

Salient

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Mr. Savage Speaks THE PROBLEM OF THE GRADUATE

"Salient" has, since its inception, tried earnestly to discover what the Government's attitude to the University is. From Mr. Nash we obtained the usual vague generalities and the suggestion "that we see Peter Fraser about it"; from Mr. Fraser came the statement that "he regretted he was not in a position to make any statement in regard to the state of university education in New Zealand".

Apparently, however, it was merely the dreaded word "Press" that inspired this reticence, because the N.Z.U.S.A. has succeeded in obtaining a valuable statement from The Leader himself on the Government's policy. Mr. A. P. Blair (Auckland), Mr. A. M. Quennell (Otago) and our own Dick Simpson were the gentlemen who succeeded in extracting the words of wisdom, heading a deputation from the New Zealand University Students' Association. Also present were Mr. Fraser above-mentioned and Mr. H. H. Cornish, K.C.—(you remember!—the gentleman who said "Hear, Hear!" such a lot at the Law Dinner).

SUCCINCT STATEMENT.

The position is this:—

(a) That our best men are needed in this country.

(b) That our best men are not staying in this country.

(Now, you youthful graduates, preen yourselves! You are the "best men," and Father Savage is talking to you!)

"I was immensely struck," said Mr. Savage, "in London with the young New Zealanders I met. They had good positions and good prospects, yet they conveyed the impression that they had to leave New Zealand because there were such young men who wanted to work in their own country and that their country needed their work."

ONE-WAY TRADE IN BRAINS.
"It cannot be gainsaid that this one-way trade in brains has been a most serious loss to New Zealand. The men I have in mind did not go away in search of fame and fortune. They went abroad to seek opportunities and better facilities to carry on the jobs for which education and University training in New Zealand has fitted them."

And all sorts of other facts—only a quarter of the New Zealand Rhodes Scholars have returned to their native heath; very few post-graduate scholars have come back; New Zealand discourages its eminent sons.

Well, what are we going to do about it?
What the N.Z.U.S.A. intends to do is set out fully in the statement prepared by the deputation.

"The N.Z.U.S.A. proposes to call upon individual graduates and others already in the Public Service to act on a general body of graduates, this body to constitute a committee of inquiry. This committee will examine, analyse, and report on the situation in New Zealand. Presumably it will examine the relationship of the educational system to the Public Service and investigate to what extent these two dovetail."

But if they want scholars on their Committee why did they call on Mr. Savage? Oh, I see! They don't want him to be on the Committee at all. They want permission for inclusion of several eminent Public Servants on the Committee, and also want Mr. Savage "to grant the proposed Committee facilities for obtaining such information from Government Departments as may be relevant and necessary to the fruitful conduct of the inquiry."

We wish the Committee luck. Our efforts to obtain information from Government Departments in the past have been decidedly unfruitful!

BEGGARS AT THE GATE.

And what about the Government? Well, before the Advent of Mr. Savage—(said Mr. Savage)
"Tens of thousands of young people lost their opportunity to enter upon a career. They were locked out, like beggars at the gate. They were denied their right to opportunity of serving apprenticeship for skilled trades and of gaining experience for normal business careers."

Oh! Mr. Forbes, how could you? But lift up your hearts, and listen again to the oracle:—
"It is to remedy this parlous situation as far as is humanly possible and to prevent its recurrence in the future that this Government is devoting its energies. We are determined to repair some of the damage that was done before we came into office."

But the Deputation was suspicious. This sounded very much like election talk. But Mr. Savage said:—
"No assurances, however, are convincing unless they are supported by evidence of practical effort. Here I can give you definite proof of this Government's policy."

(Good gracious—is this really Mr. Savage saying this? This is certainly a "scoop"—Mr. Savage is going to reveal a well-kept secret.)

SPLENDID ACHIEVEMENTS.
"We really didn't realise that Mr. Savage loved us so much! Because he really has done a terrible lot for us. Graduates have been extensively employed in the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Geological Survey Department, and the Bureau of Social Science. The development of meteorological research has been made necessary by aviation expansion, and in this field and in that of plant research, qualified men have been sought after."

"All of these Departments have called for University men and recruitment has been largely made outside the radius of the existing Public Service. Those men who have spent a number of years fitting themselves for specialised work could not, of course, have joined the Government Service under the ordinary conditions which apply to cadetships. They were necessarily older and provision was made for them to be employed whatever their age, and they were given salaries which were fitting to their age, knowledge and experience."

The Government is to be congratulated on the splendid progress it has made in this direction in so short a time.

PICTURESQUE PERORATION.
"I know this; no movement can hope to have a future if it has not got the young people behind it," concluded Mr. Savage. "Today, when democracies are threatened and held up to derision by totalitarian states, I confess I feel depressed, but not afraid. . . . Again I assure you and the young people you represent, that this Government will never fall into the error of slamming the door of opportunity in the bright and eager faces of New Zealand youth."

And with a smile which said: "God bless you, my children!" the oracle subsided. —R.L.M.

COMPETITION No. 1

RESULT

We liked best one of Steve Brockett's selection on behalf of Dr. Schuschnigg:—
"This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me."—Mark 7:6.

Norm. Morrison sent in a good effort:
"Boast not thyself of to-morrow, for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."—Prov. 27:1.

Third was: "Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God."—1 Cor. 1:32.

