

# Covering The Big Air Race

MATERIAL for a series of preliminary programmes about the London-Christchurch Air Race will be gathered by Arnold Wall, Talks Officer at 3YA, in a flight to England and back in the R.N.Z.A.F. Hastings which is New Zealand's only entry in the race. This was announced as this issue of *The Listener* was going to press. Mr. Wall will also represent the NZBS in the aircraft during the race in October.

The Hastings was due to leave Whenuapai on May 21 on an eight days' flight to England by way of Brisbane, Darwin, Singapore, Ceylon, Karachi, Habbaniya (Iraq), Cyprus and Malta. After a short stay in England it will fly back over the route chosen for the race taking four days on the flight. Mr. Wall will take a tape recorder with him, and will gather both scripted and actuality material on the flights both ways, and while in England. He hopes to meet officials of the Royal Aeronautical Club, which is organising the race from the British end, and Air Ministry officials, and he will visit firms which are constructing British aircraft entered for the race. (He also hopes to get material for *Book Shop* from the National Book League, in London. Mr. Wall will return to England in the Hastings a few weeks before the race, which will start about October 10.

Those who read the interview with him in *The Listener* of May 15 will recall that he had a distinguished record in the R.A.F., from which he retired in 1951, after 25 years' service, with the rank of Group Captain. He was awarded the O.B.E. for his work during the



ARNOLD WALL

Berlin air lift. He has been with the NZBS for about two years.

The Hastings will take about 27 members of the R.N.Z.A.F., including air crew and a ground servicing party, to England on its survey flight, though only five air crew members will be on duty at any one time. Fifteen air crew members have been chosen to fly the aircraft in the race, and a maintenance party of eight will service it at stopping points. The Hastings will be commanded by Wing Commander R. F. Watson, of Kumara, who has been Officer Commanding No. 41 Squadron, R.N.Z.A.F., since 1951.

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example, is entitled to—and in my experience usually receives—his correct form of address even though he may be driving a steamroller. Possibly, now that doctorates in faculties other than medicine are becoming less uncommon in New Zealand, the title is being heard more frequently, but it can hardly, I think, be described as a "purely local usage."

As a matter of fact, both here and in England the title "doctor" is probably more widely misused within the medical and surgical professions than outside them. The correct form of address for most surgeons is "mister"—and they are invariably so addressed by their colleagues and staff. (I am not at all sure whether the degree of Ch.D. actually exists, but if it does I think it must be quite rare.) Similarly, not all medical practitioners are technically entitled to be called "doctor." Many of them hold no more than a M.B. degree—usually associated with various diplomas of high standing. However, while I have never discovered if a surgeon prefers to be called "mister" by his patients, I am very sure that to address a medical practitioner in the same way, irrespective of his qualification, would be the grossest discourtesy.

J. B. HYATT (Wellington).

## DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT

Sir,—Mr. Sid Scott's quotations from Lenin do not invalidate the contention that "proletariat" in Russia today does

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not mean "the whole body of wage-earning workers." Lenin calls the dictatorship of the proletariat "a special form of class alliance between the proletariat, the vanguard of the toilers, and the numerous non-proletarian strata of toilers." This makes it clear that the proletariat is a minority only of the workers—and from Mr. Boswell's statements, a very small minority indeed.

Mr. Scott quotes Lenin: "Every citizen to a man must act as a judge and participate in the government of the country." Admirable theory; but every citizen is not allowed to do that. He is not allowed to judge whether or not the present Communist regime should continue; if he ventures to suggest that a change is desirable he is liquidated. His "participation" amounts to no more than voting—or refraining from voting—for a person included in a list of candidates selected by the heads of the Communist Party. He may not nominate anybody else as candidate. So that in fact the citizen does not "participate in the government of the country"; he merely participates in the confirming of, candidates nominated by an autocratic and very small minority of the Communist Party.

The present rulers of Russia have exploited the bold humanitarian aims of the revolution to gain for themselves autocratic powers far removed from the freedom for all envisaged by the early revolutionaries.

J. MALTON MURRAY (Oamaru).

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS  
Les Stewart (Turakina).—See paragraph on page 17.  
Old Wanganui Listener.—Many thanks.

