

STATIC

by
"SPARK"

NO one will deny that we are a very law-abiding community, and few would claim that before the enactment of recent regulations we were unruly people. There were a negligible few, however, who truly believed that when smokers received a gift coupon with an ounce of tobacco we were soliciting the Prince of Darkness to lead the country toward everlasting damnation. It must have been a great relief to those earnest souls to see legislative action taken to prevent our further perversion. But what a rude shock must have been felt when subsequently they heard that smokers and non-smokers alike were under obligation to the Dominion Tobacco Company for the breakfast session from 2ZW. We have lately missed the familiar announcement. I understand regulations are responsible, and the session is now being supported by the funds of the 2ZW Club. The invariable inclusion of an address, which, if I forget not, mentioned a town only, and had no embroidery like Karangahape Road, was, I believe, sufficient to anger regulation. For the life of me, I cannot tell now whether the town was Wellington or Napier, or any other city in New Zealand, and I don't suppose very many others could either. It didn't hurt so much that it left unpleasant memories.

A VERY interesting and entertaining talk from 3YA was that entitled "The Philippines," given by Mr. George Lawn. In a brief topographical outline of the archipelago, which contains some 7000 islands, the varied climate, ranging from equatorial to the temperate, and a short historical sketch of the inhabitants, the speaker said that no territory offered a wider field for the special study of various sciences, and particularly the study of social science. In the Philippines, the two largest islands are Luzon and Mindanao, and these contain the majority of the population. Although the archipelago is mountainous and well developed in certain regions, there are large areas of fertile plains and twenty million acres of suitable land, as yet untitled, still available for agriculture. Spain has had association with the Philippines for over three hundred years, and her influence upon a very fine people is still observable. Unlike the Japanese Islands, no problem of over-population confronts the inhabitants of the Philippine Archipelago, for with a population of but 13,000,000 and an annual increase of about 200,000, the large areas of uncultivated land and vast undeveloped natural resources are capable of absorbing a very much larger number. Contact with the white races has not been detrimental to the Filipino, who has acquired easily and naturally the many European customs.

THE Filipino takes great interest in political issues, a fact that is demonstrated when an election might see eighty per cent. of those entitled to vote exercising their right. The women enthusiastically engage in activities for social reform, and although hampered by several languages and dialects, the people are united and competent in social administration. "Nothing could be further from the truth that they are savages," said Mr. Lawn. The egotistical white man, who thinks the coloured races exist for his benefit and exploitation, is woefully ignorant of the capabilities of many of the present subject races. Such misunderstandings give stimulus to boycotts and non-co-operation movements, and a prerequisite to economic world recovery is the recognition of the rights of other nationalities. Malayan, Chinese, Mahomedan and Hindu influences are all observable in the Filipinos, and Spain gave the islands a unity which saw a large measure of industrial progress. Considerable disappointment was felt by a certain section in the Philippines when American suzerainty was established after the Spanish-American War. It was expected that the agitation for complete independence prior to the war, would be granted after America's defeat of Spain. Guerrilla warfare continued for some years, but for all that American overlordship has been of great benefit to the Filipino. Seventy per cent. of the Philippines' trade has been with America, and when—within fifteen years—the U.S.A. retires from the Philippines, the people will realise an ambition of many years, and their administration will have marked effect upon various Governments in the East.

IT is to be hoped that when America grants full independence to the Philippines, the unity founded by Spain and consolidated by America, will continue. Surely no one asserts that coloured races cannot rule efficiently. Japan and Siam are examples of countries very well controlled in difficult circumstances. The Filipinos are well educated and advanced, but they are not all one people, and diverse elements exist in mountainous regions, and in the south. Also around the Sulu Sea there are probably as many uncivilised as we recognise civilisation, as anywhere in the world. Without the kindly patronage of a powerful nation, the Philippines could easily become disunited, and with a land-hungry, virile nation to the north, and an enterprising people on the west, who may, although it is unlikely, desire to extend their domain, it is to be hoped, for the benefit of all the world, that

America remains the Filipinos' detached custodian.

FROM 2YA, Mr. A. E. Wilson, of the Government Tourist Department, drew an alluring picture of Spirits Bay as a Christmas holiday resort, for those intending travelling north, and whose interest might extend beyond the at-

to the Himalayas, Taranaki would have been ideal, even if the Three Kings were foreign country. The Maori had his legends all wrong, anyhow. He likened the North Island to a fish, with Port Nicholson as the mouth. They don't get earthquakes in the north, so when we get one in the torso it looks like the tail wagging the body, which isn't right. I have heard, though, that owing to the narrowness of the peninsula at Auckland, the top end sometimes waves about in the breezes, for which the north is famous. If it were to break off the difficulty of getting back would be increased, so Mr. Wilson must recommend the trip without any encouragement from me.



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fractions offered by the Auckland Racing Club. It is a long way to go into the winterless north, where the rain falls in sheets, just to imagine the departure of spirits, when they can be visibly observed departing—with other more solid substances—at Ellerslie. I've never been beyond Ellerslie myself, but I would like to see the country where the early pakeha ingratiated himself with the Maori. The legend about the disembodied souls somehow doesn't appeal to me, for if they wished for a good jumping-off place in their journey

THE concert by the Hutt Valley Liedertafel broadcast by 2YA proved a most enjoyable evening's entertainment. It was evident that the Liedertafel had devoted the necessary time to rehearsal, for some of the choral work was excellent. Particularly pleasing was the phrasing in all the concerted numbers, and credit is due to every member and to the conductor for refined finish in some of the choruses. The songs by Mrs. Wilfred Andrews were, as listeners always expect from this talented performer, some of the gems of the evening, and Miss Prudence Lewis, one of Wellington's young violinists of promise, showed an appreciation of tone and musical interpretation that was delightful to hear.

THE corrupt Sassennach often finds it difficult to extract pleasure from listening to Scotia enjoying herself in music and song, and on such occasions multitudes almost agree with Dr. Johnston that music is one of the least objectionable of noises. Some Saxons have been known to attend a Scottish concert to see the beautiful garb that often induces him to join the army, and with stimulated bravery suffers the doleful melodies that would lead the misinformed to believe that the North Briton was a defeated race. But the most corrupt Southron invariably hears with unfeigned pleasure the talented "Stark Family" in both traditional and modern items, and the Caledonian Society itself never better conveys the impression of the Scots' indomitable spirit and traditional hospitality. Both Wellington stations rightly devoted St. Andrew's Eve to the honour of Scotland, although 2YA made the relish about half soda. 2ZW added cloves with Mendelssohn's "Scotch Symphony," which the fractious assert is not Scotch at all, although they reluctantly admit that without the inspiration derived from a visit to the redoubtable people of Bonnie Scotland, the opus would never have been composed.