RELIGION

Speakers came to Friday night's debate armed with strong reasons why the Professorial Board's ban on the discussion of sex and religion should be lifted. But the best argument was the debate itself. It proved that a 'Varsity debate can be an orderly affair, and that students are capable of debating such subjects with dignity, wit, and clarity of mind. This was made apparent to all who attended, and for those who did not, we can produce a Methodist parson to back us up. Of 150 people present, only 10 voted against the motion. As supporters of the motion included Christians, agnostics, law students and one Confucian, we may regard the resolution as representative of V.U.C. opinion, and the deputation which will approach the Professorial Board on the subject can truthfully say they have more than 90 per cent. of the students behind them.

STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM.

"Historically," said Mr. Almers, "Universities have made a continual fight for academic freedom, to prevent control of their staffs in the views they may hold, and for the principle of free expression in teaching. The obstacle to attaining this freedom is the fact that most Universities have to rely on finance from outside. This dependence renders them subject to outside control, and any freedom they have they must struggle to maintain." The present ban was originally imposed in 1933, during the nadir of the depression, when New Zealand had a reactionary Minister of Education. He traced the history leading up to the ban, and the part played by the Welfare League and Canon James. The report of the College Council following the ban was one which the University could look back on only with shame. The governing body of the College discarded a principle for which Universities had struggled for centuries, and admitted the sanctity of majority opinion.

"This ban was imposed because of outside pressure, and on that ground

AND

alone we feel justified in asking the Professorial Board to remove it. It was merely a result of the depression."

THE OPPOSITION.

"When the exchange rate was raised," said Mr. McCulloch for the negative, "it was done under special circumstances. But just that those circumstances have changed is not sufficient reason for lowering the rate now. In the same way we are not concerned with what happened in 1933, but with disproving that the ban should be lifted now." Because they were very individual and personal subjects, sex and religion were unsuited for debate. The conduct of previous debates had shown that it would be most inadvisable to remove the ban. We had no lack of other subjects to discuss. Debates on sex and religion would defeat the purposes of debate by arousing unnecessary animosity. He touched on the dangers of such debates to the immature minds of the Training College students.

Miss McGhie discounted his statements about T.C. Teachers had to instruct young children and needed sound ideas on such subjects. Debates provided the interchange of ideas which helped to form a philosophy of life.

DIVERSIONISM.

Mr. J. P. Lewin claimed that the ban did not stifle discussion. To say it did was an insult to students' intelligence. Information and discussion on sex and religion could go on in private, which was preferable to a "public brawl like the last debate." Under mob influence, emotionally unstable adolescents would not think analytically, but rely on emotional convictions. Taking sides on such personal matters caused social disintegration, by rousing animosities which would continue in other fields and affect political solidarity, playing into the hands of mischief makers and

SEX

Theologian and Politician ADAM HAMILTON—MAN OF PARTS

Doesn't it all sound like a fairy tale—to leave the farm, go to University—he a theology student, then switch over to politics, and in the prime of life, to be the leader of the National Party, the hope of the country? But it's true. The Hon. Adam Hamilton was a student at the Otago University for six years—four years being spent in Knox College. "Of course I have no degree—in those days you couldn't take a degree without a matric—and I didn't get mine. But I studied Philosophy, Education, Economics and English Literature along with Greek and History. It was not till after I went to Knox that I studied Church History and Theology."

After this burst of eloquence, the Hon. Member was not very communicative on various questions. "Salient" had to ask—was bashfulness the cause? or was it merely an attack of that disease peculiar to politicians—namely, compromise and hedging?

CONCERNING OURSELVES.

"If the National Party gets into power, what will be its attitude to the University?"

"Why? Well, I suppose you know the Universities grew up under us—we made them what they are to-day. The Universities will still be there, won't they? and under us—the National Party is friendly towards them."

"Well then, does the National Party contemplate any reforms to the University system?"

"Why, what do you mean by reforms? Isn't the system all right as it is? I was at Otago for several years and the system seemed good. I suppose it hasn't changed—anyway, what's wrong with it?"

"Well," said "Salient," aghast, "the lecture system isn't too bright—it seems a cram establishment to me."

"Oh no, I think it's alright; you get your exams and things. New Zealand degrees are favourably comparable with those of any other Universities. Mining degrees of Otago are the best in the world."

"Tell us, do you consider a University education beneficial, and if so, will your party facilitate in any way the obtaining by poorer people of a University education?"

"Well, that has always been possible—the University has always been available to all classes."

"But poorer people need helping."

"Yes, so, but there are scholarships to be won. The Universities are democratic, there is no distinction, and the present scholarship system has enabled enough to get there. Not all the students come from wealthy classes. Er—certainly I think a University education is beneficial to all who can use it properly."

"What is the attitude of the National Party to freedom of speech in its widest sense, e.g., advocacy of communism, lectures, and discussions in the University?"

"We stand for free speech, traditional British custom of free speech. But you've nothing to complain of?"

"Well, we have certain subjects not approved of by the Professorial Board—sex and religion."

"Well, that's the Professorial Board's business. British speech is the freest

in the world—Hyde Park," said Mr. Hamilton ruminatively. "Of course you can't say what you like—just enough freedom to discuss public questions. I could say what I liked about you—it would be free speech, but it might be libel. Here, don't go putting that last sentence down—people will think I'm—I was just showing you what I meant!"

STONEWALLING.

"What would be the attitude of the National Party to conscientious objections in war?"

