter Graham, Colin Macfarlane, and others have generously made more material and information available. It is possible that fragments of Douglas's writing remain with descendants from Westland pioneers. Such fragments and letters would now be helpful in filling in details of Douglas's life and work.

JOHN PASCOE (Eastbourne).

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

Varian J. Wilson (Christchurch).—A long way from the point.

A. A. Sadd (Palmerston North).—Sorry, moves too close to advertising.

Helen Nortolk (Pukerua Bay).—The programme is being broadcast from 2YA on Saturday nights.

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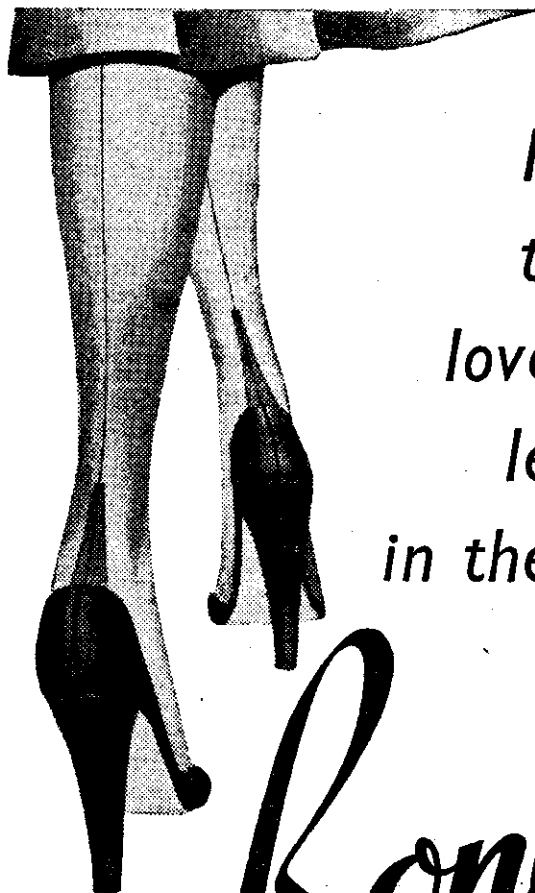
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