

N.Z.'s CREDITABLE PART—Cont. from Page 1.

but the Government fully realises that a great deal more has yet to be done—and quickly, too.

To guard its 8000-mile coastline, Australia at present has four cruisers, four destroyers, a sea-plane carrier, a single-screw motor-boat and one or two miscellaneous craft. The cruisers are obsolete, the aircraft carrier is being exchanged for two sloops formerly in the British Navy.

LYONS PLANS TO BUILD TWO MORE 7000-TON CRUISERS, TWO DESTROYERS, TWELVE FAST MOTOR-TORPEDO BOATS. ESTIMATED COST: \$20,548,000.

Canada maintains a very small fleet off British Columbia, but Mackenzie King has lately announced an addition of four new mine-sweepers to the Dominion's meagre navy of six destroyers, three mine-sweepers, a motor vessel, a depot ship and a training schooner. (Australia has three ships more.)

\$63,000,000

THE first really important step in building a concrete Empire defence was taken by Australia when her Defence Minister Street announced a \$43,000,000 defence programme, later increased to \$63,000,000. This means that within a few months the Australian taxpayer will be paying almost as much as the British taxpayer for defence.

Darwin, isolated town of fewer than two thousand whites, nineteen hundred miles from Singapore, and overlooking the entrance from the Pacific to the Indian Oceans, is regarded as Australia's key point of defence.

While the heads at Canberra discuss whether to honeycomb the land round Darwin with underground hangars and strongly increase coastal defences, this sun-baked little town is only in telephonic touch with the outer world

Hot Shots

FRANK GOLDBERG Hails a Brave New World—"Record" heading last week.

But, we think, certain hotel employees won't be there!

RADIO quip from 2ZB:

Vicar: I prayed for you last night.

She: You needn't have. My name's in the phone book.

"**FRANCO'S** policy," declares the London "Times" in a weighty pronouncement on the Spanish Civil War, "is 'Spain for the Spaniards.'" With just a teeny, weeny bit for the Moors?

THE Wellington Zoo has received a request from England for an infertile emu-egg. The fact that the inquirer is a small boy seems to disprove the theory that the egg is intended for use in a by-election.

THE Wellington City Council aims to reduce street noises in the capital city. It's to be hoped to-morrows and homing revellers will be the first to be dealt with.

FINAL arrangements for a survey of children's feet have been made by the New Zealand Footwear Manufacturers' Association. There will, of course, be a certain amount of preliminary spadework to be done.

CAUSE for celebration. Miner digging at Waipori, Otago, unearthed 24 bottles of beer—mostly filled—which had been buried for between 50 and 60 years.

THE motion picture industry is said to have its ups and downs. So have theatre patrons in the seats at the end of the aisle at five past eight.

for twelve hours a day. But maybe something will be done about that some day.

Canada would naturally look to her powerful neighbour for help if she were attacked. Said American-minded Mackenzie King lately: "While naturally we are glad to know that we can count on this additional safeguard in any great emergency, to suggest that we depend upon it entirely and do absolutely nothing for ourselves is simply to be lacking in self-respect as a nation; it is simply sponging."

Canada spends about 15/9 a head on her armed forces—Britain spends at least £7/15/-.

But to be of any real assistance to Britain in a major war Canada would have to build a chain of aerodromes on the Atlantic seaboard, create an air force of giant, long-distance bombers and transport planes capable of spanning the ocean at a moment's notice. But the boot is now on the other foot.

Canadians talk blithely of Britain's long-distance air force, which could as easily come to the defence of Canada!

Nazis: Keep Out!

SOUTHWARDS, guarding the second string of Britain's sea routes, is the harbour of Capetown. Here a ten-million scheme is being pushed ahead with all speed in keeping with Capetown's position as one of the most strategic points in the world. An enormous new basin is being scooped out by Dutch dredges, a graving dock and a new railway depot are being built.

OSTENSIBLY FOR CIVIL AND PEACETIME USE, THE NEW HARBOUR IS ALSO DESIGNED TO ACCOMMODATE FIGHTING

SHIPS SHOULD OCCASION ARISE. INFERENCE IS, OF COURSE, THAT CAPE TOWN MAY ONE DAY HAVE TO REPLACE SUEZ; ALSO, GOOD NAVAL ACCOMMODATION AT CAPE TOWN MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR SOUTH AFRICA TO DEFEND HER COASTS AGAINST ANY CONTEMPLATED NAZI OCCUPATION OF AN EX-GERMAN COLONY, SUCH AS TOGO-LAND.

