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Sutherland said that the fastest known bird in flight was the "swift," which could move at the speed of 120 miles per hour. Really that speed is almost in backgear compared to the "oof bird." I don't know the weight of a swift, but call it five pounds avoirdupois net. The feather it flies with is tare and in an empirical calculation may be disregarded. Using Mr. Sutherland's formula by adding half, that makes the swift change its position at the rate of 180 feet per second. Therefore its mass momentum equals, in top gear, 900 foot pounds per second. But everyone knows how he has had the oof and suddenly it has disappeared, so quickly that the swift couldn't have thought about moving. Returning to the foot-poundage of the swift, compare it with the Hataitai Traffic Tunnel oof, that hole that was holed almost wholly for motorists. The weight of oof leaving each day is forty pounds sterling, which is very much heavier than avoirdupois. I don't know if forty pounds includes sinking fund, but anyhow sinking fund, like feathers, doesn't weigh much, and as the differential in the calculus, it is only a little bit and can be discarded, so can feathers be in this calculation. That forty pounds is always moving away, but unlike the swift it always remains. Even if we take the time unit as one millionth of a second it is still going, yet stops in the same spot. Now just imagine the oof bird changing its position, that equals forty million foot-pounds per second just for Hattidly-haitai. I could give a lot more examples showing that the swift only crawls in comparison to the oof, but the calculations are somewhat involved. I've lost my book of logs, and these columns are too short for long-hand mathematics so we had better get Mr. Will Yates to do them next "surprise item," although I think I have shown plainly that the Automobile Club's information is faulty.

AFTER the huge success of the Ottawa Conference at which, according to Mr. Bruce, Australia gave away nothing in return for favours (which will need to be made up for by some other Dominion), and the departure of the Irish Free State delegates in high dudgeon, it is just as well for us to know how we stand with all parties to the tentative agreements. Listeners were therefore fortunate in hearing Mr. J. T. Burrows (3YA) tell us something of the attitude of the South African Dutch toward the Britisher. Mr. Burrows witnessed the celebration of the foundation of "flag day" in the Cape, and was able to see how much the Boer element had assimilated with the British. In recounting some of the incidents experienced that day it was plain that New Zealanders were not welcome either, and so tense was the feeling that apprehension of bodily harm was not without reasonable cause. The Afriander Dutch are not disposed to like anybody but themselves much, but if they did feel a fondness for anyone it would not be for a colonist who owed allegiance to their Motherland. The Boer shook off such a shackle at the dawn of enlightenment

and he can let the belief that this was the right thing to do even spoil his pleasure. That is why at Rotaru, when the South African footballers were here, he drank so heartily to the toast "the downfall of the British Empire." This attitude toward us is difficult to explain in view of the fact that the British have prevented the Dutch on more than one occasion. I have heard that Rotary is going to fix it up, though, and consolidate the dream of Cecil Rhodes, who visualised a nation of an admixture of British and Boer. Rhodes was an idealist and perhaps he never



Vincent Aspey,

a brilliant Auckland violinist
(late soloist and orchestra
leader of stations 2FC and 2BL,
Sydney), who will play
"Rondo" (Mozart) from 1YA
on Wednesday, September 7.

saw the clodhopper nature of the Dutch women nor the satisfied ignorance of the Dutch men.

MR. BURROWS spoke of the general altitude of the southern end of the Dark Continent, and it makes me wonder how high the country was a few million years ago. Geologists tell us that it is the oldest country on earth, and that while the Himalaya mountains were being pushed upwards South Africa was being blown away as dust. I wonder if the rise of India and the dissipation of South Africa has anything to do with Mr. Ghandi's hatred of British institutions, for it was in Natal where he learnt much of it. He could not have very well absorbed it from the Boer as, having been born discoloured in complexion, the Boer would class him with the Kaffir, whom he believes the Creator made black and consequently inferior, therefore beyond the pale and not worthy of being associated with. Mr. Ghandi, however, didn't live in the high part of South Africa, and spent most of his African time in Durban, where

the only really high part is the whale boiling-down factory. Mr. Burrows's observations were undoubtedly very keen, but I can assure him that he was fortunate in having no need for his mosquito net, for I have never seen mosquitoes so large as those in South Africa.

I HAVE no doubt the appeal made by 2ZW for the formation of a radio club to enable that station to continue operations will meet with the immediate response that the situation warrants. Every listener within range recognises that this popular B station has maintained a consistently high programme standard, in marked contrast to some of the B stations broadcasting in Australia. In making a direct appeal to listeners at the same time setting out the financial position, the proprietors have taken the wisest course, and appreciative listeners' aid will not fail them. My own subscription is for the delightful chamber music which we receive from 2ZW and, in paying for that only, I know I am still in debt, but unfortunately complete redemption will have to wait for better times. Jolly good luck to 2ZW and its radio club!

WHAT would our radio orchestras do without grand opera overtures and selections? Were they to be suddenly deprived of this substantial section of their repertoire the loss to listeners would be appreciable. Take the case of that tuneful Gounod opera "Mireille," selections from which the 1YA Chamber Orchestra is playing next Friday. Although the opera itself, like so many others, has fallen into something of oblivion, it enjoyed in its day quite a popular success. In 1864 it first saw the light in Paris, but as one writer puts it, "the action is probably too exclusively 'Provençal' to strike any responsive note in Anglo-Saxon audiences." Still the work successfully appeals in Paris, where it is performed at the Opera Comique frequently during the season. The opera tells of the course of true love running far from smoothly and ending in the lovers' union too late. Mirella and her sweetheart Vincent find each other and win consent to their wedding only for her to die in a mystic ecstasy. Gounod, who has been accused of the "waltz complex," most certainly has written no better waltz song than "Oh, Messenger of Love," by which many people know the opera best. The tragic end of the whole story would hardly be guessed from the overture, which is full of thoroughly bright and tuneful music and has always been among the favourites of Gounod's purely instrumental pieces. In the selection also an abundance of melodic material is drawn upon to build up an altogether charming orchestral number.

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