Eagerly "Salient" strained ears for the answer—the only sounds were ticking of clock, clacking typewriters and traffic noises. The hon. gentleman twiddled his fingers and looked out the window. I repeated the question, but it was again ignored, or perhaps—heard—who knows?

"What is the National Party's attitude to Britain's interests in, say, the independence of Czechoslovakia, or the Spanish situation?"

"We've got a lot of faith in Britain's decisions. Best to leave Britain to handle problems in her traditional fashion, which is pretty good. No one can really express opinions on European questions from day to day, when everything is shifting all the time."

LIGHT IN DARKNESS.

"What is your attitude to education in the time of crisis?"

"Crisis! what do you mean?" asked the hon. gentleman in a startled tone.

"Well, in case of war," replied "Salient."

"You can't express opinions on that till you know what the crisis is, and what obligations your country has to meet. It's easy to ask questions, but it's not so easy to answer them—circumstances change. Anyway, I've not thought on the matter—and we never speak before thinking all round the point first, do we?" ("Salient" is doubtful over the last point.)

"We would be interested to know, sir, what ranking expenditure of money on education takes in the budget?"

"Education has always played an important part in New Zealand history and in the budget. I think that is all I have to say this morning." —V.E.

Continued—

reactionaries. It was bad tactics for progressives to divert their activities into unprofitable personal antagonism. The question of the effect of the discussions on abnormal psychology also had to be considered.

"I think Mr. McCulloch is an anachronism and that Mr. Lewin should have given his speech lying down."

How Derek Freeman began. He pointed out the danger of thoughtlessly accepting traditional opinions—opinions which had for their outlet all public sources of information—press, radio, schools and universities. Debates, by stimulating individual thought, countered this danger. On the question of sex: "It is no use trying to stop a bad smell by putting the lid on the dustbin—you have to clean it out."

Said Mr. McDonald: "Hitler is encouraging women to have platoons of babies by fair means or foul." He contrasted Hitler's methods with those of the Soviet Union, which encouraged sex discussion and doubled the birthrate.

Mr. Braybrooke supported the negative, stating that as we got our

money from the government we should not run the risk of offending the public. Replying to this later, Mr. Almers said:

"I feel most students are with me when I say that rather than submit to such a humiliating principle, the University would prefer to hold its lectures in a tin shed with no government assistance at all."

Mr. Wuh, following an interjection, referred to the ignorance of most of us concerning Confucianism, and illustrated the value of discussion on religion by the possibility of securing converts for Confucius after five minutes' talk. There were a number of other speakers from the floor.

THE HONOURS.

The Judge, Professor Shelley, talked for thirty-five minutes, mainly on Almers's pronunciation and the tactics of the affirmative in debating on freedom of speech rather than on the specific motion. We were glad to have rulings from him on certain pronunciations which even dictionaries are not dogmatic about. His placings were: Mr. Braybrooke, first; Mr. Wuh, second; Mr. Lewin, third.—H.W.G.

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ROME FIDDLES

Il Duce is obviously an honourable man. Or is he? If he isn't, then somebody is in for an unpleasant surprise.

The proposed "talks" with Italy which were the cause of Mr. Eden's departure from office are now completed. The Rome correspondent of the "News Chronicle" says it is understood that the general terms of an agreement which has been drawn up include exchange of information regarding the strength and disposition of all forces in the Mediterranean and the Red Sea, which has already begun.

One wonders whether this includes Spain, or is Spain not in the Mediterranean? There is little room for doubt that the success of the Rebels in Spain is due largely to enormously increased supplies of men and aeroplanes from Germany and Italy.

Does the exchange of information regarding the disposition of forces in the Mediterranean apply in this connection? Or are the unofficial press reports of Mussolini's speeches in praise of the exploits of his men regarded as satisfactory official information?

There seems to be something wrong somewhere. Either Signor Mussolini's speeches in praise of his troops in Spain are made in praise of a non-existent army, in which case he is lying grandly; or there are large numbers of Italian regulars in Spain, in which case his speeches proclaim his honesty, but the violation of the non-intervention agreement to which he is a party proclaims even more loudly that he's still a liar.

Whichever of the alternatives we accept, can we see any reason for believing that the Anglo-Italian "mutual understandings" rest upon a firm basis of mutual confidence?

There is another interesting aspect of the talks. The Italian Premier is much more accommodating than previously. Formerly he demanded naval equality with Britain in the Mediterranean. His dream of making "mare nostrum" an Italian lake has so often been forcibly expressed by him that his reasons for insisting upon this equality need no explanation. Now, however, the press gives us the bald statement: "Britain refused an Italian request for naval parity in the Mediterranean." Apparently Mussolini took the blow quite calmly. Why?

The Australian Associated Press solves the problem. 'Herr Hitler's Austrian coup and the arrival of Germans at the Brenner Pass on the Italian border have increased the Duce's desire for a comprehensive Anglo-Italian agreement before Herr Hitler's impending visit to Rome eventuates. Signor Mussolini believes that an agreement would enable Italy to achieve wider influence throughout Europe, especially in Yugo-Slavia and Hungary.

