

Springtime Visitors

WHAT brings them to New Zealand in August, when the first spring flowers are blooming in the parks and newborn lambs are kicking up their heels again? Dr. James Bryant Conant, president of Harvard University, is interested mainly in climbing mountains, Eric Linklater, the novelist, wants to visit the Maoris, Dr. Margaret Mead, the anthropologist, is calling on Wellington friends on the way back from Australia, Sir Denys Lowson, Lord Mayor of London, is on a goodwill trip, and Thomas E. Dewey, Governor of New York State, has been making a tour of the Pacific in preparation for the United States election primaries, which will be held in the coming American autumn. The coincidence of their arrival may be fortuitous, but the thought of their almost simultaneous presence makes New Zealanders feel a little closer to the centre of things, and provides further evidence that we are living in a shrinking world.

Mr. Dewey, whom *The Listener* met at a press conference in Wellington, chuckled deep in his throat when asked that old chestnut about whether he was going to stand again for President. "There's no news in that," he said. "I said three years ago I had given up that idea, and last fall I told them I was going to support Eisenhower if he stands." He refused to discuss domestic politics, but he had a lot to say about foreign affairs.

"I'm making this trip through the Pacific because I believe the Pacific is going to be the critical area in the next few years. Explosive nationalism and the infiltration of Communist insurrectionists has created a bad situation all round the Pacific, and I wanted to see things at first hand. For the last



MARGARET MEAD
Domestic affairs . . .



THOS. E. DEWEY
. . . Foreign policies

few years I've been devoting a lot of my time to foreign policy, and I spent the first six months of this year supporting the 'troops for Europe' movement against the opposition of some members of my party." Isolationism was not dead in the United States, he said, but the stated policy of the Republican party, which he personally had done a good deal in framing, was against isolationism.

He was a small, dark-skinned, sartorial man who fidgeted with embarrassment while news photographers shot at him from all angles. But he gave an impression of suave poise as he parried questions, stating with quiet idealism that he believed all nations of the free world should stick together—what he called "the necessity for common action, else we all go down the drain." Skilfully he sought to kill the bogey that the American Republican party wants to stave off Russian aggression to the last European or British soldier, and as he spoke the prospect of Dewey as a future Secretary of State to a Republican President Eisenhower became a little more believable. Then he got on to the subject of dairy farming, in which he considered himself an expert. . . .

Sex and Temperament

Dr. Margaret Mead, the 49-year-old American anthropologist and author of

Male and Female, Growing Up in New Guinea, and Coming of Age in Samoa, had not arrived at the time we went to press. But we learnt that she has spent the last few months in Australia, where she has been giving a series of lectures, and at the same time sounding out the ground in preparation for a full-scale expedition by American scientists to Central Australia in 1952. She is staying in Wellington as the guest of Professor Ernest Beaglehole, and is lecturing to students.

This remarkable woman has been since 1926 assistant curator of ethnology at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. From her studies of primitive tribes she has drawn some fundamental scientific conclusions about many phases of our own cultural life, and her consideration of the subject of sex and temperament has led her to the belief that modern Western customs of courtship and marriage, especially in America, are unrealistic. "During courtship we expect the girl to remain aloof, then immediately after marriage to turn into a warm, yielding, feminine person. This is too contradictory to be successful," she says.

"Have we over-domesticated men, denied their natural adventurousness? Have we cut women off from their natural closeness to their children? In educating women like men, have we done something disastrous to men and women

alike, or have we only taken one further step in the recurrent task of building more and better on our original human nature?" These are some of the basic questions about our "maleness and femaleness in this 20th Century" with which this small, dark-haired, youthful-looking scientist is concerned, and which have made her work of outstanding interest in the world today.

Juan in New Zealand

Eric Linklater's visit has been sponsored by the British Council, and an itinerary has been arranged for him among the Maori tribes. He will arrive at Auckland on August 23, visit Northland and the East Cape, and return to Auckland on September 3. He will be in Wellington from September 12 to 21. In a little over 20 years he has published more than 30 books—novels, plays, short stories, poems, biographies, essays, anthologies, and children's books. The best-known of them are probably *Juan in America*, *Poet's Pub*, and *Private Angelo*. He is known to film audiences for recent adaptations of the two last-named novels, and to radio listeners for the BBC production of *Sealskin Trousers*. As a writer, this descendant of a long line of Orkney Islanders is not a first-rate stylist, but he has never lacked matter, and few novels have combined so much sense with so much hearty fun as *Juan in America*. At that time he turned a sharp satirical eye on the contemporary United States scene, and it will be interesting to see what he makes of us, if he should decide to repeat the formula, as he did in *Juan in China*, and give to the world *Juan in New Zealand*.

