

Voice of Michael

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to timber and pulp mills. The assurance was given us that in the agricultural sense little fear need be entertained of Finnish competition. True, she has some 2,000,000 dairy cows, and exported before the war up to 12,000 tons of butter. In numerical strength her dairy herds exceed those of New Zealand by a substantial total, but it is improbable that her total manufacture any way approaches that of this Dominion, owing to the relatively superior advantages ob-

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taining in New Zealand for butter-fat production. The severe winters, and the necessity for housing occasioned thereby, offer a definite handicap to pasture production.

The Finns have ever been lovers of freedom. Even when under Russian domination they were by no means servile, but resisted the imposition of numerous Russian dictates, with the result that many leading politicians and judges were exiled to Siberia. The Russian upheaval offered Finland the opportunity for establishing a republic, and this they promptly seized.

To-day Finland is the home of a well-developed, independent, self-reliant, progressive and aggressive people. They are keen commercially, broad-minded politically, progressive in the legislative field, and strongly wedded to sports and athletics. Who has not heard of Nürmi, the great distance runner? We are assured that he is but one of a score of athletes of almost equal class. The rigorous conditions under which Finnish life has attained its standard were adequately indicated and should make New Zealanders more than ever appreciative of the wonderfully fruitful and healthy climate in which they are placed.

In Revolt

SELDOM have I felt more in sympathy with a movement than while Mr. Frank Milner, M.A., speaking from 3YA, was expounding the revolt of German youth against the circumscribed life of the 20th Century.

These young people have fired a trail which will eventually circle the globe. All they did was to don comfortable clothes, carry a stout stick and a filled rucksack and sally forth on foot to see what they could see between Saturday mid-day and Monday morning. Simple, isn't it? But the result of that simple initial step is reflected in the fact that the movement has gained official recognition and encouragement in Germany; so much so that in the schools one day's hike a month is a compulsory part of the curriculum. Shelter huts and buildings by the thousand have appeared throughout the length and breadth of the countryside; charges for accommodation are at a minimum and, in point of fact, Official Germany, with customary shrewdness, sees in the movement national health, vitality and productive powers.

It is pleasing to note how popular the tramping movement is becoming in England, where Government, municipal, civic and public bodies are in various ways helping to foster the idea that the countryside possesses a wealth of beauty and health previously inconceived. The Carnegie Trust has devoted £10,000 towards the building of accommodation huts; the Scottish Forestry Commission has guaranteed sites in the territory under its control; in a score of different ways there are plain indications that public opinion is with the movement.

There are the usual band of faithful Jeremiahs who see in the healthy companionship of both sexes the moral downfall of civilisation; these are loud in their condemnation. Did they but realise how they advertise the possession

Hospital Radio

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thought to be a defective insulator in the power system nearby, but it is hoped to trace this. The X-ray and electrical equipment in the hospital affect reception also, but it will not be difficult to arrange that the two are not in operation together.

The contractors for the installation were Messrs. Lightband and Wann, New Plymouth, and the builders of the equipment were the Stewart Hardware Co., Wellington, whose engineer, Mr. J. M. Gifford, has been supervising the work. The equipment is all New Zealand made.

of nasty warped minds, which give a twist to the perspective of whatever they regard, I am inclined to think that we should be less annoyed by the burden of their doleful dirge. This is Youth's revolt against conventionalism; against Victorian frowns; against 20th Century mechanisation; it must win through! A convert to the natural joys of fresh air and sunshine never slips back—he or she goes on converting! Good luck to them both.

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