We recall the moving exchange of telegrams between Fascist Major and Fascist Minor on the day of the seizure of Austria, the avowals of eternal fidelity, the proclamations of the permanence and strength of the understanding between Germany and Italy. Now we learn that the Italians suspect Herr Hitler evolved the Rome-Berlin axis primarily to ensure that Italy would not interfere in Austria, and fear that Herr Hitler will pay little heed to the axis! The Duce is anxious to withdraw his troops from Spain and transfer them to Brenner. The Duce seems at the moment to be controlling his anxiety with characteristic firmness, but what a picture of contemporary diplomacy! What company our rulers are choosing for us to keep! Upon what insecure foundations our foreign-office experts are struggling to erect their diplomatic edifice! To any man who values the traditions of British liberty and freedom, traditions of which these same gentlemen are so fond of reminding us, the spectacle of England, "mother of the free," negotiating gentlemen's agreements with political gangsters, whose word is as unreliable as their financial resources are slender, is an unwelcome spectacle. For after all, what are Hitler and Mussolini but a couple of broken-down gamblers looking for tick?

The Anglo-Italian talks, however, reveal at least one hopeful sign; that is that the thieves are beginning to fall out. For the way things are in Europe at present, if they can't hang together, they stand an excellent chance of hanging separately. —A.H.S.

TOURNAMENT DELEGATES

An Explanation

At a meeting held on Monday the 28th March the question of Tournament Delegates was placed before the Executive. It appeared that the Tournament Delegates were not working harmoniously but that they had decided to carry on together. A special meeting of the Executive was called on Monday the 4th inst., when the Executive was asked to consider the case and request the resignation of one of the delegates. This unpleasant task the Executive duly carried out, and as a result the following motion was passed unanimously:—That the Executive with great regret request Mr. Mason to resign the position of Tournament Delegate and give the following reasons:

- (a) That the Executive considers that Mr. Mason could have been of more assistance to Mr. Edgley, although the Executive considers that the neglect has been somewhat unconscious.
- (b) That the Executive considers that this is a case of two people unsuited to work together.
- (c) That the Executive considers that it is expedient that the Senior Delegate continue in office, as he naturally has a more thorough grasp of Tournament rules and organisation and that Mr. Edgley personally is a man capable of carrying out the duties involved.

MR. MASON

Although I regret this matter, I feel it incumbent on me to state that—

1. The difficulty was at no stage either aggravated or sought for by me.
2. I have at all times been willing and prepared to carry out the job.
3. The matter was brought up solely because of the President's uncompromising refusal to co-operate with a duly-appointed colleague.
4. I am still trying to decide exactly what is the real motive behind Mr. Edgley's conduct.

M. J. MASON.

MR. EDGLEY

The Editor, "Salient."

Dear Sir,—You have informed me that Mr. Mason has approached you and made a statement regarding his resignation from the office of Tournament Delegate, and you have asked me in my turn to make a statement. I have not seen Mr. Mason's statement, and in any case do not regard this matter as one in which any advantage can be gained from a controversy in your columns. The Executive, of which we are both members, has considered the matter at length, and both of us have agreed to abide by the decision which it has given. —Yours, etc., R. W. EDGLEY.

COMPETITION No. 2

A one-sentence bedtime story about University life. Like this:—
"Once upon a time there lived a University Registrar who was kind and good to his students."
Entries close 28th April.

CHORISTERS

The annual general meeting of the Glee Club was held on Monday, 4th, with Mr. L. B. Sandford in the chair.

Owing to a certain scarcity on this particular occasion of the more musically-minded students, it was necessary for those in authority to go out into the highways and byways in search of a quorum. A recruiting expedition was made to the common-rooms and library, and several unwilling musicians were pressed into the service to constitute a quorum (one might call them quoristers). As a result of this, the meeting was one of the bright spots in the week.

The minutes and balance-sheet were, of course, taken gleefully as read, and the following officers were elected for 1938:—Patron, Professor Kirk; President, Dr. A. C. Keys; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. L. B. Sandford and R. L. Hutchens; Sec.-Treas., Miss M. L. Fletcher; Committee, Messrs. V. Emanuel and B. Hall and Messrs. B. C. Campbell and H. Christie.

It was left to the incoming committee to choose its own accompanist. It was suggested that the Club undertake some of the activities formerly pursued by the Social Service Club in visiting such institutions as the Ohlre Home, the Victoria Ward, and the Porirua Hospital. These activities would be greatly appreciated and opportunity for the musically-minded to perform.

TOURNAMENT

To-morrow our teams and their supporters leave for Auckland. We wish them every success. Taken all round, and viewing our prospects without undue optimism, it seems that we are sending away a stronger contingent than last year. We hope that this will prove to be so, for although last year's performance was in many respects excellent, an improvement upon that performance is urgently required.

V.U.C. does seem to be growing stronger in many branches of sport. Were our representatives at the Easter Tournament to win the Tournament Shield, sport at the College would receive a much needed lift up at a very important time. Failure to improve upon last year's performance would of course be received with resignation and good sportsmanship, but would tend to make permanent an inferiority complex which one senses about the place, and from which we are at the moment gradually freeing ourselves.

Whichever way the result goes, we know that the teams this year have, without exception, taken their preparation seriously. They are fit, and, win or lose, will give of their best. Let's hope we see the green and gold out in front every time.

The supporters have a duty to the teams too. They are not expected to go to bed early, as the players are; but they should not forget that many a Tournament event has been won just because the victor was given that little bit of extra encouragement from the supporters which enabled him to put his nose in front of the others and keep it there, and they are expected to provide this. When our representatives leave for Auckland to-morrow, they carry with them the good wishes of every student at V.U.C. —A.H.S.

