

"A Sinister Tragedy in the Pacific"

MR. FRANK MILNER'S IMPRESSIONS

Special to the "Radio Record"

1YA, in relaying from the Auckland Town Hall last week the public reception tendered Mr. Frank Milner, the distinguished rector of Waitaki Boys' High School, on his return from the Rotary Conference in America, performed a great service to the public of the Dominion. The speeches broadcast, particularly the stirring address of the eminent rector and orator, were of tremendous importance and many thousands must have tuned in to the interesting proceedings.

THE Town Hall was packed.

The Mayor of Auckland, Mr. G. W. Hutchison, presided. On the platform the official party included Archbishop Averill, Primate of New Zealand, Mr. T. C. List, of New Plymouth, district governor of Rotary in New Zealand, and Sir James Parr. The esteem of Aucklanders for Mr. Milner and his recent work in the United States as an advocate of Anglo-American goodwill, was shown by the large crowd which included representatives of the staffs and pupils of secondary schools.

In welcoming Mr. Milner on behalf of citizens, Mr. Hutchison remarked that the fact that both Mr. Milner and Mr. List had been invited to a personal interview with President Roosevelt indicated the high standing they had gained in the United States.

Sir James Parr, speaking for the people of New Zealand, said he was proud to welcome home an old friend, and one of the Dominion's most distinguished sons. Sir James mentioned that when he was Minister of Education he once offered Mr. Milner the post of Director of Education, but he declined it, saying his duty lay among the boys of his old school.

"It would be a splendid thing if Mr. Milner was spared for a time for a world mission on behalf of better international relations and greater unity in the Anglo-Saxon race," declared Archbishop Averill, who also welcomed Messrs Milner and List.

Further proof of Mr. Milner's abilities and what America thought of him was instanced by Mr. List himself. He said Mr. Milner had declined at least three tempting and handsome offers to remain in U.S.A. Great as had been the effect of his public addresses, Mr. Milner's most useful work had been done at small, informal and frank discussions on international relations.

Thunderous applause greeted Mr. Milner when he rose to speak. He dealt fully with the United States of America and succeeded in convincing many of his hearers that America was not a land of gangsterdom, racketeering, lynching and general indiscriminate criminality as many supposed. There were others, he said, who regarded America as a land of materialism and utilitarianism, a land of isolation and intense nationalism. But he showed that there was another



—S. P. Andrew, photo.

"THE MAN." No greater compliment could be paid to Mr. Frank Milner's personality than the nick-name by which he is known to past and present pupils of the Waitaki High School.

he found little room for hope and he wondered where stability was to be found except in the British Empire and the great Republic of America. It had been said that democracy had failed, but America was showing that democracy had got a way, with full safeguards, to direct and positive action. "I do not think democracy is going to fail at all," continued Mr. Milner. "No other type of Government is going to satisfy either the British or the American people. These two great branches of English-speaking people must function together. In their heart of hearts the Americans are ready to co-operate in the great task of making civilisation secure. I always endeavoured to impress my American audiences that Britain and the United States together held the world in their hands."

The amazing growth of Japan, her need for economic expansion and the menace looming up in the Pacific was probably the most interesting and topical portion of Mr. Milner's address. He made an urgent appeal to his fellow countrymen to realise the immediate necessity for dealing with suitable international action with Japan's bid for expansion.

"I must confess that I am (continued on page 46.)

and a very different side to the American people. "To the stratum of idealism I made my appeal and the response was both electric and lasting," said Mr. Milner. "From my own experience let me tell you that it is possible to speak to Americans about things diametrically opposed to their present policy and about things which involved sacrifice on their part, and to evoke a response undoubtedly sincere and enthusiastic." (Applause.) Of much interest to listeners was Mr. Milner's description of his visit, accompanied by Mr. List, to President Roosevelt. The President had a wonderful smile "just like the Prince of Wales," in charm and appeal. Suffering from the grievous disability of being paralysed from the waist downwards as a result of infantile paralysis, President Roosevelt would not allow any sympathetic reference or commiseration on his ailment, said Mr. Milner. He dominated his disability by sheer power of the spirit. Mr. Milner said he was much impressed with the radiance and the buoyant spirit of the man.

Mr. Milner, in giving a mental survey of the political condition of the world, said