

WHEN RADIO ALARMS!

Ether Waves Can Carry More
Than Mirth and Music

COMFORT in fireside programmes is not the fare in Czechoslovakia when Hitler thunders on the air. Then, says the Czech traveller to N.Z., his people listen with their fists clenched and eyes flashing.

Interview by
WILTON BAIRD



PRESIDENT BENES.

... Czechoslovakian President drops his vote into the box during recent elections in Prague.

RADIO in New Zealand brings music and talks and fireside comfort. It is a soothing drug to many, or, at the most, pleasantly stimulating. But in other countries of the world it can bring threats and terror and awaken those elemental feelings that end in war.

The Czechoslovakian journalist, traveller and naturalist, whose hobby is to collect beetles for the Prague Museum while he roams Australia and New Zealand, gave me an inkling of those other emotions that radio can arouse in a sentence he suddenly spoke.

"Sometimes, over the radio," he told me, "a Czechoslovakian listener hears Herr Hitler and his apostles rage and promise them all kinds of surprises, but amongst all that he says is but a penny-worth of good intention. At such times Czechs and Slovaks listen with flashing eyes and clenched fists. Sometimes they cannot help if from their lips escapes language which every gentleman should avoid . . ."

WHEN the Czechs learned of Hitler's proposal to march into their territory, he told me, they had 200,000 men in their frontier trenches within 24 hours of getting the news of Germany's intentions.

"All the people united," he said, "rich and poor, willing to sacrifice all they had. They gave their motor-cars to get the soldiers to the frontier, and they followed them as far as they could up to the lines. There was no crying by the women and children. Everything in the way of organisation went like clock-work."

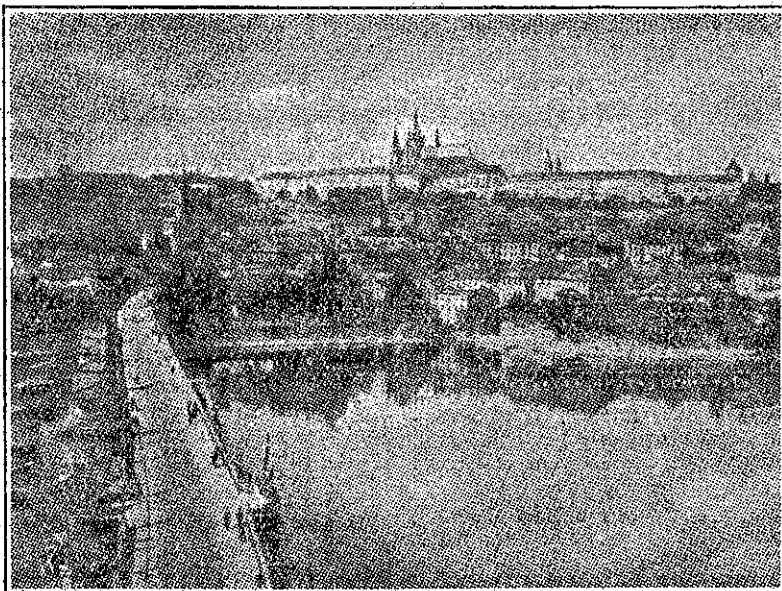
Never!

He was talking of radio in Czechoslovakia. Recently he had spoken in the "In Town To-night" session, the lively feature that is to be heard from 2ZB on alternate Friday nights.

"The Czechs will never submit to domination by Hitler?" I asked.

No change of expression came over the square, high-cheekboned face of the Czech traveller, Joseph L. Erben, and he spoke quite calmly and quietly in a tone that seemed to give more realism to what he said than if he had been shouting.

"Czechoslovakia will never submit to German domination."



PRAGUE.

... Where they listened to the grief of London

Those Maginot Lines

"And those lines?" I asked him

"They are Maginot lines," he said, "built on the French plan, along the mountain frontier that faces Germany. Now the lines are being extended along the frontier facing Austria. Across the centre of the country, cutting it in half, is another Maginot line, behind which the Czechs would make their last stand."

THE Maginot lines are three deep on the frontier facing Germany. They are the latest invention of military science, with secret concrete underground tunnels, gun emplacements and huge subterranean (Contd. on page 39.)