NO MAN'S LAND

"Sic"

Dear "Salient,"—It is most regrettable that, while making such an excellent beginning, "Salient" should stoop to publish an article in such utterly bad taste as that displayed in the report of its interview with Count von Luckner.

Had the Count volunteered to speak at the College or thrust himself upon "Salient" or its reporter, a personal attack on him or on his views might have been defensible; but for "Salient" to seek an interview, and, upon its being granted purely as an act of grace, to turn round and pour insult and derision upon its host is an act of gross discourtesy.

In the circumstances of the case, the caption "Comic Opera (sic) Count Talks," the description of the Count as "gesticulating wildly, using terrific emphasis, and spitting fire," and the quoting of the Countess's words, "You are ze—ze (sic) gentleman (sic) to see ze Count," were sufficiently uncalled for; but the conclusion of the article, which describes Count von Luckner as a sailor "who had read Lowell Thomas's book about himself so much that he had begun to believe in it" is an utterly unjustifiable and reprehensible insult which calls for an apology. While it is true that manners are at a discount at the present day, it is to be hoped that students have a sufficient regard for elementary courtesy to resent the appearance of an article such as the one in question in the Organ of Student Opinion.

R. E. JACK.

(This letter has been abridged.)

Sportsmanship?

Dear "Salient,"—"The British reputation for sportsmanship," whatever its own value may be, will certainly suffer if it has many supporters as hot-headed and illogical as your correspondent, U.G.H. Actually, I do not know why he dragged sportsmanship into the matter of the reported interview with Count von Luckner at all, unless he is one of those semi-articulate persons who use the loose term sportsmanship to cover any moral code which suits their immediate purpose, which they wish to appear altruistic.

Your correspondent defines the essence of sportsmanship as respect for an antagonist. This depends not on sportsmanship but on the antagonist. For the essence of respect is that it should be entertained for something true and something as it is. Does U.G.H. respect a fine man, who happens to be an antagonist, because it is "the sporting thing to do"? But respect that accepts without attempting to criticise, either favourably or adversely, is no better than puerile hero-worship. Is it sacrilege to mention that Caesar has a wart on his nose, and is Caesar any the less a great man because his physical qualities are considered as well as his mental and military achievements?

If U.G.H. thinks that the article in question purported to be an analysis, sober or drunk, of Count von Luckner's political theories, he is mistaken. It was what it set out to be—a truthful account, without the omissions which would in the eyes of U.G.H. make it "snorting."

If a foreign visitor can be insulted by the mere publication of a true description of himself, he should not be "distinguished." And if we are told that he splits and is untidy with his boots, well, did not Caesar have a wart on his nose?

All this being so, I would like to know why your correspondent U.G.H. presumes to rebuke an impartial observer for telling the truth, which U.G.H. labels "an unpleasant incident," and to anathematise him for his "politically one-sided mind," his "immature political principles," his "vindictive childishness and appallingly bad taste"—arguments of "what must be a very unpleasant imagination?"—J.E. (This letter has been abridged.)

Desecration

Dear "Salient,"—With reference to the article, "Le Battiment en Danger," appearing in the last issue of "Salient" we wish to express our intense disapproval of the flippant treatment of so serious a subject as the inadequacy of the gymnasium.

Surely students are weary of constant reminders of the disgraceful conduct in the cemetery—desecration is never amusing.

Year after year appeals are launched for the Building Fund. Now, more than ever before, is it necessary that funds be raised quickly; but that an organ of student opinion should combine an appeal with ribald remarks on a subject which has already antagonised a large section of the community is lowering to the dignity of the College and most certainly will not provoke a response from the students or outsiders.—Yours, etc. —J.E.O. E.A.W. P.F.S.

Counted Out!

Oh dear, oh dear! Mea Culpa! I appear to have offended the susceptibilities and wounded the feelings of:

- Mr. Ugh, whose letter we published last week.
- Mr. R. E. Jack.
- Mr. J. C. White, who stated that if we received a better statement of his view, we need not print his letter.
- "A large body of rationally-thinking students."

These gentlemen state that I am childish, unintelligent, insulting, immature, vindictive, politically one-sided, no gentleman, and I possess appallingly bad taste.

And also I pour personal abuse on a gentleman whose views I disagree with, which, of course, Messrs. Ugh, Jack and White would never do.

Now, I admire Mr. Jack and Mr. White very much, and, ever since I read Lowell Thomas's romance—pardon me, Mr. Jack, his truthful biography—I have greatly admired Count von Luckner. But though a less conscientious reporter might have glossed over the Count's faults—his childishness and conceit—honesty compelled me to state accurately what the Count said and what happened at the interview.

Mr. Jack's "sic" are no doubt amusing in an arid, legal way, but as his second "sic" implies that I am a liar, and his third states definitely that I am not a gentleman, I shall refrain from comment.

Mr. Ugh would welcome a world ruled by England and Germany; but he should remember that the Count himself described graphically the plight of the millions of poor German subjects under foreign rule.

Mr. Jack objects to my description of the Count's manner of speech; as "The Dominion" referred to his gesticulations and emphasis, presumably he objects to the spitting.

Quite right, Mr. Jack—so did I! —R.L.M.

Conservative

Dear "Salient,"—Mr. Gordon's querulous note, which appeared in your last issue, seems to me to provide a most interesting psychological study—the workings of the "conservative" mind.

