

was born) came into New Zealand. We couldn't find out the circulation of *Danger Comics* or any other comics, for that matter. But we learned that *Danger Comics* is one of a large brotherhood of "spot" publications, either imported, or printed in New Zealand from overseas drawings. They are put on the market at no set intervals. They have no continuity or fixed names, although some sets of drawings are obviously serials.

"But I certainly wouldn't like my children to read some of the comics we handle," the wholesale agent admitted, as we were about to leave.

We spoke to a publisher whose firm turns out a 6d. edition every five weeks of "Radio Patrol," "Secret Agent," and "Katzenjammer Kids," all made from American sketches. He regretted he couldn't reveal the circulation figures, and quite frankly said the first two were "a bit gangsterish." He himself acted as censor. First of all, he did his best to get the rights to print and publish

But the cost, overcome in America by world-syndication, probably would be prohibitive in New Zealand.

So it would appear, judging by the history of the *Supreme Feature Comic*, containing New Zealand and (apparently) English contributions. Printed and published in Auckland, sold originally for 6d., this 20-page comic is now being given away with small purchases at chain stores. The *Supreme* also featured danger, Tiger Darrell in "The Island of Horror," A blood-chilling adventure, yet its captions, conversations, and general tone was not alien, and above the average. One page, "Its a Fact, by Quiz," was of some educational value, and a New Zealand artist, Harry Bennett, had made quite a pleasing job of Hiram S.Q. (Slightly Queer) Wintergreen, Our Crazy Inventor. But somehow, *Supreme Feature Comic* just didn't "click."

Meleor Comics, from the same firm, contains one New Zealand picture tale, "The Secret Valley," rearing prominent amongst futuristic adventure and foolish



1. Suddenly one of the huge birds rushes at a native warrior. He draws his spear and runs like the wind. "Run! Run for your life!" screams Mally in her excitement. "He'll never get away," cries Jack. "That moa will kill him, but lucky for him."



YOU ARE A BUNGLER, PAROLAKE!
YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE BROUGHT HIM HERE! THERE ARE OTHER WAYS!
WHAT OTHER WAY? PROFESSOR!



2. Joe had painted a life-size chop on that himself. "There's a nice juicy morsel with surprise when he found no tasty meat," he thought this little lot was

From left to right : examples from New Zealand, Australian, and English comics.

English comics in New Zealand. English agents either refused or named a prohibitive price. So he tried Australia and the U.S.A. He rejected the Australian offers point-blank—they were too tough—and, after turning down a good deal of violent American stuff, at length selected the three he now publishes quite successfully.

He would like to see a New Zealand comic. He believes our artists are sufficiently capable and imaginative.

fantasy. The valley, somewhere in Fiordland, contains moas and Maoris, war canoes and warriors. It is an honest, yet not entirely convincing, attempt to bring a New Zealand story before our syndicate-stuffed children.

We examined children's comics until we were dizzy. The Aussie efforts were awful. The New Zealand attempts didn't seem to get anywhere. English comics were as scarce as pork chops.