

## English Language

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(European or Asiatic). The German speakers are mainly in Central Europe. Many millions of those who speak Spanish are in the old Spanish colonies of South America. And much more than half of those who speak Portuguese colonies in Africa and Asia.

The 200 million who speak English as their main tongue include, of course, the people of Australia and New Zealand, of Canada and South Africa, of the British West Indies, and a good number in Argentina and Chile, and in the negro republic of Liberia in West Africa.

But English is also very widely spread as a secondary language in countries which have come under the influence of the English missionary and trader and engineer and explorer. In India are over 300 million people, very many of whom have some knowledge of English, and must more and more adopt it in their daily life. Japan, a vigorous Eastern nation, without in any way abandoning its own language, teaches English in all secondary schools and publishes many books in English. This is done as a matter of policy to keep her people abreast of the thought of foreign countries. In China, also, although a very small proportion of the 500 millions know any language but their purely local dialect, there are thousands of the educated and governing classes who speak fluent English, and read freely in our literature and journalism. They have learned in British or American schools in China, and in the universities of both countries.

Then in Africa the populous territory of Egypt has been under British influence for more than fifty years, and has used English very widely for the whole of that time. In South Africa there are about 10 million people, black and white. The great majority of the whites speak English, but many of them do not know anything but their native Dutch. The Dutch of South Africa, which is called Afrikaans or Taal, is an official language on an equal footing with English. Any of you who are stamp collectors will have noticed that every alternate stamp from South Africa is printed in Dutch. The Statutes and Parliamentary papers are similarly printed, Dutch on one side of the sheet and English on the other. There are Dutch newspapers in South Africa also, but the English Press is far the more influential and widely read.

I have stated that English is spoken as a main language by about 200 millions of people. This might appear a small proportion considering there are 1800 million people in the world. China, Japan and India have together over 900 millions, or half the total population of the world. Each of these countries has its vernacular press—i.e., newspapers printed in the national language. In India there are 222 vernacular languages. You can imagine, therefore, that even if all the natives were readers the influence of the vernacular press would be very divided compared with that of a country having one common language.

The influence of the 200,000,000 English-speaking people in the modern world is out of all proportion to their numbers. Like the Germans and the French, the English-speaking peoples

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## 2ZW Programmes

A NEW voice will be heard announcing from 2ZW this week. Mr. "Heigh Ho" has gone away for a week's vacation, and Mr. Byron Brown and the station engineer, Mr. W. J. Harrison, B.E., B.Sc., A.M.I.R.E., will take his place during his absence. Mr. "Heigh Ho" returns on Monday, March 7.

IT has been arranged that the Director of Scientific Research, Dr. E. Marsden, is to give a series of talks on New Zealand industries on alternate Wednesday evenings. These talks, which will be each of approximately fifteen minutes' duration, will deal popularly with the various industries in this country, their difficulties and their importance. The first talk is scheduled for this week. The subject is: "Flax—The Plant and the Industry."

NEW ZEALAND is so far from the world's music centres that few have had the opportunity of hearing the world's great operas. 2ZW has arranged that its Thursday evening programmes, sponsored by Kirkcaldie and Stains Ltd., of Wellington, shall consist of these operas, abridged and annotated. "La Boheme" was played a short time ago. Further favourites to be broadcast are: "La Traviata," "Tales of Hoffman," "Carmen," "The Bohemian Girl," and "Il Trovatore."

MR. H. Amos, F.R.E.S., F.A.I.S., etc., is at the present time giving a series of talks on "Education—and the Difficulties Facing Our Boys and Girls at the Present Time." On Tuesday, February 25, he spoke of the difficulty of finding employment for young people and the resultant need of keeping the boys and girls "vocationally active." This particular talk will probably be repeated soon. Mr. Amos speaks from 2ZW on Tuesday evenings at 7.15 p.m.

ARRANGEMENTS are being made to broadcast a special session of Hebrew traditional music and Jewish folk songs. This will be done on a Sunday evening in the near future. The Rabbi of Wellington will introduce the session and briefly describe the source and history of each particular melody and chant. One of the most beautiful melodies of music, the famous Kol Nidrei, will be included in this session.

IMPORTANT changes in the morning session of 2ZW are under consideration. Last week a daily talk on "Dogs and Their Diet" was broadcast. This week the session includes a talk on diet and health, as well as the daily cooking recipe, and on Friday, March 4, at 11 a.m., there will be a talk on "Cheese—Its Place on the Table." The morning session is designed for women, and all matters

of interest to women will be included if possible.