Mr. Gordon, in as many words, complains that "Salient" is rabidly socialist in tone and apparently expects the staff to enter upon a campaign to wake up the sleeping conservatives of the College. It is typical of conservatives such as Mr. Gordon to leave the hard work to others and then to complain that they have not been given a chance. Mr. Gordon and his like have left it to the "rabidly socialist" students to launch the paper, and keep it supplied with readable matter, and, in view of the frequent appeals which you have made to all students, the non-representation of conservative opinion in your columns has been due to lack of initiative on the conservative students' part rather than to lack of opportunity.

Your action in having the report of the Spanish film-cum-lecture function written by an ultra-conservative is proof enough of your earnest desire to make your paper a true organ of student opinion. But should the editorial staff have to go round the College begging representatives of various shades of opinion to contribute to your paper to give it balance? If Mr. Gordon and his co-conservatives have any real opinions it is up to them to put them in readable form for publication. Instead of criticising those who have so successfully launched the paper, because their views (expressed) do not happen to coincide with those of Mr. Gordon's clique (unexpressed), Yours faithfully, R.C.E.S.

Tripe?

Dear "Salient,"—The spectacle of a flat-footed and costive little Sancho Panca tilting at windmills with such deliberate flatulence may have been diverting for some—to me it was painful and a little tedious.

Like "Mein Kampf" re-written by Edward Gibbon.

Dr. Sutch's lecture was a concise and closely-reasoned presentation of a case. That comment upon it did not make a single attempt to face squarely the issues raised, but took the form of an Elaborate Allegory in which bogeys hid behind Capital Letters and inch-thick verbosity is bad enough.

But not for our Commentator. Nothing but a bout of cheap jesting at the fate of the Asturian miners and of the stricken women and children of Spain will satiate his scholarly mind. Such an attitude is inexcusable but not inexplicable.

Perhaps Ezra Pound was right after all when he said: "Gravity is a carriage off the body to conceal the defects of the mind." —THE MULE.

Extrav. Rehearsal

"Hurry up, you Fairies, on stage!" said Joey Mountjoy. And the first rehearsal of "Olympian Nights" began.

A very successful Casting Meeting a few days before had produced forty or fifty potential "stars" for the Extrav, and plenty of others for that brilliant satire "Adam Baba and the Forty Leagues" and the inimitable Interlewd "Port Nick Iniquity."

Numerous Fairies and Eunuuchs and "Veritas" reporters were engaged in conversation with Ladies of the Court when Jo-y's familiar voice rang through the quivering eum. A few straggling voices attempted to sing the opening chorus. "Song over!" said Joey, "you can practice that in private!" It was pretty awful!

And in a medley of choruses, consultations, quarrels, and general cacophony, the Prologue and Act I were set, under Joey's eagle eye, before the cast proceeded downstairs to attack a surfeit of savoyons and sandwiches. A dance helped to digest the tea, and soon afterwards we were rehearsing again, this time under the capable direction of Mrs. Mountjoy, Joey having disappeared (in order to preach a sermon, we understand!).

Mrs. Mountjoy, by the way, is going to be a splendid producer for the show. Her personality and charm, combined with her determination and perseverance, are the ideal attributes of the producer of a "Varsity Extrav. And she designs the costumes, too!

"Adam Baba" had its first rehearsal on Thursday; it is definitely going to be as good as "Bob," if not better. The dialogue scintillates and sparkles; the situations are convincing; and the conclusion simply beautiful! John Carrad's little show is also well on the way; Brick Bradford and Port Said Sue have been heard crooning Carrad tunes in sundry places.

And just wait till you hear Bill Austin's "Professors' Chorus" in "A Banned Item."

"The best show yet"—you hear it every year, but this year we mean it!

N.Z.U. PRESS BUREAU To Report Tournament

At the 1938 Tournament each college will be represented for the first time by an official Press Representative whose job it will be to report the doings of his college team and have them published in his college paper.

This inside information by a Tournament representative with full privileges, specially selected for his journalistic ability is available to students through the work of the N.Z.U. Press Bureau, formed only last year, but already a vigorous body with plenty of plans ahead.

At the N.Z.U. Press Conference at Auckland during Easter (this will be the Annual Meeting of the Press Bureau) the progress of the Bureau in 1937-38 will come under review and new ideas will be discussed.

There is no need for competition among the publications of different colleges. Friendly rivalry, yes; but in matters that concern all students in New Zealand how much more can be done by co-operation! The Bureau has been formed to furnish means of co-operation. Not only can reports of N.Z.U. sporting events (hockey tournaments and the like) be handled by the Bureau through its local corresponding members, but blocks can be interchanged, items of general student news circulated (especially N.Z.U.S.A. affairs) and the different colleges kept in constant touch with one another. The Press Bureau could indeed manage the publication of all N.Z.U.S.A. material, for example, reports on the work of recent sub-committees.

The ultimate aim of the Bureau is the production of a New Zealand University publication. The nature of its contents, its size, its price (if any), whether or not it should be the official organ of the N.Z.U.S.A., are the type of question which the Conference in Auckland will consider.

When you read news in "Canta," "The Critic," "Salient," "Craccum," headed "per N.Z.U. Press Bureau" and you find it interesting, remember that there is an organisation potentially significant, without which that news could not be presented to you.

Knock! Knock!

