

Editorial Notes

Wellington, Friday, April 28, 1933

THE talk given last week from 2YA by Mr. Stuart Wilson upon "Boys' and Girls' Agricultural Clubs," and their activities over a period of fourteen years in this Dominion, will have given city listeners a real glimpse of the value of this movement to the countryside. It cannot be too often emphasised that New Zealand in its entirety owes its development and present-day attainments definitely to agricultural and pastoral pursuits. The export wealth of the Dominion is accounted for to the extent of some 98 per cent. by the products of agricultural and pastoral activity. While there are throughout the Dominion a number of thriving towns and (in ordinary times) prosperous cities, it has to be remembered by every intelligent citizen that those very towns and cities owe their existence to the quiet, persistent work of the country dweller. The waterside worker lives by handling the exports of the farmer, and the imports in return to service both him and those who serve the farmer. The typist in the city office, the girl behind the counter, the tram conductor, the news vendor tramping early morning streets, the garage man tending the city merchant, the accountant, the advertising man—even those whose work at first glance has no connection whatsoever with primary pursuits—can be shown on analysis to owe a definite debt for a part of their livelihood to the service rendered either to the

countryside, or to those who serve the countryside.

OF course there is reciprocity. The country people in turn owe much to the steady, persistent service given them by city dwellers and city interests. We are in reality one community, and not two, and the town versus country cry that is occasionally raised in the Dominion is wholly to be condemned, because it is essentially shortsighted and fails to realise the inherent unity of the Dominion's economic life. For that reason, therefore, Mr. Stuart Wilson is to be commended for placing before city listeners details of the valuable work being done among the youth of the countryside by these Agricultural Clubs. Since the Dominion depends for its maintenance and expansion upon the products of the soil, it is vital that those handling the soil should do so with efficiency and a love for their occupation. The time to instil that regard for countryside pursuits, and a desire for fullest efficiency in connection with them, is in the early stages of life. The ideal sown, therefore, amongst the members of the Agricultural Clubs, of high efficiency, cannot be too highly commended. As Mr. Cockayne, Director of the Fields Division of the Department of Agriculture, eloquently wrote in one of the letters quoted by Mr. Wilson:—"The chief value of Boys' and Girls' Agricultural Clubs to the members themselves is the realisation that effort directed towards the growing of crops, the rearing and management of live stock, apart from being of monetary value, creates an absorbing and permanent interest in country life. An Agricultural Club member tends at once to look to land as the most beneficial of all gifts, affording possibilities as wide as the skill and energy that is applied to it. He turns automatically to country life, realising its boundless possibilities for a happy and contented existence. A real and substantial development of Boys' and Girls' Agricultural Club activities would on the one hand arrest the tendency towards the city drift, and on the other hand would lay the firm foundation of successful farm practice."

WHILE in the past a certain small amount of financial assistance and much effective personal co-

operation have been given by the Government and branches of the Government service, it was regrettable to learn from Mr. Wilson that, owing to the depression, the small amount of financial support necessary for the successful continuance of the movement had been withdrawn. This is definitely regrettable and, as Mr. Wilson said, shortsighted. It was his purpose to inform the public of the situation, with a view to exercising pressure for the restoration of the support desired. Greatly as we appreciate the need for economy, we support Mr. Wilson in feeling that economy

hope, extend for the future a sympathetic and understanding regard to country problems, and appreciate that, however remote the connection may seem, there definitely is a tie between every rural dweller and city inhabitant within New Zealand.

In Phase and Out By "Quadrant"

TELEVISION apparatus is to be installed in each of the 2500 rooms of a new hotel in course of construction at Blackpool, England. It is suggested that it might be as well to get television first.

YOU can't beat an old dog. One sniff of the incense the other Tuesday night was enough. Old 2YA just gasped and went out—that's sympathy.

THE P. and T. Department's notice re licenses states that should a renewal not be desired "the apparatus, including the aerial, must be completely dismantled."—I've been using the clothes line as an aerial, and my wife strenuously objects to my carrying out instructions. I suppose there is nothing else left but to pay the 30/-.

DEAR Bobby Bluegum gives a forecast of future Friday night programmes for 2FC's little listeners. They are to consist of excerpts from Shakespeare's plays suitable for the "tiny tots." "First we're going to have a scene from 'King John,' where the little prince begs not to have his eyes put out; and then we will have the most amusing gravedigger's scene from 'Hamlet' and lots more." Good light Shakespeare for the little ones. So different from the fairies our young ones look for.—G.F.

"THERE are musical notes which are inaudible to the human ear," says a scientist.

We wish he could extend his statement to include some of the UN-musical notes we get on our loudspeaker.

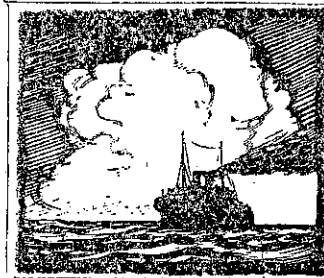
A CHICAGO gangster has taken to writing popular songs for broadcasting, we read.

We hope he has taken the precaution of doubling his personal bodyguard.

WIRELESS ought to be a great success in China, as it is almost impossible to distinguish atmospherics from the Chinese language.

AN eminent scientist is billed to broadcast a talk on "Why do we fall asleep?"

Sometimes because we are listening in to a broadcast talk by an eminent scientist.



"Ninety Days' Leave"

Is the title of an Indo-Trans-Oceanic Travelogue in Ten Atmospheres, which will be presented in a Recorded Novelty Fantasia from 4YA

On

MONDAY, MAY 1.

in this direction is a case of cheese-paring, the effects of which will be nationally uneconomic. The whole effect of the movement is to increase efficiency. Just how vital a stimulus is given to farming skill is shown by the record of amazing crops grown by the various cup-winners. "Fancy," as Mr. Cockayne, already quoted, says, "yields of over 40 tons of potatoes and nearly 200 tons of mangolds to the acre. Baron Munchausen could not have beaten these, but they are actual achievements of members, in the latter case indeed by a girl, no bad prelude to a successful farmer's wife."

CITY listeners, impressed by Mr. Wilson's advocacy, will, we

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