

## CONVENTION OUTING TO EASTBOURNE BY BUS

On Saturday afternoon I went with some other delegates on the bus to Eastbourne. Leaving the Hotel Cecil at 2.30 p.m. we journeyed along the Hutt road with the hills on the left and the harbour on the right. The latter was quiet and unruffled, with the seagulls making touches of white on the quiet waters. There was Soames Island, former home of war prisoners, also Ward Island, the bird sanctuary. On the left we passed the Wellington Woollen Mills, Odlin's Timber Yard (reputedly the largest in the North Island), also the Gear Company's Meat Works. On the right again there were the men of the Petone rowing club enjoying themselves in their boats. Next appeared the Sea Scouts' building, and the Centennial Memorial to commemorate the landing of the first white people on the Petone beach. I was told that a window in it depicts in black and white a Maori Chief meeting a man with his wife and child coming off the boat. On the left we passed Lever Bros. soap works, and then crossed the bridge over the Hutt River. On the right appeared sheds containing (I was told) surplus war material, and then hundreds of war-time trucks. Next came into view an old Maori cemetery, and on the left the Ford motor works. On the right we passed along the shores of several small bays.

Eastbourne consists, I was told, of two parts, Rona Bay and Muritai. It has a population of 2,000, a school of 500 pupils, also a convent, a post office, a theatre, shops, bowling and croquet greens.

Now we had reached our destination and alighted. Having plenty of time, we walked along the water front to Day's Bay, a distance of two (or was it three?) miles. With the fresh sea breeze blowing in our faces and filling our lungs with good, wholesome oxygen, we enjoyed the walk immensely, though some of my companions, whose shoes were not comfortable sand shoes like mine, but thin-soled and high-heeled ones, were rather footsore when we reached the tea garden at Day's Bay. Seated under the trees on little red chairs with red backs, at small green tables, we enjoyed the welcome cup of tea and the fresh cakes. Just as we finished our bus appeared, and then heigh ho! away we were on our return journey. It seemed no time before we were at the Hotel Cecil, and we said in our hearts, "Thank you, God, for a lovely afternoon."

C. JAMIESON.

## HIGH LIGHT

Dargaville reports having received a letter from the Methodist Missionary Union re a Remit they had passed in conference, which read as follows: "That we recommend that each member of the Union (Missionary) take a personal interest in the combating of the drink evil."

A reply of appreciation was sent from the W.C.T.U.

## RADIO AND THE FAMILY

In a survey made some years ago, it was found that children listened to the radio for 2½ hours for every one hour spent in reading. Have you ever studied the children while they were listening to one of the exciting thrillers? Notice the tense, strained attention and complete absorption in the programme.

Esther Marie Madsen, National Director for the Department of Radio in U.S.A., writes of this work there.

Because millions of people wrote to the radio stations in protest over the programmes coming into their homes, and because of the report made by the Federal Communications Commission, there has been a stock-taking in radio.

The National Association of Broadcasters has set up a "Broadcasters' Advisory Council," which will study the tastes of the radio audience, and make an effort to improve the relations between the industry and listeners.

It was felt that there were altogether too many crime serials and thrillers; and teachers and parents throughout the country could trace undesirable and unhealthy trends directly to such programmes.

The Bar Association came out with a very strong statement and met with representatives of the radio, movies and press to discuss the effect of such stories on juveniles. Their statement in part is: "The administration of criminal justice is frequently distorted by radio. There are a large number of radio programmes devoted exclusively to criminal trials and the exploits of criminals. Indeed, some of these programmes are **perfect hand-books for schools of crime**. They are interesting, alluring and allegedly realistic. Outstanding persons in the criminal enforcement field are recruited to partake in these programmes either in person or by proxy. The announced *raison d'être* of these programmes **that a career of crime is unprofitable, does not in any real sense mitigate the evil created.**

"The effect of these sensational portrayals of crime (in the movies) and on the radio is extremely bad. We **believe that it leads many into a career of crime.**"

Dr. Arthur S. Jersild, Professor of Education at Columbia University, and consulting psychologist in connection with children's radio programmes for Columbia Broadcasting System, says: "The power of radio in the lives of children presents both a challenge and an obligation. Children make a huge investment of time in radio programmes. They do this during years that are important in the **development of their minds and emotions**. Through radio they extend the horizons of their every-day world. They come mainly to be entertained, not to be educated. But the experiences they have by way of radio contribute to the **shaping of their ideals, and attitudes, their interests, tastes, moral concepts and**

**habits of thought.** The fact is challenging. It also puts upon each broadcaster a share of the responsibility for the sum total of what radio offers."

These quotations indicate the serious attitude some people have towards the radio. Parents should be equally serious and should not rest content with anything less than the best for the children. Broadcasters and their sponsors will listen to the opinions of numbers of listeners. It is not enough either to be negative. We want programmes that not merely "do no harm," but help to create taste for the best in entertainment. It will be a great day when the Christian community realizes the power in radio, and decides to act upon that realization.

—Australian "W.R."

## ROTA OF CONVENTIONS

In answer to various questions, we publish the Convention Rota drawn up at the 1946 Dominion Convention:—

1949, South Canterbury. 1950, Wanganui. 1951, Otago. 1952, Taranaki. 1953, Marlborough. 1954, Hawke's Bay. 1955, Southland. 1956, South Auckland. 1957, Nelson. 1958, Manawatu. 1959, North Canterbury. 1960, Wellington. 1961, Northland.

## AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?

Genesis 4 verse 9

(By G. A. Edmonds, J.P., Nelson)

Am I my brother's keeper,  
And wherefore should I be?  
This is a question that oft-times  
Worries and troubles me.

Why should I care about him,  
Or think of him at all,  
When I desire to do some thing  
That pleasures me withal?

You say I have a duty  
My passions to restrain,  
Because by my indulgence I  
May cause my brother pain.

But he's no need to copy  
And do the things I do,  
He has the power and mind to choose,  
A will to guide him too.

But what if HIS will is not  
Strong to resist the wrong  
He may see in any act of mine,  
Then copying it fall headlong?

My conscience gives the answer,  
It tells me, clear and plain,  
I AM my brother's keeper, and  
From wrong I must refrain.

Then:  
I'll neither drink nor gamble,  
Or sinful ways pursue;  
But by my good example be  
My brother's keeper true.