"Salient's" staff does sometimes work; and when they do so, they require peace and quietness. Noise is not conducive to journalistic endeavour; constant crashes do not inspire us to flights of imaginative prose.

And yet the sound of hurrying feet disturbs us; we shiver at the smash of hard objects on the walls around us—yes, even upon the door of our sanctum.

We work every Monday and Thursday—for your benefit and for nothing. Will you not take heed?

Knock! Knock! Who's there? The Ladies' Hockey Club practising!



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S P O R T

The Best of Luck

To the scores of men and women leaving for Auckland on Thursday afternoon as Tournament representatives of Victoria College "Salient" says: "The best of luck!" Without luck the best of teams can easily founder; with its aid, a mediocre team can achieve success beyond its deserts. We do not ask for a bigger slice of luck than granted to the teams from the other Colleges. We do not need it, for this team we are sending to Auckland is the most promising for years. It but needs its fair share of the boons of good fortune and it will do well.

PROSPECTS COMPARED

Athletics

AUCKLAND.—Reports indicate that they will not be strong, many of their best men being ineligible for Tournament. Gillespie may win the javelin throw and the relay team should be good.

CANTERBURY have lost most of their stalwarts of last year and do not regard their prospects with enthusiasm.

OTAGO will have a powerful team. R. G. Pilling will be formidable in the long jump and hop, step and jump. J. L. Adams recently broke O.U. records in the shot putt and discus. In the mile and half mile B. W. Nixon may break 4.30 and 2 mins. respectively. They have, too, R. H. Mottram, Otago provincial title holder for the 100 yards; a good 3-miler in Forde, and strong second strings in the field events and sprints, besides a relay team expected to do about 3.40 under good conditions.

VICTORIA.—An uneven team, our main strength lying in the sprints and hurdles. J. S. Adams, however, is a useful man in the high jump, javelin, and hop, step and jump, and the relay team is not to be despised. Scrimgeour has shown that he is a competent miler and 3-miler.

Rowing

AUCKLAND.—A fit and experienced crew which includes four of last year's eight.

CANTERBURY.—They describe their eight as "a gold crew," but Canterbury are known to be conservative in their estimates.

OTAGO.—The fact that no news has filtered through to Wellington may be regarded as either a good or bad sign.

VICTORIA.—Outside local opinion is that our crew is even stronger than last year's. We should win again.

Boxing

AUCKLAND. With the Auckland provincial heavyweight champion in McHugh, a light-heavyweight in Barry, and a scientific lightweight in Willis, Auckland hope to win three titles. Their bantam and welter men are also good. A very strong team from all accounts, with representation in every weight.

CANTERBURY.—Gaudin, Williamson, Ames and N. Blake have already won N.Z.C.F. titles. These men will be the backbone of the team.

OTAGO have a good all-round team with excellent possibilities. Parr, runner-up for the N.Z. amateur title last year, is expected to win the bantamweight title. Adams is the N.Z.C.F. lightweight champion of 1937.

VICTORIA.—Coveney is now in our team, which will be:

Light-heavyweight: J. M. Fraser.
Middleweight: A. E. Arnott.
Welterweight: V. L. Carroll.
Lightweight: C. Trillo.
Featherweight: K. Coveney.
Bantamweight: W. A. Armstrong.

The opposition will be strong but the team should acquit itself well. One title, at least, should fall to us.

Tennis

AUCKLAND say they are weak again.

CANTERBURY'S team will be headed by the two singles winners of 1937, I. J. Conch and Miss Edith Inwood. They expect to win, but so do Victoria.

OTAGO regard their "chances" as good, with W. Smith, West Coast champion and third on Otago ranking list, their main hope. T. Childs, prominent at last year's Tournament, is in good form.

VICTORIA.—"Salient" does not hide its belief that Victoria has a

royal chance and will not be surprised if we win both singles events and the combined. We have good pairs in the men's doubles too.

Basketball

AUCKLAND will have six members of last year's team out again, and are sanguine.

CANTERBURY consider they have better prospects than in former years.

OTAGO.—Their practices have been very satisfactory and they will have a sound side.

VICTORIA won last year and will be very hard to beat. Five of last year's team are included in what will again be a strong nine.

Shooting

AUCKLAND are chary of forecasting but report that keenness is strong.

CANTERBURY are chary too. Practices, however, have given them cause to hope.

OTAGO think they will do well. So do **VICTORIA**. Our men must not allow themselves to be upset by the reluctance of the other Colleges to reveal their prospects.

Swimming

AUCKLAND.—In Buchanan, one of the best swimmers in Auckland, the northerners have a good man. Shircliffe will be competing again and Munro in the 100 yards will be dangerous, as he is swimming around 60 secs.

CANTERBURY have the strongest side for years. M. Marks, their N.Z. blue, is in excellent form over the 220 and 440. The women's team is very promising.

Jack Davies, Empire Games breast-stroke swimmer, will be OTAGO'S star man. A fortnight ago he covered 220 yards in 3.73. The women are below standard.

VICTORIA.—Miss S. Hefford, our only woman representative, should win. The men have fair prospects.

Table Tennis

The meeting called for the purpose of forming a Table Tennis Club was attended by a large and enthusiastic crowd.

The provisional committee, elected to draw up a constitution for the club, is: Misses J. Bacon, M. Fletcher, R. Singleton; Messrs. Barnett, E. Budge, E. Robertson, M. Hatherly.