## Wednesday, March 2.

10: Devotional service. 10.15 to 11.45: Women's session, including daily Star Store cooking recipe. 11.45 to 12: Miscellaneous orchestral programme. 5-6: Children's hour (Aunt Betty, Lady Gay, Pat, Gloria and Uncle Toby). 7: After-dinner music. 7.15: Talk by Dr. E. Marsden, Director of Scientific Research, on "Flax—a New Zealand Industry." First of a series of talks on New Zealand industries. 8: Tabloid revue by Ipana Merry-makers. 8.30-10: All-British programme. 10.11: Dance music.

## Thursday, March 3.

10.6: Devotional service. 10.15: Special relay session. 10.30-11.15: "Alice from Kirkcaldie and Stains," a session for tiny tots—fairy stories, nursery rhymes, etc. 11.15-12: Fashion talks and music. 12-2: Miscellaneous orchestral programme. 3: Relay from Kirkcaldie and Stains' tearooms. 7: After-dinner music. 7.15: Talk on the tung oil industry. 8.10: Kirkcaldie's studio concert. 10.11: Dance music.

## Friday, March 4.

10.0: Devotional service. 11.0: "Cheese—Its Place on Your Table." 11.15-11.45: Usual women's session (as on Wednesday). 11.45-2: Miscellaneous orchestral programme. Silent evening.

## Saturday, March 5.

12-2: Miscellaneous band and orchestral programme. 7-8: After-dinner music. 8-10: Light popular programme. 10-12: Dance session, including relay from Majestic Lounge.

## Sunday, March 6.

11.0: Devotional service. 6.30: Eventide music. 7: Relay of evening service from St. Paul's Pro-Cathedral. 8.15: Gems from the masters. 10.5: Epilogue—"The Silent Fellowship."

## Monday, March 7.

10.0: Devotional service. 10.15-11.45: Women's session (as on Wednesday). 11.45 to 2: Miscellaneous orchestral programme. 7: After-dinner music. 7.30: Weekly talk to motorists by Mr. Ernest Lewis, managing director of Rover Motors Limited. 8: "Gloom Chasers," programme of popular music and humour. 10-11: Dance music.

## Tuesday, March 8.

10.0: Devotional service. 10.15-11.0: Women's session. 11.0: "Diet and Health," second of a series of talks by Mrs. D. W. Adamson, dietitian. 11.15-12: Miscellaneous orchestral programme. 7: After-dinner music. 7.15: Fourth of a series of talks by Mr. H. Amos, F.R.E.S., F.A.I.S., etc., on "Education." 8: Vacuum Oil Company's programme. 8.9: Old-time melodies. 9-11: Dance programme by 2ZW's full dance orchestra.

(Continued from column 1.) are highly civilised, with a very low percentage of people who cannot read and write. Though in numbers they are only one-tenth of the population of the world they wield an influence much greater than that. They operate more than one-tenth of the publishing of books. They have a very active and widely-read daily Press in every country. They control great telegraph and telephone services. They have multiplied their voice abroad through the gramophone, the talks and the radio, in such a manner as to exert a dominating influence upon a very large portion of the world's population at any rate, of those who can read and write, assisted by these great inventions. English bids fair now to become the leading language in the modern world. I say the modern world because we must not forget that we are living to-day side by side with at least three great civilisations far more ancient and more venerable than our own, and far more powerful from the point of view of the number of their people.

The point I wish to make is that English has been thrust to the front on the wave of circumstances at this particular age of history. If one were looking for a suitable language for international use it certainly would not be English. It would be something simpler, something more governed by rules, and something with less difficult sounds to pronounce. What has happened is that just at this particular moment in history our English-speaking people all over the world became suddenly prominent and very active. Fighting, as we believe, for our existence, we not only had for some years armies numbering millions living abroad and spreading the language among foreign peoples, but both Britain and the United States spent vast sums in spreading their views all over the world.

Incidentally they were not alone in this. The Central Powers did the same. The soldiers of the Central Powers also had to learn English, whether they wished or not, for purely military purposes. When the war was over the English language had made tremendous strides among other races. It was popular because it was the language of the winning side; perhaps that is not a very good basis of popularity; but it is a fact. One advantage English certainly has in comparison with languages of Central Europe: it is printed in plain letters. The Germans themselves adopted that virtue from us. Ever since the war they have been inclined to abandon their old-fashioned letters so difficult to read, and have published a great deal in our style of typography. Thousands of trade circulars which before the war were always in German are now published in English.

Even the Russians under the Soviets have adopted English for much of their propaganda. This is only one more evidence of the widespread recognition of our language in recent years.

There is not time to pursue this topic. There is just this point I want to emphasise. English has without doubt made great strides toward universality in the last 20 years. It may have features to recommend it as a universal language; but the expansion that has taken place is due to the force of circumstances, to the widespread (Concluded on page 24.)



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