

continuously in action for days. They, like everyone else in Napier, were living on their store of nervous energy, and we had only to look at any of the Napier men to see that long hours of incessant hard work and sleepless nights were taking their toll.

#### Position at Hastings.

AT the time of writing the official list for Hastings is greater than that of Napier, but we think it improbable that it will finally prove so, as there are undoubtedly many bodies yet to be recovered from the wreckage at Napier. In some respects the destruction wrought by the 'quake was greater than in Napier, but the fires were quickly suppressed, the water supply remaining intact here, but being put out of action at Napier. The ruins of the Grand Hotel and of Roach's are as awful as any to be seen at Napier, and there are plenty of other places just as completely wrecked. Many of the business places escaped fairly lightly though and the town as a whole is far more intact than is Napier. Hastings got its clearing-up work in hand more quickly than Napier, but the latter place was hampered by the terrible fire which followed the 'quake, and which further demoralised the town. It is certain of course that more bodies will be recovered in Hastings, and probably many of the buildings that are still standing, and which look solid enough, will have to be pulled down and rebuilt. As both towns are so badly wrecked the old question as to whether two towns are required for the district is bound to be reopened—especially if Napier is no longer to be a port.

#### Indomitable Spirit of People.

STANDING clear above all else in this terrible disaster is the triumph of the spirit over the flesh, and the practical sympathy shown not only in the devastated areas, but throughout the whole Dominion. There seems to be little of humour in occurrences such as have been described, but many a good joke is retailed by people in both Napier and Hastings. One man whom we met near the gasworks had a whole fund of humorous incidents, and he had been working for three days with hardly any sleep. In the very high brick building where the gas is generated, a very large hole has been torn in the brickwork, and he told us that it reminded him for all the world of Bainsfather's famous war cartoon where the raw recruit asked the seasoned old soldier what caused a huge shell hole in a brick wall, and the old hand replied "Mice." Even some of the retreats made from the buildings during the actual 'quake were not without their humorous aspect, and it is those who were—and still are—in the thickest of it, who get the most amusement out of the stories.

When we left Napier on Friday it was like a city of the dead. Thousands had been evacuated, and the relief cars were still going southwards in large numbers. It was impossible to say how many were left in the town, but on the hills most of the houses were empty, and where people had elected to remain they were sleeping out in tents. All those remaining are hard at work, and the 'quakes at night, though lessening in severity, do not make conditions easier. Thrown suddenly from plenty, to absolute ruin, nearly everyone has responded magni-

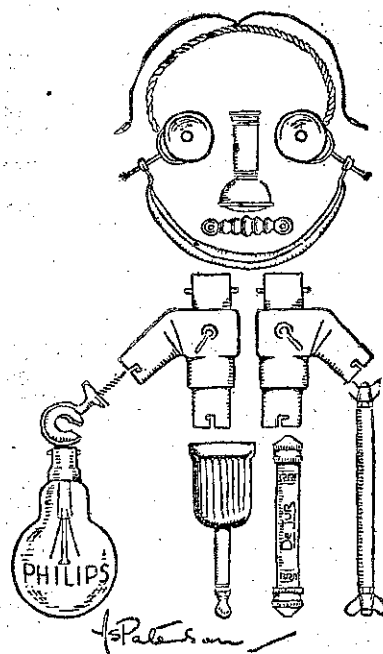
ficently and it is amazing to think that the human body can stand the work—and lack of sleep—to which so many have subjected it during the last week. The marines, with their absolute thoroughness and their ability to adapt themselves to any work from demolishing ruins with tractors, to acting as traffic constables, have won the whole-hearted admiration of everyone who has seen them. The nurses, doctors and Red Cross relief workers have carried on through the whole trying time, with only the briefest intervals of rest, and the police and firemen have never let up a minute. At Hastings the Maoris turned up trumps in every way and a gang of cheerful Maori workers have been going strong night and day on the work of clearing up. We are still too close to the actual catastrophe to see clearly ahead, and know exactly how the work of rebuilding can be carried out and where the money is to come from, but we who have lived with Napier people this last week know that the same courage that has already been shown will succeed in removing the mountains of ruins and starting off afresh. We have been face to face with realities and the nonsense and futility of many of the things to which we cling have been exposed. The disaster has brought us all closer together, has called forth our best qualities of initiative pluck and endurance, and has shown that in hard work and comradeship lie our salvation. The future is beset with difficulties, but bad as they may be, the facing of them is as nothing to what has already been met. The people in the devastated areas have lost all. It is up to the rest of us to exhibit plenty of the community spirit that shone out brightly through the whole disaster, and help practically in every possible way.

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Mr. A. S. Paterson drew this comic sketch.



He is a high-paid newspaper man and buys at my shop. He shows that I am full of Radio and Electric goods—my trade—and qualified—by exams—to attend to you. You will soon be wanting electric bulbs. Send me the sizes of your rooms, and your work, if you sew, mend, or read, so that you get the correct light to last longest time without strain to the eyes.

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#### CITIES

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|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ACE and HAMMARLUND SETS,       | Johns, Ltd.                      |
| WESTINGHOUSE Rectifiers        | Chancery Street. Auckland.       |
| BURGESS RADIO BATTERIES,       | All Radio Dealers.               |
| COFTIN-WHITE AMPLIFIERS        | Stewart Hardware Ltd.,           |
|                                | Courtenay Place, Wellington.     |
| MAJESTIC RADIO RECEIVERS       | Kirkcaldie & Stains,             |
|                                | Wellington Agents, Lambton Quay. |
| MULLARD VALVES                 | All Radio Dealers.               |
| N.Z. DISTRIBUTORS PILOT        | Harrington's, N.Z., Ltd.,        |
| PARTS AND RECEIVERS,           | 40-42 Willis St., Wellington.    |
| INCLUDING PILOT SUPER-WASP and | 142 Queen St., Auckland.         |
| GILFILLAN ELECTRIC RECEIVERS   |                                  |
| RADIOLA RECEIVERS and          | Farmers' Trading Co., Ltd.,      |
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|                                | 120 Willis St. Wellington.       |

#### COUNTRY TOWNS

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### The Press and Radio

#### Why No Mention?

(To the Editor.)

NO one can doubt that the Broadcasting Company has done a great and wonderful service to the public this week. When the great disaster overtook Napier all stations jumped to the position at once, and by keeping open till late hours were able to give the public instant and reliable information of all that had happened, and of what was urgently needed by the sufferers. More than that, on Wednesday and Thursday nights (this is written Friday afternoon), by keeping open late, the stations were able to send news to many anxious hearts as to the safety of their loved ones, and to send out calls for help in all directions with the greatest celerity. The R.B.C. stations have again performed a great public service, but I am ashamed to see that the daily Press of this town, in such a time, has failed to make the slightest mention of this service. I must suppose that the omission is deliberate. Why?—"Well Done" (Auckland).

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