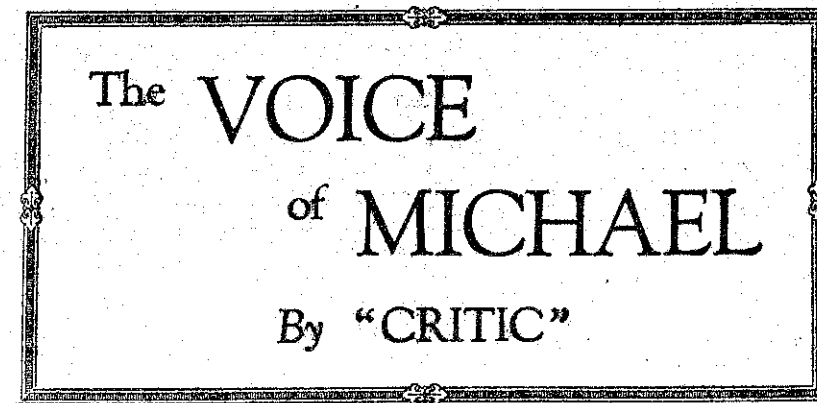


## Impressions

I ENJOYED Sir James Parr's talk from 1YA on Tuesday. His delivery was very natural, and forceful. His talk dealt with his experiences with, and impressions of, the League of Nations and, dealt with in a personal manner, proved most entertaining. Sir James, in his capacity of High Commissioner for New Zealand, represented this Dominion at the League's Annual Conferences during the term of his office. He explained that in the League Conferences each Dominion of the Empire is treated as a separate entity, and has an independent vote from that of the Mother Country. Needless to say, the component parts of the Empire endeavour to act and vote in accordance with each other. An interesting point which Sir James emphasised was the desirability not only of New Zealand supporting the League's work, but also the need, when the economic position improves, of augmenting our representation at Geneva. So far, of the fifty odd countries and nations represented, we invariably have the smallest representation. This is apt to lessen our importance in the eyes of the Latin and Eastern representatives, whose love of show is well known. The speaker suggested that, when times permitted of the comparatively small expenditure, New Zealand should arrange for at least one more representative, not necessarily a politician, to accompany the High Commissioner on his annual visit. Another fact, which may not be generally known, is that French and English are the only two official languages of the League and—what a blow to our national pride!—quite 90 per cent. of the delegates adopt French for the delivery of their speeches! Whichever language is used, the official interpreter, immediately upon completion of the speech, translates it into the other tongue. This talk was vivid and full of interesting information, and I imagine that all who heard it have an added respect for the work of the League. While the League of Nations may not be big enough to quell a war between two big powers bent on destroying each other, still, it can, and does, quench many of those minor conflagrations which, unfortunately, so often lead to a raging fire of such dimensions as will finish only by self-extinction. The League may thus be likened to a patent fire extinguisher in a big building—serving a very useful purpose if applied in time.

## Of Talking.

THE debate from Victoria College on Friday evening I found rather less informative and enjoyable than I had hoped would be the case. All the speakers had obviously devoted much time and study to the preparation of their matter upon the failure or otherwise of democracy. I must particularly compliment Mr. Mountjoy upon his opening address. Although Professor Cornish, for the good of Mr. Mountjoy's soul and to correct his outstanding fault of undue rapidity of utterance, placed him but fourth in order of merit, I must confess that I regarded Mr. Mountjoy's effort as the best of the evening. In fluency and eloquence it had no rival, and although the Professor complained that some of his hearers found themselves unable to absorb the intellectual nourishment offered on account of the rapidity of his presentation, I found no such difficulty. Michael brought Mr. Mountjoy's voice



to me quite clearly, and I found distinct pleasure in appreciating his arguments. They were given well, and he was less disconcerted by the interruptions of hecklers than other speakers. Miss Forde made her points with admirable lucidity, but I agree with Professor Cornish that Miss Henderson did not give of her best. Mr. Watson, in seconding Miss Forde, was fairly effective. On the subsequent speakers I am unable to comment, because their names were not audible. I particularly agree with the admonitions



J. M. CLARK

The well-known Auckland producer of Radio plays, who this week will be presenting the "White Owl," written by Dr. de Clive Lowe, of Auckland.

—S. P. Andrew, photo.

delivered by Professor Cornish to the audience upon the poorness of its efforts in the field of interjection. "Wait," he said, "until you see a good opening before interjecting." "That is what I did," claimed a pathetic voice. "Probably you are the only one then," tactfully agreed the Professor. Wit is certainly never successful when 'tis strained. Spontaneity is its very essence. As a whole, the debate was less interesting and successful than one given formerly, but it was still an entertaining novelty, and I would not be averse to another. From the listeners' point of view, undue heckling from the audience is not desirable.

