



A.P.S. photograph

The Future of Farming

THE 1956 Ruakura Farmers' Conference opened with an address by Sir E. Bruce Levy (left), former Director of the Glasslands Division of the Department of Agriculture. This address will be broadcast in two parts on Friday, July 13 and 20, in the YA Farm Session, and later in other Farm Sessions. Sir Bruce's contention is that unless New Zealand's volume of primary production more than keeps pace with our increase in population, our national standard of living must deteriorate. Since 1938, only vastly increased prices, as against an increased production of only one-third, have allowed us to keep our heads above water. "It would be moonlight madness to imagine that rising prices on a similar pattern will continue to stave off economic deterioration over the next 10-20 years," he says. More scientific farming, with greater emphasis on extension work, is one of the remedies he proposes.

patient afterwards, and how earnestly he advised "keeping him quiet till his nerves recovered." When I remember the dog, the owners, the doctor, the cars, and the dollars, I would be the last person to suggest, even 8000 miles away, that discipline should be tried when brain-washing would be so much more profitable.

But I hope New Zealand will not be left in darkness when the experts begin to report. Although one of them has declared already that "the average dog-owner can't compete with the mind of a dog," that is not a reason why we should be refused the crumbs that must fall from these richly-garnished tables. The limits of bunk can never be reached, even at ten dollars a visit. But if I were a postman in Washington I would either pad my trousers or carry a repellent strong enough to make ill-mannered dogs think twice.

IN Vienna, I heard the commentator say in a travel film, music is a state of mind. I think I know the state of mind of the man who said it. I think it was a shallow mind cluttered up with empty phrases. The man who said it first may have meant something, though I am not sure that expressed what he meant, but it

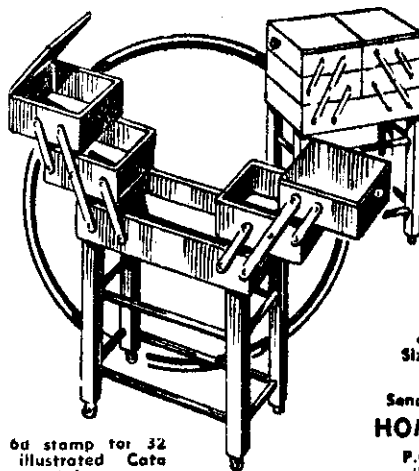
JUNE 17 meant no more in the film commentary than some of the other noises made in the studio. But I will not argue with the man who tells me I am wrong. He may be a well-informed man, and ignorance should not argue with knowledge.

In any case, glass has to be very thick to resist stones. If we are to be taken up as often as we utter sounds without sense, speech will sink to the bushman level. Shakespeare's songs, scores of lines in the Psalms, the most memorable phrase in Tam o' Shanter, pages of Carlyle, a hundred things in Job, in Paul, in Blake, in Emerson, in Milton, in Wordsworth, in three out of four of all our immortals, will be fuel for the slush-lamps of logic. It is better, all in all, to remain imitators, catchers of echoes, blowers of bubbles, and spreaders of dust. An hour or two after I heard that comment on Vienna I was told a pleasant story which I adapt and repeat without permission. Two mathematicians were discussing the calculus when a child trotted into the room and stood looking at them. "Well, Mary," one of them said, "I don't suppose you are interested in the calculus?" "No," she answered, "but I have my dolly." It is better for most of us to retain our dollies.

(To be continued.)

N.Z. LISTENER, JULY 13, 1956.

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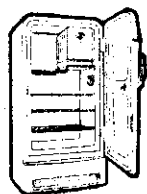


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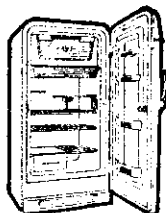
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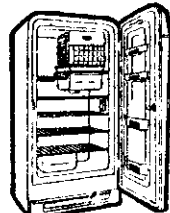
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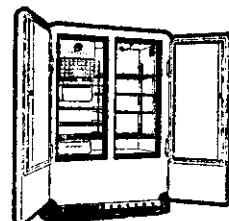
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