Football

One of the best-attended meetings in the history of the Club elected the following officers for the year:—

Club Captain: A. P. O'Shea.
Deputy Club Captain: E. Blacker.
Secretary: B. C. Campbell.
Treasurer: S. G. Eade.
Committee: R. A. Buddle, W. L. Parker, R. J. Corkill, R. Hansen.

Weir There!

Time was when Weir House could boast a race of bold warriors who could lead the way in things athletic and yet still cavort with gallantry and gusto in the realms of romance.

Came dark days and athletic prowess was hard to find within the white walls of Weir and attention was almost wholly turned to the white lights, bright lights—and in the case of a few—the Israelites.

But this is a year of rejuvenation. While not a whit less bold among the bashful maids, Weirites has turned to the field of sport with the same zest that has always marked their amatory exploits. Something of the ancient spirit of derring-do has caught them with the result that we find that, of this year's Tournament representatives, the house on the hill has supplied no fewer than ten.

What people know and what they think impress me as remarkably poor stuff. A general ignorance of some of the most elementary realities of political and social life is mainly responsible for the discomfort and menace of our times.

—H. G. WELLS.

MIXED PARS.

Will another effort be made to form a Rugby League Club at Victoria this winter?

Rugby practices are held every Wednesday night in the gym. Over 100 players, officials and supporters packed the annual meeting recently.

N. A. Morrison and Elizabeth MacLean have won the combined doubles championship at tennis. "Salient" has confidence in the ability of this combination to win at Tournament too.

"Salient" asks those freshers who played hockey at school to join the Women's Hockey Club. 1937 was an unhappy year for this club and it needs the support of every woman hockey enthusiast.

Efforts by the Rugby Club to secure the services of Crossman, the promising King Country five-eighths, have been unsuccessful. Such a player would have been worth his weight in gold to the seniors.

Basketball is included in the training schedule for men hockey players at Varsity this season. Years ago the Victoria College Men's Hockey Club was the largest in Australasia. It then had eight teams, compared with five last season. The appointment as Publicity Officer of D. A. Benjamin, a genuine enthusiast, is a wise move.

The cricket seniors had a poor season. Their defeat of Karori in their last engagement saved them from occupying last place. T. A. Harpur was the most useful member. If his bowling fell away a little, his batting improved considerably. Knowsley was frequently a dangerous opening bowler with his slow medium swingers.

This season saw the inauguration of tennis matches between Victoria and Massey. The return match was played at Palmerston North a fortnight ago, Victoria again winning with a team consisting of B. W. Brock, L. B. Sandford, N. G. Foley, L. Pitt, R. Thawley and W. Mitchell. The team was billeted at Massey and hospitably treated. Professor Peren, the Principal, and Mr. Wilson, Warden, were interested spectators at the matches.

Victoria's cricket team for the Speight Trophy contest with Auckland at Easter is as follows:—Banks, Dean, Drake, Fortune, Harpur, Knowsley, Lunn, Ongley, Parkin, Tricklebank, Wilson.

The fact that it includes eight members of the senior team does not in itself make it a good team, but it is a fair side and should have some chance of success. D. Lunn, erstwhile wicket-keeper, is now stationed at Rongotea.

TWADDLE

THE ELEVENTH COMMANDMENT.

We must become faithful to our Fuehrer and self-sufficient with regard to oil and rubber.—Prof. Wilhelm, Cologne University.

A man is but a worm of the dust—he comes along, wriggles around awhile, and finally some chicken gets him.

"What's the difference between castor oil and whisky?"
"Easy, boy, easy! One's a movie, and the other's a talkie."

MY GOD!

Heard at screening of "The Defence of Madrid" from a pro-Barnao gentleman, when a picture of dead Loyalist children was shown:—

"They might be made of wax for all we know!"

STATEMENT—

Those of us working in close contact with Hitler know that he is the most exquisite connoisseur of art who has ever stood at the head of a great nation.—Kube, in "Prager Press."

PROOF—

I prefer a single German military march to all the muck of a new-fangled fiddling man; that sort of person ought to be in a sanatorium.—Herr Hitler ("Das Neue Sagenbuch").

VERBACIOUS BORDER—OPEN IT?

Most of the national authors are young, talented, but still unknown.

There is among them only one of really international importance, and that is myself.—Hans Helms Ewen (Lous Nouvelles Littéraires).

She's stopping at the mountain house.

But great seclusion seeks,
She always dresses in the dark
Because the mountain peaks.

You may forget to keep your eye on the ball . . . BUT . . .
You must remember to go to—

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Tuesdays and Fridays at 1.15p.m.

April 29.	Bach:	Suite for orchestra No. 3, in D major. Partita No. 2, in C minor.
May 3.	Beethoven:	Violin Sonata in E flat. Overture and excerpts from "Fidelio."
May 6.	Brahms:	Sextet for strings in B flat major, Op. 18. Songs.
May 10.	Saint Saens:	Carnival of Animals. Danse Macabre. Houet d'Oniphele.

EXTRAVAGANZA

REHEARSALS

will resume after Easter as follows:—

A BANNED ITEM: Sunday, 24th April, at 2.15 p.m.

ADAM BABA: Monday, 25th April (Anzac Day), at 2 p.m.

PORT NICK INIQUITY: Tuesday, 26th April, at 8 p.m.

OLYMPIAN NIGHTS: Sunday, 24th April, at 2.15 p.m.

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