## Modern Education

THE old phrase "Boys will be boys" is in danger of becoming even more meaningless! For our past methods of handling the species are definitely obsolete and taboo. Even Solomon with his "spare the rod and spoil the child," quoted with unction by an irate parent, and with hatred by suffering youth, is no longer regarded as a seer. How joyfully the younger generation of to-day must welcome the change in the order of things! Mr. A. Salmond, in an interesting and arresting talk from 4YA on Monday, certainly left us in no doubt as to the side which he supports. No longer may the dullard be trounced for his lack of brain. Does the musician, striking a false note, hurl his instrument (always providing he is not a pianist) from him. No! He coaxes, wheedles and draws the melody forth. This should be the adopted manner with backward youth. I am inclined to agree. Perhaps the fact that I was a constant attendant at the shrine of the cane arouses my sympathies. But these methods can be taken too far. When I learn that in future boys will be trained to give dissertations and lectures to and by themselves, I shudder for the future parent. What unsophisticated little prigs will be reared into the world! Picture the dazzling wit and knowledge displayed at the family table when Simon and Andrew return for the holidays! Imagine the horrible plight of the poor father approached for information on an economic problem by James (not Jimmy, of course), aged seven and a bit. Father knows that bluff will no longer serve; he must stand confessed an ignorant accident of the previous and obsolete generation: a crying shame to James himself! Poor James! Poor father! "What shall we get for James this year, dear? Another volume of what's-his-name in the original? Very well."

## Boots—and More Boots

We're foot-slog-slog-slogging over Africa!  
Foot - foot - foot - foot - slogging over Africa!  
(Boots - boots - boots - boots - Moving up and down again!)  
There's no discharge in war!

IT'S an ill wind that blows no one any good. Had the inimitable Rudyard Kipling any other thoughts than the obvious in his mind when he wrote the above? At all events, Mr. J. A. East, in his talk from 3YA on Friday, ascribes the demand for boots in the Boer and other wars of the period as the definite

cause of the establishment of the machine-made boot. Like most other industries, the provision of boots and shoes, the development of the business, the brains and industry which have gone into it during the last century make quite a romance. I am sure the speaker will take no offence when I say that his rugged voice and his faint dialect were, on this occasion, valuable assets to such a talk. For I harbour a deep feeling of awe for cobblers (and this talk was a veritable "Cobbler's Song"). They are always advanced in their views; most of them are excitingly radical and not a few have gone even further than that! Does the contemplation of much shoe leather have anything to do with it? It may—I know that when I see a hole appearing in the sole of my shoes, or the heel adopting a dangerous angle, I have advanced views, too; most lurid in fact.

## China

ON Tuesday I had the pleasure of hearing Dr. Guy H. Scholefield, O.B.E., give another of his international talks from 2YA. Obviously having regard to the two distinguished gentlemen from China who are visiting us just now, the speaker chose China for the subject of his talk. Considering the magnitude and vastness of his topic, the Doctor did very well. Without attempting to do more than skim over the more recent events which have changed that vast Republic, he explained something of the aims and ambitions of the leaders of modern China. With a civilisation which dates back to the time when our ancestors were running round in dog skins and stealing each other's wives (we no longer wear dog skins) China has always surrounded itself with an aura of mystery as intriguing as it is fathomless. As an example of the magnitude of the task which such modern leaders as the late Sun Yat Sen set themselves, let it be remembered that China represents a population of four hundred millions, all of one race but, although possessing a common language, using dialects which makes a man of the North incomprehensible to a man of the South, East or West, and having a conservatism which must be experienced to be believed. In face of this obstacle the Modernists succeeded in overthrowing the Dynasty of the Manchu Emperors, which had ruled the destiny of China for centuries: they have since established a responsible government in Nankin (overthrowing the power of ancient Peking), and have persuaded Great Britain that they are sufficiently capable of maintaining law and order as to permit the Mother Country to leave the safety of her subjects in China to the Chinese. This is an achievement at which we must all marvel. As to the future of China—who can prophesy?

## "Orchard Work"

THE dialogue between Messrs. B. G. Goodwin and J. D. Carolin, of the Department of Agriculture, given from 3YA on Thursday, was excellently well done. The two representatives of the orchardist and his instructor were most natural. The former did not sound like a lunatic whose right vocation should be growing parsnips, nor did the instructor unnecessarily adopt an air of vast wisdom and knowledge. An interesting point to all apple growers is that the brown spots sometimes apparent on the leaves of