ELECTION CHART NEXT WEEK

TO help those who will be following the progress of the Big Count on the night of September 1, "The Listener" will print an election chart in the next issue. Nominations closed too late for its inclusion this week. With Saturday polling (and no newspapers available the day after the election), listeners will rely more than ever on results from the NZBS, and they should find "The Listener" chart of even greater value than in the past.

THE NZBS has arranged very full coverage on election night, and will broadcast several summaries the day after. Though arrangements are similar to those for the 1949 election, several changes made should give listeners even quicker service than they had then. The main National Stations will link at 7.15 p.m. instead of at 7.30 p.m. Summaries (which will be half-hourly instead of hourly) will early in the evening contain no comment—only the state of the parties and the names of electorates won—and will last only a minute or two (instead of ten minutes). They will be more extensive when the flow of results falls off. Other small changes made should also speed up the system slightly; and with no licensing poll listeners should not have as late a night as at past elections.

All YA and YZ listeners will link at 7.15 p.m., and apart from times when YZ stations may leave the link to broadcast local results and candidates' speeches, they will remain linked throughout the evening. In most cases Dominion results will be in the hands of announcers at Wellington not more than five minutes after they are despatched by Returning Officers in the various electorates. The ZB and X stations and 2ZA will broadcast local results and candidates' speeches. Half-hourly summaries, the first at 7.45 p.m., will be broadcast by YA, YZ, ZB, ZA and X stations. To help listeners to follow Dominion results, electorates will be numbered consecutively in alphabetical order, and these numbers will be used also in *The Listener* chart.

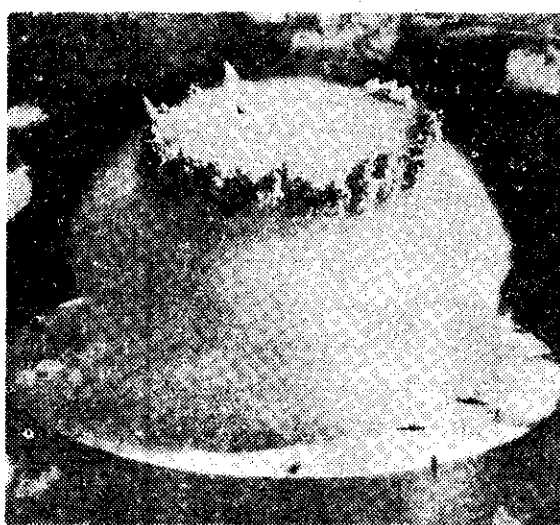
The YA and YZ stations will broadcast the 9.0 p.m. weather report. The YC and YD stations will broadcast alternative programmes and brief progress summaries of Dominion results. The 9.4 p.m. New Zealand and overseas news and the 11.0 p.m. London news will be heard from the YC stations which will then go off the air. The YD stations will close down at the normal time.

On Sunday, September 2, YA, YZ and ZB stations will broadcast a short summary of election results following the 7.35 a.m. weather forecast. For a more extensive review at 8.0 a.m. they will be joined by the X stations and 2ZA. Following the 9.0 a.m. weather forecast YA, YZ and X stations and 2ZA will link for a complete summary. This summary will be heard from ZB stations and possibly X stations and 2ZA at 10.30 p.m. Following the 12.30 p.m. weather forecast YA, YZ and ZB stations will broadcast a complete summary of results, the YA and YZ stations remaining linked for a rebroadcast of speeches of thanks by the party leaders.

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name as a broadcaster. Finally comes the post-war world, about which Dr. J. Bronowski was selected to speak. Dr. Bronowski became Director of the National Coal Board's Central Research Establishment early last year, and it was a tribute to his work as a scientist and mathematician. So far as the layman was concerned, however, he was better known as a broadcaster than as a mathematician and man of science. It was his description of the atom bomb havoc at Hiroshima that first made BBC listeners aware of a new personality in broadcasting, and he was also familiar to thousands as a lively participant in the Brains Trust.

No attempt has been made in *The Half Century* to impart an unreal cohesion to the series. The writers have been given a free choice of treatment, and the result is six features of a completely



BAKER DAY AT BIKINI
Atomic energy will be discussed in the final BBC programme on the Half Century

individual and, in two instances, a very personal and very English character.

These programmes will start at 4YC on Monday, September 3, at 9.30 p.m., 2YC on Saturday, September 8, at 7.30 p.m., 1YC on Tuesday, September 11, at 9.30 p.m., and 3YC on Thursday, September 13, at 9.30 p.m.