

Wanted—Universal Language!

Esperanto Lecture from 3YA

REALISING the growing need for a universal language to cope with the broadcast and sound film problems, M. N. M. Bell, M.A., B.D., lectures regularly from 3YA. Following is one of his talks which outlines the need for Esperanto and explains the fundamentals.

ALTOGETHER about 100 Esperanto newspapers and periodicals are published, and I should like to read you one or two items from one of them this evening. The one I have chosen is "La Suda Kruco" (the Southern Cross), a little monthly paper published in Melbourne, in the January issue of which may be found the following paragraph about Esperanto in our own country of New Zealand.

An Important Announcement.

REPLYING on November 27, 1929, to (an inquiry made by the New Zealand Esperanto Association regarding the teaching of Esperanto by departmental teachers to children of the primary schools outside of ordinary school hours, the Director of Education, Wellington, N.Z., stated:

"I have to acknowledge receipt of your memorandum of the 22nd inst., and in reply have to say that, subject to the by-laws of the Education Board, a teacher might form in his school an Esperanto class for his pupils out of school hours. Of course, attendance at such a class would be subject to the approval of the pupil's parents.

"Subject also to the by-laws of the board, the school may be used out of school hours, on such terms as the committee (school) may prescribe." ("La Suda Kruco," January, 1930.)

From this it appears that any State teacher at any rate can now form an Esperanto class in his own school in New Zealand, if he so wished.

I suppose most people who study past history will conclude that most of it is decided by economic motives. How does this apply to Esperanto? During the last 40 years Esperanto has gradually gained in strength, and possibly 1,000,000 people have become more or less acquainted with it. That it is still gaining in strength, by the way, is sufficiently proved by the fact:

First, that the some 200 attempts at a universal language since the XVII century, Esperanto alone shows sign of such vigorous life that it can hold annual conferences which some 1500 delegates from all parts of the world now take part; and secondly, that the Esperanto library of the Universal Esperanto Association in Geneva now contains some 7,500 different volumes of translations from all languages or

of original works, showing that on an average one new book a day has been published in Esperanto since 1920; and thirdly, that the radio stations of Europe, for example (such places as Cologne, Paris, Moscow, Bern, Turin, Vienna, Brussels) have regular Esperanto broadcasts of various kinds).

Advent of the Talking Film.

Following is a conversation between a well-known film director and the delegate of the Universal Esperanto Association:—

Delegate: "Why are you now more interested in our universal tongue?"

Director: "I have not had much time for Esperanto. I did not need the language. Now that the talking films are so much appreciated throughout the world, a new problem has arisen. It is a problem of our continued existence, of our success in Europe. The English language is not wanted on the Continent of Europe. A universal language is absolutely necessary for our new films. It is a matter of money. If the films cannot be used in Europe, our profits are less."

Delegate: "American films could be shown at least in Britain, couldn't they?"

Director: "Yes, but you must remember that our American English is not very pleasant to a great many Englishmen. We have, in addition, many idioms which are not understood by Britishers. In Britain they have other idioms which we don't understand. And it is the idioms which give spice to a language. The English of British films will not be liked by most American people. But besides all that, we don't wish to lose the patronage of Continental Europe and of other countries."

Delegate: "A universal language is the simplest and most logical."

The Esperanto Alphabet.

IN a perfect alphabet there would be one separate sign for each separate sound. In English, we have five vowel signs, a, e, i, o, u, to represent 20 different sounds, which again may be spelt in 190 different ways. This makes English such a difficult language to learn. Only a phonetically written English would appear to have much hope of ever becoming an international language.

In Esperanto we have five vowel signs which by themselves or in combination represent all the Esperanto vowels.

(a) For example, the English sign "a" is one of these five, being pronounced like the "a" in "ma," not like the "a" in "rat" or "fall" or (Concluded on page 25.)

IF IT SO HAPPENS THAT IT IS DECIDED NOT TO PERMIT DESCRIPTIONS OF THE COMING MATCHES WITH THE BRITISH FOOTBALLERS TO BE BROADCAST I AM GOING TO PAINT A PICTURE — HERE IS THE PICTURE



IT IS CALLED "THE SILENT SPEAKER" — AS YOU SEE IT DEPICTS FARMER WAYBACK SITTING DISCONSOLATE BY HIS WIRELESS SET WITH HIS DOG MINNIE DISSOLVED IN TEARS BESIDE HIM

"OH LOOK AT THAT — I'VE GONE AND BAILED UP OLD TAFFY"



WHEN HIS MIND IS FULL OF FOOTBALL ALL THE TIME

OF COURSE IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THIS PICTURE WILL FIND A PLACE IN THE NATIONAL ART GALLERY AND IN YEARS TO COME

"OH, HOW PITIFUL — HOW POIGNANT — HOW HEART-RENDING — WHAT'S IT ABOUT?"



VISITORS WILL BURST INTO TEARS AT THE STARK SADNESS OF IT

AND THE REASON FOR HIS SORROW IS THAT THE FIRST TEST IS BEING PLAYED AND NO ACCOUNT OF IT IS COMING OVER THE AIR AND MORE THAN THAT — IT MEANS A WASTED AFTERNOON FOR FARMER WAYBACK



"I WONDER WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW — MAYBE THE BRITISHERS ARE TWENTY POINTS IN THE LEAD"

BECAUSE HOW CAN HE CONCENTRATE

"I FEEL SURE SOMETHING AWFUL'S HAPPENING TO NEW ZEALAND — P'RAPS COOKE'S HURT — OOH — WHAT SAY HE IS?"



ON WORK

"A CHAP NAMED PATERSON PAINTED IT YEARS AGO TO COMMEMORATE THE ACTION OF THE RUGBY AUTHORITIES IN REFUSING TO PERMIT CERTAIN IMPORTANT FOOTBALL MATCHES TO BE BROADCAST"



AND WHEN THEY HEAR WHY IT WAS PAINTED

"I THINK (SOB) THOSE RUGBY AUTHORITIES (SOB) OUGHT TO HAVE BEEN (GULP) JOLLY WELL ASHAMED OF THEMSELVES (SOB) FOR CAUSING SUCH HARROWING SCENES"



THEY MAY SAY RATHER RUDE THINGS — AND I'M SURE OUR PRESENT RUGBY AUTHORITIES WOULDN'T LIKE TO BE THOUGHT UNKINDLY OF IN YEARS TO COME