

STATIC

by
"SPARK"

"BONZO" received honourable mention again when Commander Burgess Watson, of the N.Z. Division of the Royal Navy, spoke from 1YA on behalf of the Tail Waggers' Club. Started in 1928 with fifteen, the club now has a membership of over half a million. The speaker soon became owner of a dog after arrival in this country and, although of doubtful breeding, according to the new owner, this terrier is intelligent and faithful. He must have known by intuition that the Commander was a dog lover, for all efforts to drive him away from the H.M.S. Diomedes were of no avail. All listeners know that the police are co-operating with the Tail Waggers' Club, but many learned for the first time when Commander Burgess-Watson broadcast that the Commissioner of Police was a vice-president of the club.

IN Mr. J. W. A. Crosser's talk on "New Zealand's Manufactures," given from 2ZW on Wednesday night, depression was waived, and an excellent talk was given by one broad enough in his views to tell the true facts of the retailers' and public views on New Zealand-made goods. Mr. Crosser is a tip-top speaker, and I should like to hear more talks given by him on subjects less thrashed than the one chosen, but then, like most successful men of his calibre, he puts initiative into his chosen job, and shows results; and when a man does that these days we have little right to ask of his services in other directions. In a few words Mr. Crosser spoke of the necessity of letting up on savings, putting our earnings into circulation, and thus providing more employment and at the same time ousting the far too many references to depression, which alas has the power of catching us mentally and dragging trade down lower than any international slump.

The speaker gave some sound advice to manufacturers by telling them not to become insular, and not to forget the necessity for quality and finish in whatever they made. "Call in experts from other countries," he suggested, and at the same time give particular attention to the local retailer's point of view. Some New Zealand-made goods are not well finished and if manufacturers work more on the lines suggested by Mr. Crosser I am sure their goods will meet with an increased demand from the New Zealand purchaser, with whom the desire for quality is inherent.

THE first of a series of talks on the social and political history of

New Zealand by Mr. A. J. Campbell from 3YA should make listeners keen to hear the remainder. The original home of the Maoris becoming too small for the increasing population, voyages of discovery to find a country for the surplus took the adventurous to many parts of the Pacific. After a voyage to the Antarctic regions another was made in which the land of the long twilight was located. On the return to the home land a wonderful story of the possibilities of the new land was given and the first migration of the Maoris to New Zealand eventuated. The route to Aotearoa together with the glowing account given by the discoverers was preserved traditionally in the homeland and thus was the way paved for the subsequent migrations. The speaker brought his first talk to an end to the period of the whalers and the missionaries, when England, after losing her American Colonies, was opposed to the annexation of new territory. Mr. Campbell's next talk brings us to the days of the early settlers—the romantic period which will one day be the theme of our poets and songsters to be.

2YA was fortunate in securing the Hon. Robert Masters to speak on behalf of the New Zealand manufacturers' display in the shops of locally made articles. In forceful words the Minister conveyed clearly the necessity, on the part of the public generally, for a less restricted spending of their earnings on New Zealand-made goods. As a Minister of the Government, the speaker is in a position to appreciate the need for employing as many people as possible in our local industries. The trade returns he had available were presented by him in a clear and easy

to follow manner, and I am sure his solicitation for the purchaser to select our own manufactures will not fall on deaf ears. An admirable speech.

THE Austrian broadcasting companies recently held a plebiscite to determine the advisability of lady announcers. The result of the voting was that nearly every listener considered the feminine voice unsuitable for broadcasting. Many lady announcers in New Zealand prove that Austria must be unfortunate, although somehow I would not care to hear a lady giving sporting results.

MR. WILSON, speaking from 2ZW, broadcast some interesting figures on Tuesday night. There are more people employed in the manufacture of clothing than I imagined, and Mr. Wilson's urge that men should show preference for New Zealand-made clothes is a sound one. At the same time there are many industries, both primary and secondary, in this country which should be allowed to die out, as they are quite uneconomical and exist by virtue of protection which is totally beyond reason. The idea of imported reach me downs does not appeal to either my sartorial or patriotic taste, and I think most men like to know that their clothes have had local attention in manufacture even if the cloth is imported from Bradford. After all, New Zealand mills turn out some excellent tweeds and flannels, but they are not yet seriously competitive with the English manufacturer in the finer weaves, but with support of the local product surplus revenue must return to the mill establishment in more elaborate machinery being eventually installed.

THE A.D.C. to the Admiral of the Japanese Naval Training Squadron, in his quaint English, was interesting when speaking from 2YA. The story of his misunderstanding of the English lady whose husband went hunting was not due to idiom. A Dutchman who used to practice his English on me asked why I smiled when he said he had "dropped" in love with a girl, and I was asked by a Tibetan once what part of our anatomy was the "return." He was reading a story of a boy who had been a truant from school and who was beaten on his return.

English is a compulsory subject in the schools in Japan, and the language is generally well spoken there. The gallant sailor probably suffers from being too closely associated with his own nationals only, aboard his ship. In describing the kimona, it was said that legs were not considered limbs of beauty, and stockings were not worn, as the kimona was of length enough to reach the heels. Still there is plenty of bare leg shown in Japan where both the men and the women squat with their heels beneath them on chairs in restaurants and on the seats of railway carriages. In devising the national dress a leg covering was in those days too complicated a shape to make, and therefore the length of the kimona was thus settled. The dress is certainly warm, and it needs to be, for it can be cold in Japan. The usual Japanese fire is a box about a foot each way in which is burned four or five small pieces of charcoal, and the fire is not expected to warm more than the tips of the fingers, as the people kneel at the box with the kimona well tucked about the legs. The speaker made an appeal for us to buy silk. Good for him! Every Japanese could be a shop-keeper. They buy quite a lot of wool from us, and would buy more if the quality were better. One-way traffic in trade is not the ideal to aim for, and it is time we made an effort to improve our wool. Eventually New Zealand's market will be largely in the East.

Reference to New Zealand's assistance after the earthquake of 1923 was not merely courtesy. The Japanese were genuinely grateful. At that time they knew they were considered the "Cinderella" of the Powers, and Western acknowledgement in their sorrow was much appreciated. The earthquake was not the calamity it was generally believed to be. One hundred and fifty thousand lost their lives and they could be spared, and two ramshackle wooden cities, Tokio and Yokohama, were razed. The

THE WEEK'S BEST PAR.

THIS week's best par. was submitted by S.J.T., Hillgrove. It reads: "It happened some years ago, when radio was young. The announcer of a certain Dunedin 'B' class station, whose geography was apparently rather hazy, announcing a recording of the Missouri Waltz, said: 'We are now to hear the "Mississouri" Waltz!' The same gentleman evidently believed in phonetic spelling (of a sort) as shortly afterwards he announced selections from 'The Belly (Belle) of New York!' I tuned in the same station next day in the hope of hearing further gems, but record after record was played without any announcement at all. Perhaps the management decided that after the previous day's experience discretion would be the better part of (linguistic) valour, for a time at any rate."

THIS is a weekly competition for the best "par." on a radio topic, preferably, but not necessarily, with a humorous bias. Paragraphs on any radio topic treated with brevity and point may be submitted. Address letters to "Spark," c/o "Radio Record," P.O. Box 1032, Wellington, to reach here Saturday morning.