Guarding the routes to India, Australia and New Zealand are Gibraltar, Malta, Cyprus, Suez, Aden. Heavily-fortified Gibraltar is now regarded by experts as the only absolutely tenable position—and that depending to a certain extent on our good relations with whatever Spanish Government is in power.

AND what of Suez?

Control of the canal, while

it does not rest entirely with Britain, is vital to the defence of the Empire, and the present position in Palestine bodes no good for the future of the canal.

Although Britain maintains strong land and sea and air forces in Egypt, ready at a moment's notice to fly to the protection of the canal, what might happen in Arabia in the event of a European war is unpredictable.

Unless Palestine remain strongly pro-British the Iraq-Haifa oil pipeline—which is vital to the maintenance of an Eastern Mediterranean fighting navy—cannot be adequately guarded.

So far as India is concerned there is no doubt that in the event of a world war involving the Mother Country, hundreds of thousands of wildly loyal Indians would flock to the colours. But India has her own internal problems which prohibit sending too many troops westwards. The British raj cannot, at the moment, afford to be weakened.

This World of Ours

FRANCE'S "Little Hitler" is the mayor of Crosnes, a village just outside Paris. He has issued a decree forbidding dogs of his commune to bark between hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

A PLUTOCRAT knocked at the door of heaven; St. Peter inquired name and address, but drew a blank against that entry.

"Do you recall any action of grace, ever so small, that might

"THAT'S RIGHT
SON, NEVER
SAY PLEASE"



Interviewed for this page, a well-known Oriental said, with an inscrutable laugh, that good sport is also had in apologising and working up expressions of regret for various little incidents such as dropping bombs on British ships, smacking missionary ladies in the face and scattering a few machine-gun bullets on American gunboats, but this sport can be had all the year round.

Alas, Poor Phar Lap

READ that the skeleton of Phar Lap is now on exhibition in the Dominion Museum at Wellington, writes Artist Cousin Hobnail. Please publish the enclosed letter.

"The horse has long been called the friend of man," writes Artist Cousin Hobnail, "but is man the friend of the

by **JOHN GUTHRIE**

have been overlooked here?" asked he.

"Yes. Once I gave a penny to a blind beggar."

Said St. Peter, fumbling in his robes: "Here's tuppence—go to Hell."

Popular Sports

WITH the exception of cricket, Japanese took part in the same sports as New Zealanders, says a visiting Japanese, baseball, skiing, skating and sea-fishing all being popular in season.—News item.

Riding Hood, "What large hips you had, Phar Lap!" "What long teeth you had, Phar Lap!" and "What tremendous ribs you had, Phar Lap!"

"What lover," cries Hobnail, "could worship at the shrine of his mistress's bones? What descendant of a long line of notable ancestors could take his guests round a gallery of skeletons with pride and say, 'Here is my forefather, Sir William. He fell at Creedy. Observe that noble tibia. This dainty little bone-study is my ancestress, Isobel Flighty, the toast of the Regency Bucks. Regard the exquisite conformation of her knee-joints. Here is the noble framework of great-grandfather Tobias, the famous Victorian preacher. I see the wire in his backbone is rather rusty."

"From some far-off Elysian field," writes Artist Cousin Hobnail, "I seem to catch a long derisive neigh. I seem to hear a noble horse telling the souls of infant foals as yet unborn: 'There's only one race I am glad to have lost, my children. It is called the Human Race. . . .'"

Offside

UNACCOUNTABLE behaviour of the Government in ignoring the claims to public worship of the All Blacks during the Physical Fitness Week campaign has caused much head-shaking in well-informed quarters.

"We take it as a deliberate slight," said a well-known five-eighths, "on the whole of the profession. Lots of the boys, I don't mind telling you, are already considering turning over to League, and the possibility is that by next winter there will be no Rugby games for the public to see at all, and we'd like to see the Government that could carry on in office in

the face of a national calamity like that," said this chap menacingly.

"There was some talk once of having an All Black in the pageant of Youth and Health sitting on a throne drawn by Fitness Girls strewing roses in front of him and burning incense as they went, but that idea seems to have lapsed. There's still time to do something, however. We are strongly recommending that the P.M. should lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Genius who first devised the idea of the wing-forward, and if this isn't agreed to," said this chap grimly, "there may be trouble. All we want is a gesture."

PORTRAIT STUDY



CHAMBERLAIN
(Nebelspatter, Zurich.)