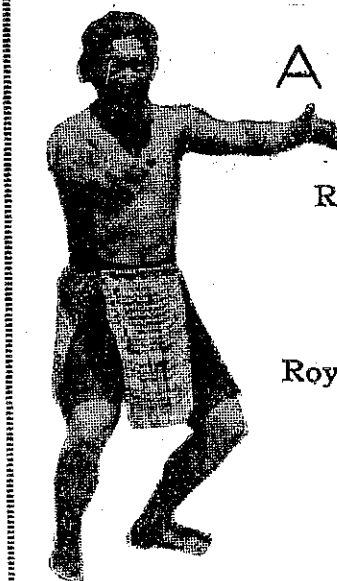


opinion an important factor which enables us to understand some of the contradictions confronting us, is the different rates of progress made during the last century and a half, in the sphere of material organisation and the sphere of social organisation. Socially we are still organised in the same manner as our people were at the beginning of the period. There have been minor alterations, but there has been a revolution in man's environment, and no real attempt has been made to remodel his social life. Empire trade, tariffs, political party changes are mere incidents that may or may not lead to temporary prosperity. The real problem is how to organise socially in order to take full advantage of machine production.

In the financial scheme the basis of credit is confidence. Many commodities are bought by the public before the retailer pays the wholesaler, but little attention has been paid to the social aspect of the processes involved. As soon as confidence is disturbed the system breaks down, which shows that we have created a powerful machine, but lost control of it. It is clear that the machine has come into conflict with life and though a good servant it is a hard taskmaster, driving us we know not whither. The striking contradictions in life to-day are explained by the result of man's remarkable progress in physical science, and his failure to advance in the social sciences. For the human race to benefit by the mechanical creatures he has created man must free himself of the obsession that present institutions are sacred and immutable. The lucid manner in which Professor Hunter deals with his subject encourages every listener to tune to 2YA on Saturday evenings.

NO more stirring yarn has ever been broadcast than Lee Fore Brace's (1YA) of a trip with a yachting party to the Auckland Islands. These wind-worn peaks of a submerged land teem with sea fowl and animals, although by the middle of last century sealers and whalers had taken heavy toll of many species—almost to complete extinction. In 1806 it was reported to the British Government that seals abounded there in teeming millions, but when Ross visited the Islands in 1840 with the "Erebus" and "Terror," not one seal was to be seen. By the way, one of these ancient ironclads housed Australia's earliest wireless station, and this station played an important part during the Great War. Lee Fore Brace's vivid description of the wild life of the Auckland Islands I shall long remember, and never shall I forget his thrilling story of the fight between two old warriors, a sea-elephant and a sea-leopard—a fight that stilled the yachting party and all the wild life of the island. "Dragons of the prime—red in tooth and claw." Very few can tell a story like Lee Fore Brace, and no listener should miss his tales of the sea.

I THINK one of the finest reviews of a national situation was that given by Dr. Scholefield from 2YA on "Spain and Her Revolution." This dejected country, which has been so strongly monarchical and devoutly



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Roman Catholic, has, indeed, in breaking with her old institutions, touched bottom in national despondency. It was not thought by Dr. Scholefield that King Alfonso was personally disliked, although the Republican movement for some years had been a big factor in Spanish politics, and had the King conceded constitutional demands his family might have ruled Spain still. Spain's greatest problem is the education of her children, and with a depleted exchequer this land of limited resources, circumscribed factional interests—in a period of world-wide depression—has a task that only the stoutest hearts can face. Most people will agree with our valued commentator's opinion that the delay of counter action consolidates the position of the republic. Personally I was very sorry to see these fine people rid themselves of such a man as Alfonso. He is brave, a sportsman, and level-headed, who showed the elements of wisdom when he married an Englishwoman, and I should think that Alfonso was modern enough to concede the constitutional demands, but was too loyal a gentleman to forsake his ministers. No country has a worse colonial history than Spain, but any who know colonial Spaniards will cherish a hope that Spain may again acquire an Empire.

