

## JONES SEWING MACHINES

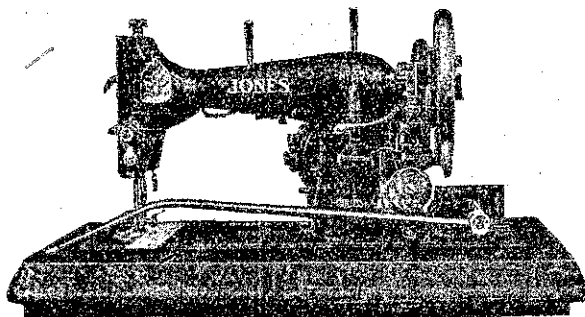
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and sailors formed the bulk of the former, and there were, happily, few of the latter. The Count's habit of falling in with the wishes of all who approached him caused many complications to his management. In one town, a woman sought an interview. She arrived at the hotel and calmly announced that she had arranged to take the Count and Countess driving that morning, had fixed a luncheon engagement for them, and, so that they wouldn't be lonely for the rest of the day, had planned something or other for the afternoon! All this gratuitous largesse from a perfect stranger!

In another place a certain business man endeavoured to monopolise the Count from the moment he arrived until he left. He cornered him on the stage after his lecture, clung to him at the hotel, where Count and manager were frantically endeavouring to entertain several people who had been invited to supper, arrived at the hotel next morning with a crowd of friends, kept the Count in the bar for over two hours, and then, just prior to lunch time, took me aside and, waving to the bar, said that in his opinion, the Count should be kept away from "all that!"

Last I heard of the gentleman, he was endeavouring to interest von Luckner in a suggestion that he should be in Auckland at the end of the Count's tour so that von Luckner could "take him for a sail round the harbour in the yacht."

I RECALL, too, the day on which a well-meaning woman, bent on being seen by her less favoured friends with a real live countess, inveigled Countess von Luckner into the largest tearoom in the town, and then, after a welter of introducing on all sides, attempted to take her direct from there to the popular lounge of the largest hotel in the place. When the Countess demurred, the hostess insisted that no visitor to the town ever dreamed of leaving without setting eyes on this beautiful lounge. The Countess, to me (much later): "To her I say: Oh God! do I not see hotel lounges all the world over...!"

Then there was the ill-timed challenge by the Federation of Labour in Wellington to the Count to debate Nazism, and the subsequent report that a demonstration was to be staged at the Opera House. Police were posted for special duty—and nothing happened. There was the Ministerial ban preventing the Count from speaking over 2TB, which was carried to the extreme of the station refusing to accept paid advertising for the local lectures. There was the stolen cap incident in Hawera, and the rather fatuous editorial efforts resultant upon a couple of papers taking literally the Count's figure of speech to the effect that the officer who refused him permission to visit Ripa Island "had no heart."

THE Count has left New Zealand.

Those of us who were closest to him, never at any time gulled by the traits of showmanship in his personality, will remember him for his boyish enthusiasms, his love of life and adventure, his extraordinary vitality and his great good fellowship. And we will remember the charm of his flaxen Countess and always admire the brisk efficiency with which she managed the Count's business affairs—and the Count.