



FROM THE HOME FORUM

Clarinet Solos Would Be Welcome Change

To the Editor

Sir,—Would it not be possible to have an occasional clarinet solo as a change from saxophones and cornets, as I think some people prefer the tone of the woodwind to the brass? What one hears of the clarinet in the 2YA station orchestra is most enjoyable, and a duet such as "Lo. Here the Gentle Lark" for flute and clarinet would, I'm sure, be much appreciated. I heard the flute solo from the Auckland Town Hall on Sunday, May 5, and thought it one of the most enjoyable items I had heard.—I am, etc.,

MELODY.

Geraldine.

Speech of "War Talks" Compared

To the Editor

Sir,—I am fully in accord with the letter of "Lapsus Linguae" in every way. We do not want the so-called Oxford accent in our New Zealand broadcasts, and our announcers are the happy medium for the most part.

Dean Inge was painful to listen to and had his talk been on any other subject he would have been cut off by us. I was also surprised that the Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill, in spite of his great renown as a statesman, had a rather poor delivery. On the other hand, Sir Norman Angell had a splendid broadcasting voice, clear and distinct.—I am, etc.,

H.G.S.

Auckland.

Easy For Pedants to Watch For Mistakes

To the Editor

Sir,—In your issue of May 3 appeared a letter in favour of cultured announcers written by one who impressed us with his own English culture by adopting the typically Latin pen-name of Caius. In explanation (or was it apology?) for his attack on the dialectic qualities of our announcers, he states that he comes from England, "and one never hears grammatical errors or mispronunciation there." It must be due to our lack of cultured English announcers that we find the speech of so many newly-arrived Englishmen so very difficult to follow.

As far as grammatical errors are concerned, "Caius" being himself a cultured Englishman, will be perfectly aware that they are fairly common even in the works of standard English authors, and, of course, we cannot expect a mere radio announcer to be more pedantic than a standard author. The introduction of the Oxford accent would supply a source

of amusement to the youth of this country for whom "Caius" shows so much concern.

I consider that "Caius's" outburst is a gratuitous insult to our New Zealand announcers, who can compare more than favourably in clarity of diction and freedom from grammatical error with any of the English announcers I have heard during the Jubilee celebrations. It is easy for pedants to sit back and watch for mistakes, but I fancy that most listeners will prefer the pleasing accents of, say, our 3YA announcer, to the possibly more correct but certainly less intelligible speech of "cultured English announcers."—I am, etc.,

NEW ZEALAND.

Timaru.

"War is Caused by Some Cause or Other"

To the Editor

Sir,—We have now had five of the special broadcast addresses recorded by the British Broadcasting Corporation. "The Causes of War." The method of treatment was mainly notable for its amazing variety, but the talk of Sir Norman Angell impressed me more than any of the others, as a practical and valuable contribution to the series.

The effect on the world's trade of the economic policy, almost universally in operation, has scarcely been alluded to at all, although many believe this to be a preponderating cause. To leave this out seems to me to render the series not much more beneficial than the opinion of the urchin, when asked in the early days of the airship, by his friend, what kept it up in the air. The reply was: "The cause is caused by various causes, but the chief cause is caused by some cause or other, that's cause why!"—I am, etc.,

BECAUSE.

Tauranga.

Unexpected Change in Rowing Announcers

To the Editor

Sir,—As a constant listener since the inception of the Radio Broadcasting Board, may I be privileged to protest most emphatically against the action of 4YA, Dunedin, in transposing the local aquatic announcer for a comparative stranger to broadcast such an important event as the New Zealand champion eights. The broadcast was anything but satisfactory. Let it be understood that I do not wish to hold the man responsible for the job up to ridicule, as I believe he really gave of his best.

Suffice it to say that surely the local 4YA station director was taking a big chance when, as I am told, the old an-

nouncer's name was submitted along with Mr. Young's by the Otago Rowing Association. Surely it was decidedly unwise to swap horses in midstream?

Do we take this action to mean that we, the listeners, are now to be denied our usual announcer in the future? Why has the local station director taken some years to find out that a change was necessary, and this to take place at such an inopportune time?—I am, etc.,

CURIOUS.

Dunedin.

Objects to Importation of Radio Artists

To the Editor

Sir,—Is the newly-appointed Broadcasting Board responsible for the importation of celebrities to sing at the national stations? If so, they are making a wonderful start.

What on earth is the big idea in bringing these artists to New Zealand? Can it be that the members are under the delusion that we have television in this country? If anyone can tell me it is good business to give big sums of money to these artists when the same money will buy hundreds of double-sided recordings of these and other artists, which in turn can be played over and over again, then I will admit I don't know much about business.

The personality touch can be ruled out as mere humbug. As well have wrestling in the studios. An expert will decide in favour of a recording as against a personal appearance in a studio.

I also notice when finished with the Broadcasting Board these artists sometimes start on a concert tour. It is certainly a great opportunity for them to earn a little extra "pin money."

As a license-holder I strongly protest against the unbusinesslike methods of those responsible. If there be money to spare, let us send some of our better artists to the recording studios in Australia for a try-out, or give a straight-out donation to charity. It is not the board of management's duties to supply artists for community sings and concerts; it is their business to remember that we have no television in New Zealand.—I am, etc.,

ONLY COMMON SENSE.

Dunedin.

Atheist and Croonophile Brothers in Misery

To the Editor

Sir,—Are you aware that in "God's own country" itself the very day of rest has become unendurable for many honest citizens? Have you ever seriously considered the lot of the farmer, the jazz

(Continued Col. 1 next page.)