

"Fully half of the racial hates and international hostilities arise from lack of understanding..."—is the opinion of Dr. Guy H. Scholefield, O.B.E., Parliamentary Librarian. In the following interview he reveals the important part radio has played in the establishment of a wider inter-racial understanding, and ultimately of a world peace.

You have asked me for some remarks on the use of broadcasting as a factor in the promotion of international peace. To those, perhaps who have begun to think of international matters only in the last few years, the thing is possibly self-evident. It is a fact with which they have grown up, and which needs no demonstration. There are, I suppose, very few people in New Zealand to-day who have not had an opportunity through radio of actually hearing speakers from the other side of the world express their views. Even the young people of to-day have heard the voices of the great men of our own Empire and of foreign countries.

Now, what was the position, say, twenty years ago? Up to the time of the Great War facilities for the exchange of opinions, or even for hearing the voice of a foreigner, did not exist. Even in Great Britain speeches by representatives of foreign nations were heard only occasionally, and then only by limited audiences of learned societies, chambers of commerce, and so on. There was no possibility of their being heard by the mass of the people.

EVEN the representatives of the British Dominions were heard only when they assembled at Imperial conferences, and then by a small portion of the public. In fact, it is not far wrong to say that the people of one country had no means whatever of knowing what those of another country thought, except through the restricted medium of the Press. Certainly some of the great newspapers and Press organisations maintained excellent staffs of foreign correspondents, and gave the British public a fine conspectus of the outstanding news of the outside world—and in this respect New Zealand was for many years one of the best served countries in the world. But the most enthusiastic champion of the old style of journalism would not venture to assert that this service could be compared with present-day facilities for exchange of ideas provided through the medium of radio.

Within the last year or two there has been a complete intellectual revolution worked by the transmission of the human voice. It is an amazing reflection that whereas at the beginning of the century the whole of mankind was dumb to any but hearers within the range of the human voice, to-day there is scarcely a spot in the world so remote that its

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dwellers cannot hear instantaneously the voice of one man anywhere who desires to be heard. I have said "one man," which is remarkable. If I had said "any man" it would have been equally true, but it would have been disturbing.

The young people of to-day are the first generation in the history of the world, who, wherever they live, can say that they have heard the voice of the sovereign of our great Empire actually addressing his people all over the world and being heard by them; who have heard a great international conference

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for the limitation of armaments actually in session; who have heard men in distress calling for help from uncharted solitudes; who have heard, in their own drawing-room, the accents of foreign statesmen; who have heard faint suggestive propaganda from secret conclaves; who have heard kings and captains and prelates speaking intimately to their subjects in their own tongues, and at times uttering a few words of English for their own ears. It is a marvel that our own parents could not have conceived and would not believe.

Now it is obvious that a discovery which has made such things possible forces which must have an immense influence upon the

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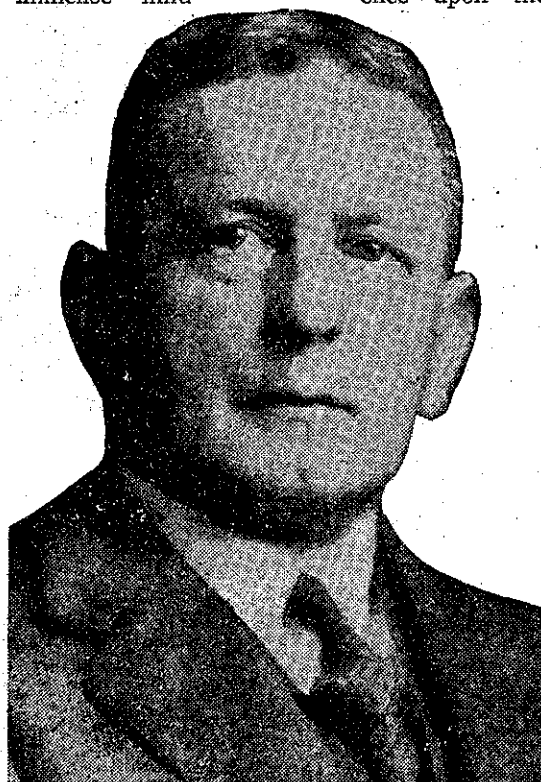
Dr. Scholefield is an eminent New Zealand journalist and author of several authoritative works on national affairs. A resume of his varied and interesting career appears elsewhere. During the special international programmes to be broadcast from 2YA on Wednesday evening, Dr. Scholefield will deliver talks on subjects of international importance.

world. Is it to be a good influence of a bad one? It might be either. Such a power of penetrating into the homes and the consciousness of the masses might be either wholly subversive or universally beneficial, or a mixture of both. Personally, I am convinced that the power of wireless for good will far outweigh its possibilities for evil.

Many good people, particularly of the older generation, may be inclined to look askance at it, and to believe that the world would have been all the better without it. And they may quote in support of their belief the known fact that radio is being used here and there for what the call "propaganda" purposes. By propaganda, of course, they mean hostile or subversive suggestions insidiously planted in the mind. It does not really mean that, of course, and no doubt wireless is employed by State and other agencies every day for purposes which meet with the complete approval of loyal and philanthropic people.

On the other hand, I understand that a certain amount of propaganda from Soviet and Communistic sources has been detected during transmission by radio, the object being, of course, to get these opinions accepted abroad. But even if this is true, I feel certain that the amount of good that is actually being done through wireless far outweighs any harm that can possibly be done in this enlightened age. The mere dissemination of new ideas and educational programmes in this easy and acceptable manner will tend to improve the intellectual standard of mankind, and especially to widen their outlook, so that when questionable views are put abroad they will be recognised for what they are, and accepted or not according as the listener is disposed towards them.

The greatest boon that wireless contains, in my opinion, is its power for disseminating international understanding and improving the relations of nations with one another. Fully half of the racial hates and international hostilities, I am sure, arise from lack of understanding. Nations have grown up in a state of hostility which is almost natural, inasmuch as they have lived entirely within their own borders and been concerned entirely with their own welfare. The language barrier (Concluded on page 2.)



Dr. Guy H. Scholefield, O.B.E.

—S. P. Andrew Photo.