

much is bad, and the worst centres round Laya Raki, that most incongruous choice for the part of Moana. Looks, costume, manner and speech are all out of tone with the story, and the total effect is completely dissatisfying and irritating. The last-mentioned fault is so obvious to the discriminating ear as to suggest that the actress makes no attempt to speak Maori. Is her part spoken in one of her mother-tongues, or is it just what it sounds like—gibberish? It is certainly nothing like the speech of the Maori actors. (Incidentally, why does Miss Johns, whose diction and acting are fine though her role does her less than justice, call the Hongi Tepe's wife Mo-anna, when he rightly pronounces the name as Moana—two syllables only with no r sound?)

Enough criticism from authoritative sources in both Britain and locally has been levelled at Miss Raki's part as interpreted by her and the director (the immodesty is repellent and as unlike the behaviour of a young Maori woman of the period as it could be) so that we can well leave her to future audiences and critics. One can see many anachronisms and incongruities apart from those mentioned. To mention only one—the basket in which the heads are offered to Wayne. It could not have been the work of a Maori craftsman, for there was no cane of the type in New Zealand. It is the kind of thing imported from Eastern Asia; certainly not from any part of Polynesia. Did no one ever tell Mr. George Brown that all Maori kites (kits) were of flax, either plain or processed into muka (fibre)? All this adds up to a mass of error which makes one almost deplore the effort put into production of such a film. Yet it has much of our country which we admire and which captures our interest. Having said this I shall patiently await the production of a real New Zealand film, produced on the same scale but by people who understand the material with which they deal.

M.B.S. (Henderson).

A TALK ON CHINA

Sir,—Listening the other evening to the talk on China by the Rev. E. G. Jansen, formerly of the Presbyterian mission at Kong Chuen, Canton, but now of Hong Kong, I was dismayed to hear what amounted to a hearty condemnation of the Peoples' Republic of China, their Communist Party and their role in the scheme of things. I feel that, in spite of crediting China with many successes such as flood control, ending bribery and banditry, Mr. Jansen did give the impression that China's influence was being exercised for evil. How is it that Mr. Rewi Alley, having had even wider experience of China as a whole than Mr. Jansen, is so enthusiastic about the new China and its Government?

I don't expect Mr. Jansen to approve of the Communist Party of China or to approve of all that is being done in China. But I do expect him as a minister of religion to give a less lopsided view of China, and to encourage, in this country, a seeking for areas of agreement rather than disagreement, so that our people, the people of China and the peoples of the whole world, can live free from war, pestilence and famine.

The preservation of peace is paramount and should transcend religious and political differences. We should all be seeking channels of understanding with all peoples in order to promote peace and goodwill towards all men.

E. W. HUNTER (Dunedin).

N.Z. LISTENER, JULY 23, 1954.

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