IN continuation of his talks on "Makers of New Zealand," Mr. L. R. Palmer, from 2YA, spoke of the pro-Consul, Sir George Grey. The unique career of this wonderful man is a romance in Britain's colonial history. The effluxion of time permits a true perspective, and in the years to come he will be recorded as perhaps the greatest colonial governor of all time. Although the vision of a united Oceania did not materialise, and other European flags fly in the Pacific, the foundations of British institutions were solidly laid throughout the Southern Hemisphere by the prescience of this high-minded governor and statesman. His ultimate repose in St. Paul's Cathedral is due acknowledgment of the British Gov-

ernment to the work of the Empire's great builder.

RADIO would have but poor justification for its existence musically, did it not encourage local talent and organisations, and the attitude of our national stations, the YA's, relaying the concerts of local musical bodies is a most commendable one. The broadcasting of the Apollo Singers' contribution to this winter's season by 2YA on Saturday next should prove interesting. Mr. H. Temple White's experienced direction is, of course, a potent factor in the singing of the choir, which is composed of male voices. I have never known of any performance conducted by Mr. White that was not characterised by elegance and finish, and I look forward to this very varied programme with pleasure. Male choirs have always been much more popular than those composed solely of lady singers, and consequently their repertoire is more extensive. Included in this programme, which should have an appeal to all tastes, I notice Brahms's "Alto Rhapsody," which has an interest of a double nature. It's composer was very fond of it and it is alleged that he slept with it beneath his pillow, though this sounds unlike the Brahms we are accustomed to think of. Had he taken his "Lullaby" to bed with him it would have been more appropriate. This "Rhapsody" is a beautiful setting for alto voice, men's chorus and orchestra, from a fragment of Goethe's narrative of a winter journey in the Harz Mountains.

The object of Goethe's travel was a visit to a young author with whom he had been corresponding, and his poem recalls their talk together. The young writer was something of a hermit, and the first two portions of the poem which Brahms has set to music emphasise the sad state of those who live apart from comradeship, taking no share in mankind's tasks. The last part of the work, however, is in a happier spirit, finding consolation in a divine thought, finely expressed; it concludes with a prayer to the Father of Love to open the selfish

eyes of the lonely one to all the beauty about him.

OF Brahms as a man less is known by the public at large than should be the case. He was distinctly a "character" who was a holy terror to musical quacks and charlatans, a man who was devastatingly outspoken, and one who had the unusual habit of always being the first to leave any assemblage in a drawing-room or salon. Standing with his back to the doorway he would make a profound bow to the company, and in audible tones would bid all goodbye, adding "to all to whom I have not been rude to-day, I humbly apologise!" He had, nevertheless, his tenderer and better side, despite his confirmed bachelor habits. Children knew Brahms as "the little round gentleman" who joined in their games. The older he grew the more he broadened—both physically and mentally. He acquired great breadth of shoulders and developed a distinctly squat figure. At the same time his face remained very youthful and with his slightly projecting under lip gave the impression of his being somewhat cynical—an impression that his speech on certain occasions did not remove. As became a man who romped with children, dress was a matter of indifference to him; he preferred old clothes, hated stiff collars and ties and felt constrained in dress shirts. Out of doors, in his brown woollen shirt sans collar, his tweed suit, his slouch hat—more than often carried in his hand than worn—and the inevitable strong cigar, with a bearded face and leonine head, he cut an unconventional figure.

TO give atmosphere to a vaudeville programme the B.B.C. permits an audience in the studio. There are many thousands on the waiting list for this favour, and it is feared that the length of time that elapses from the date of application to the issue of the permit has the effect of defeating the object of the audience. People who have waited two years to attend are liable to be uncritical, and the resultant irrational applause finds no response from the listener at home. In view of this peculiarity changes are contemplated in order that mere facial expressions do not arouse applause that leaves listeners by the loud-speaker wondering why. At all vaudeville performances from the studio, a station critic gives his impression of the performances immediately after the act, and it is thought that a similar departure would tend to improve the style of performers in other classes of entertainment.

NEGOTIATIONS are proceeding for the National Broadcasting Co. of America to purchase broadcasting station KPO, San Francisco. A construction permit to increase the power to 50,000 watts is part of the bargain, this permit having been granted KPO some months ago.

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