


The VOICE of MICHAEL

Conducted by "CRITIC"



Change in Policy

I PURPOSE introducing, with the editor's consent, a change in the conduct of this column. I find that such a wealth of valuable material is disseminated from the various stations that it is impossible for any one man, limited by time and space, to adequately cover it. It is therefore proposed to invoke the aid of discriminating listeners in the conduct of this page. Each week there will be given a list of the evening talks most worth hearing for the succeeding week. Certain of those talks deemed to be most worthy of treatment, either from the point of view of the speaker being new or the interest of the subject, will be indicated in black type. For the best 300-word critical commentary upon any one of these talks (not necessarily confined to those specially indicated) a prize of 7/6 will be given, and space rates paid for others used. Frank comment on speakers is desired, but nothing cheap or undignified will be permitted. The object is to direct attention of readers in general to the wealth of valuable matter made available in these talks, and so increase the usefulness of this means of community culture. Details as to "copy," etc., will be found beneath the scheduled list. I feel that the broadening of the column on to this basis will stimulate interest, and give listeners a direct incentive to critical examination of the intellectual fare provided for them.

I.L.P.

HAVING regard to his name and to his politics, I approached the talk by Mr. Bloodworth on "The International Labour Party" in a state of suppressed excitement. That there would be fireworks seemed inevitable; how long could he go before the announcer broke in? Alas, and alack! There was another conception rudely shattered, for the talk was the effort of a very ordinary and satisfactory town councillor; it was sober, sound and sensible—a veritable burgher among talks.

Mr. Bloodworth spoke of the whys and the wherefores of the I.L.P. It was, he stated, founded immediately after the formation of the League of Nations, and owes its existence partly to the terms of the Versailles Peace Treaty. Its objects are to raise the general standard of living for the toilers of the world. A most laudable object. Perhaps the I.L.P. have found out whether or no Soviet Russia is, or is not,

using sweated labour for the fulfilment of her five-year plan. If she is, what does the I.L.P. intend to do about it? If she is not, has the I.L.P. satisfied itself that the standard of living by Russian peasants is as high as they would wish? What a chance to make history! "The I.L.P. wishes to satisfy itself as to the methods of the Soviet; kindly offer all facilities of transport."

As a matter of fact, I believe officials did go over some time ago; whether they saw what they wanted to see, or whether they saw what they were shown, are two different matters. Seeing that the five-year plan, the Indian boycott, and the Chinese unrest are all combining to cause the living among workers of the larger manufacturing countries to drop (in some cases to fall away altogether), and seeing that all are the result of Communist agitation and, finally, seeing that the Communists claim to be the friends of the workers, then the sooner the I.L.P. and the Soviet explain their two points of view the better for everyone.

The Southern Maori

A PATHETIC minor key was struck by Te Arima Pitama in another of his welcome talks from 3YA. He referred to the sadly depleted Maori population in the South Island—some two thousand only are left there. Why is this? At one time the Southern Maori was virile and plentiful. In fact, a famous Northern chief had on one occasion to make a special expedition just to prove that they were not altogether impregnable.

Have the Maoris, with the rest of humanity, gone soft? Do they seek the warmer easier life of the northern tribes? Somehow, although Te Ari Pitama's diction was as good as ever, and although his English was equally as polished as heretofore, yet this talk lacked something which is usually to be found when Te Ari appears before the microphone. It is very difficult to say just what was missing. Had I been

alone in my feeling I should have put it down to something in me which made me less responsive. However, I was not alone, so I think, perhaps, some spark of vitality was missing from the speaker. Not that the lecture was uninteresting—far from it!

I am afraid, however, that one regards Te Ari Pitama as one of the comparatively few islands of interest in a sea of dullness, and it is disturbing to a nightly traveller to see any encroachment on such well-known harbours.

Maoris and the Birds

ANOTHER speaker took the place of

Mr. George Graham, who was due to talk from 1YA, and discoursed on birds and their relationship with the Maori, of which race he is a representative. It was an entertaining talk from the point of view of matter, but I should not award it first prize from

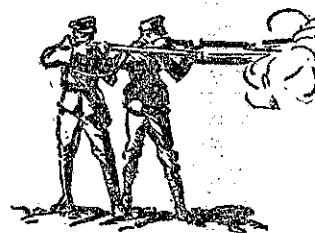
Evening Talks Worth Hearing

(This list is not complete, but selective only.)

Aug. 31, 2YA, 7.40 p.m.	H. C. South	Books.
Aug. 31, 3YA, 7.30 p.m.	E. E. Wiltshire	Books of the Month.
Aug. 31, 3YA, 9.4 p.m.	W. A. Rouse	Town Life in the Country.
Aug. 31, 4YA, 7.30 p.m.	John Bowie	Early Otago.
Aug. 31, 4YA, 9.2 p.m.	E. Wood	International Trading.
Sept. 1, 1YA, 7.40 p.m.	"Sparwood" ("N.Z. Referee")	Dogs.
Sept. 1, 1YA, 8.5 p.m.	Norman Heath	Latvia.
Sept. 2, 1YA, 7.40 p.m.	Miss G. Driver	Book Review.
Sept. 2, 2YA, 7.40 p.m.	F. M. Bateson	Stars.
Sept. 2, 2YA, 9.5 p.m.	Guy H. Scholefield, O.B.E.	International Talk.
Sept. 2, 3YA, 7.15 p.m.	D. E. Parton	Tree Trimming.
Sept. 2, 4YA, 9.15 p.m.	Chas. A. Martin, Mus.Bac., L.A.B.	Grieg.
Sept. 3, 3YA, 9.2 p.m.	J. F. D. White, M.Sc., B.A.	The Andes.
Sept. 4, 2YA, 7.40 p.m.	J. W. Fergie	Main Trunk Railway.
Sept. 4, 3YA, 7.30 p.m.	W. A. Pattison	Furs.
Sept. 4, 3YA, 9.4 p.m.	E. Inveagh Lord	The Story of the Golden Coast.
Sept. 5, 1YA, 7.40 p.m.	Rev. W. W. Avery	Daffodils.
Sept. 5, 2YA, 7.40 p.m.	Dr. I. A. Hemming	Pronunciation of English.

For the best 300-word critical commentary upon any one of the Talks listed above, a weekly prize of 6/8 will be given; others used paid for at space rates. Comments should indicate speaker's view, treatment, manner of presentation and appeal to listeners, with sympathetic suggestions for improvement, if any. The object is to direct attention to the wealth of valuable matter made available in these talks and record outstanding deliverances, thus increasing usefulness of this means of community culture. Black type in the list means that that talk is suggested as specially suitable for treatment, either because of the speaker being new, or the interest of the subject. MSS. must reach "Critic," "Radio Record," Box 1032, Wellington, for Sunday's clearance.

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