

## "RESTLESS EARTH"

First Novel from Auckland  
Company's Presses

"Restless Earth," a novel by W. Graeme Holder (Auckland: Associated N.Z. Authors' Publishing Company).

This is the first of a series of books by New Zealand authors which this enterprising company has been formed to publish. It is high time that such a venture was made in this country; it would be ridiculous, in the face of overseas opinions, to assert that we have not the talent to support the com-

pany; over here we have too long been prepared to take for granted the fact that we had no literary talent available, and when any New Zealander succeeded overseas it has been regarded as something of a miracle. It is to be hoped that the new company will change all this. It certainly deserves to succeed if "Restless Earth" is a sample of the work which they have in store for us.

The story takes place at the time of the Napier earthquake, and deals with its effect on the lives of three people—James Harley, an author, his wife, Grace, and the "other woman"—Patricia Weybourn. The plot is an old one, but Mr. Holder's handling of it is certainly original, and he has a vivid power of description which, though it seems to run away with him at times, gives a freshness to his book

which is only too often altogether lacking in the work of better-known authors. The descriptions of Napier and Hastings immediately after the disastrous shake are extremely good.

The characters are well drawn, for the most part, the tragic figure of Pat Weybourn being exceptionally well done; another delightful portrait is that of Mrs. Quesne (nee Queenie) Langham, an inveterate social climber, the author giving a telling indictment of some of the more objectionable portions of New Zealand society.

The book is one of the most delightful that has come my way for a considerable time, and it is fully equal to the best overseas work, a book everyone should read, and I am going to read it again myself immediately.

## "STRONG, SILENT ENGLISHMEN"

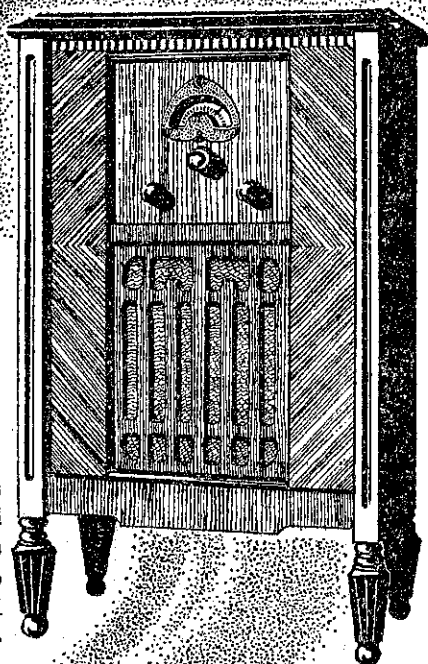
Prefer Wireless Speaker to  
Be Terse and To the Point

Whether or not the late Harry Seton Merriman invented the type in its literary form it is certain that the "strong, silent Englishman" in far-off lands is a tradition to be reckoned with. That tradition appears to have been strengthened in the course of a survey offered recently to the Royal Empire Society, of some seven months' wireless programmes for transmission to distant British Dominions.

No fewer than 8000 letters of comment and appreciation have been received, and from them it has been gathered that dwellers in tropical countries do not like talks unless they are very short." Listeners in Australia, Canada and New Zealand can take their talks with the best; in India and Africa they evidently prefer the talkers to be terse and to the point, says the "Manchester Guardian." The "strong, silent Englishman" in those parts would impose his traditional preference even on the wireless orators—though the preference is here complicated by the fact that the weather seems to have something to do with it. In temperate zones the pioneers are ready to be talked at, but as the thermometer goes up apparently the conversational tolerance goes down. Yet one would have thought that voices from England would be one of the most attractive parts of a transmission to distant exiles—and so they seem to be when they impart little items of domestic news from this country. Thus we are told that in the Empire broadcasts the hearers are given information like "Piccadilly is up again," in addition to the more "solid" news, and that such purely English touches are much appreciated. The whole subject suggests a most humane and important branch of broadcasting activities.

ITALY now considers that her broadcasting network is complete and that no further transmitters will be required for at least three years. The number of licences has increased in a few months from 220,000 to 300,000 and it is computed that 500,000 would be reached if a serious campaign against piracy were inaugurated.

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