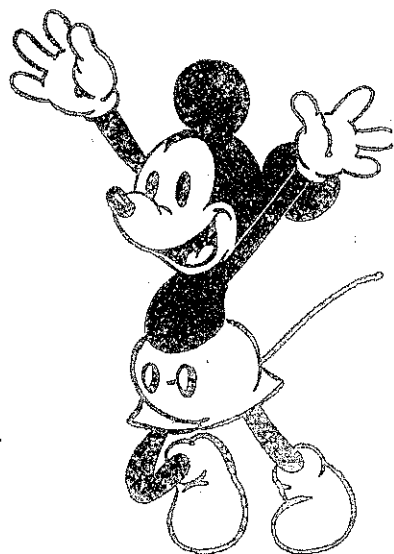


Dangerous Character



Mickey Mouse's Entry Into
New Zealand Politics Was By
No Means A First Excursion

Specially Written for the "Record"

by

"AKARANA"

ONE day recently the Minister in Charge of Tourist Publicity, the Hon. F. Langstone, had the brightest of bright ideas. New Zealand, he thought, ought to have representation among the Disney animals—and he contacted Walt himself with the idea of negotiating the production of an animated cartoon that would include New Zealand birds and animals.

It was a field day for the newspaper cartoonists when the idea was announced through the Press. Next issue bore pseudo-Disney representations of every animal outside the zoological handbook—from Mickey Savage to the Big Bad Dan.

Mickey, himself, it is reported, was unperturbed. It was by no means the first time that gentle rodent has been embroiled in political upheavals. These days not even such peaceful and international vermin as Mickey can hope to escape the contamination of political suspicion and political cartoonists.

MICKEY was once expelled from Yugoslavia for conspiring against the throne—he and the newspaper correspondent who rashly reported the plot. He was also thrown out of Germany by Hitler because Mickey was accompanied by a brigade of animals wearing Uhlan helmets. This was a reflection on the Germany army and too serious to be passed over.

But Mickey was eventually pardoned. Even dictators are not immune from his spell. Mussolini loves him.

The Yugoslavian incident shows the international character of Mickey's political activities. He is apparently without all principles and can be all things to all men.

Thinking that he represented the meekness and mildness of the masses under capitalism, Russia countered his bourgeois propaganda by creating a Russian Mickey, known as Yozh the Porcupine—an animal favourite of Russian children. But Yozh turned out to be only old Mickey in disguise!

While Mickey's victims laugh, he conspires. His father, Walt Disney, slyly deprecates the subtleties of

Mickey's character. All Mickey wants is laughter. He declares Mickey has no ulterior thoughts, no philosophy of life, no hidden political, social or psychological motivations. Those who read anything else into his life are all wrong, he adds. But, slyly too, Mr. Disney omits to mention that Mickey is more human than most human beings. That accounts for it all.

MICKEY draws no distinctions of class, colour, race, or condition. He is friend even to jailbirds. President Roosevelt is also his friend, and the Queen Mother Mary sends for him regularly.

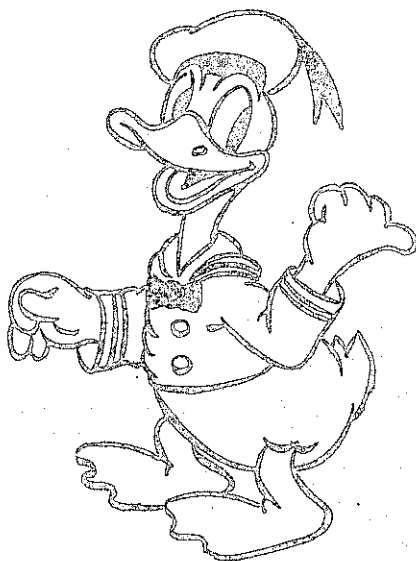
He is the idol of savages. The Zulus refuse cakes of soap unless they bear his picture, just as natives used to refuse coins because they did not have Queen Victoria's picture on them!

Next to the Emperor, he is the most popular figure in Japan.

Every country Mickey visits calls him by some variant of his name—or pseudonym, for his real name is unknown. Once it was said to be Hilarity Jones. Under that variant it is apparently his purpose to rally his followers. The complete record of his aliases has never been compiled but the following list of countries and the names they give him show his international character:—

Mickey is known in German as "Michael Maus"; France, "Michel Souris"; Japan, "Miki Kuchi"; Spain, "Miguel Ratoncito"; Italy, "Topolino"; Greece, "Mikel Mus"; Sweden, "Musse Pigg"; Brazil, "Camondongo Mickey"; Argentina, "El Raton Mickey"; and in Central America, "El Raton Miguelito."

And the Maoris call him Mickey Mauihi.



DONALD.

A fellow conspirator...

THE air fleets and sea fleets of the world cannot compete with the creatures that Mickey can call forth to battle if he chooses. He can scuttle a pirate with the aid of a sawfish and turn tortoises into tanks. The trouble capacity of the little brute is enormous.

We hereby move a vote of no-confidence in Mr. Langstone for seeking dangerous foreign alliances. If the Government falls Mickey will be unperturbed. He is the greatest plotter of all time.