

Salient

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THE AMERICAN NEGRO

Political Status and Education

In view of the fact that the Le Moyne debaters will be back in Wellington shortly, the following interview "Salient" obtained with M. S. Thompson, a recent coloured visitor to this city, may be of interest.

"Although the American negro in legal status is an ordinary citizen, in the South his social position is subject to discrimination and segregation still further prevents him competing with the white man as an equal. In business life, such interests as banks and corporations are not in favour of placing negroes in leading positions. So you see the undeveloped state of native life offers small opportunity for the intellectual negro who has little room to apply his skill. There are too many coloured lawyers and doctors being turned out. I suppose I shouldn't say that, but opposition and prejudice are too strong—there is only opportunity for a restricted number of educated natives; competition among them pushes up the minimum qualifications necessary and men with degrees are appointed to such trivial jobs as clerkships or are forced into other un congenial work.

"More money should be spent on the illiterate masses, although education has become compulsory for natives in most States recently.

PHILANTHROPY.

"In the Southern States after about 1900, people more or less woke up to their responsibilities and educational facilities were extended—but county training schools, the improvements of negro universities and libraries were mainly due to private enterprise, which sometimes stimulated action by public authorities—but not often. These philanthropic organisations in America have made up in a way for the lack of interest by American public authorities.

"The negro has had impressed upon him the idea of his inferiority, and education is likewise affected. Schools are at the mercy of prejudiced county boards, and this means poorly paid teachers, shortness of text books and other things. Several subjects are excluded intentionally from school programmes, because it is desirable for the protection of 'white labour' not to have skilled natives in particular subjects. The negro school is a poor copy of the white school, and as long as the South feels the colour barrier, and the necessity to 'keep the negro in his place,' there will never be found the reasons to change these conditions. However, the negroes of the North are better off in this respect—in advanced education there are better facilities; for instance, in New York City, at the negro university everything is free—no fees or books to be paid for; the student merely pays his own personal expenses.

POLITICAL STATUS.

"The political situation is acute, too. When the negro in the South was disfranchised, large groups of whites were disfranchised too, and through judicious manipulation of the one party system this white majority has not received its emancipation. These people feel the pressure of negro competition in industry, etc., the most, and by manipulation they are made to keep their distress in the background, because the anti-native sentiment is exploited to the full in negro-baiting during campaigns; and it is in the interest of Senators to ignore the economic distress of these peoples. Of course, the negro franchise is fairly recent—just of the last 10 years—and the necessary qualifications are the ability to read and write. In the South the negro is not represented in the legislatures, but in the North we have men in the House of Representatives, and even in some Government work. But the Southern negro vote is sometimes used in municipal elections of a non-partisan nature, and in Presidential elections.

"Have the negroes any leaning in their voting?"

OUR PLUNKET BABES WAH AND BLAH

There is no other 'Varsity event quite like the Plunket Medal Contest. For tournaments, extravaganzas and capping we appear in public in varying degrees of ribald self-sufficiency, but for the Plunket Medal we display our intellectual interests, our dignity and our restraint. On Saturday night the contest was held for the thirty-second time. In the Concert Chamber of the Town Hall, which is a very much more satisfactory place for it than the gym., there was a gratifyingly large audience. The standard of speaking was not as high as it has been in former years. The winning speech was excellent, but not outstanding. The only speech that could be described as brilliant was not even placed, because it was more than it professed to be. The winner was Mr. W. Wah. Mr. R. W. Edgley was second and Mr. A. R. Perry was third. The judges were Mr. F. M. Renner, Mr. C. A. L. Treadwell, and Dr. W. B. Sutch. Mr. J. B. Aimers, looking very comfortable, presided behind the inevitable bottle of water (is this the trade mark of public speaking?).

Wah and Wiremu.

This year the judges took as their criterion the sincerity of the speech and the naturalness with which it was delivered, and they awarded the medal to Mr. Wah, who gave an excellent but conventional speech with quiet dignity. He was more at ease on the platform than any of the other speakers, and his voice was very pleasing to listen to. He spoke of Wiremu Tamahana, and, considering his speech, not from the point of view of the casual listener, but from the various aspects which the judges consider, it is easy to see why they had little difficulty in reaching their decision. His opening was good, the body of the speech was a nicely-balanced account of the life, the work and the ideals of Tamahana, and he led up to a satisfying conclusion. It might have been a model Plunket Medal speech. It was not impassioned oratory, but it was an excellent address, full of merit, and it was delivered with restraint without being in the least monotonous.

Freeman's Fierce Harangue.

Without in any way disagreeing with the judges' decision, it is yet true to say that Mr. Wah's speech was neither the most impressive nor the most outstanding of the evening. Derek Freeman gave a brilliant and a beautiful oration in defence of the Spanish people. It had many faults, and he ought not to have given it at all in a Plunket Medal contest. It was dramatic; at the end it was almost theatrical, but it had a vitality and a brilliance that Mr. Wah's speech lacked.

Derek was not placed by the judges, who considered, quite truly, that he had used John Cornford as an excuse for propaganda. His sincerity they could scarcely have doubted, but his naturalness they may have done, for at times the rich poetry of his prose, and the fluency of his delivery, made his speech more like elocution than oratory. It was marred, too, by his similes, made to an old familiar formula, and superficial as a civic tribute. But despite all this he attained a standard far above that of the other speakers. He spoke to the audience instead of in front of them, and, with a fierceness that was almost passionate, he told them of a man, scarcely more than a boy, who died for liberty and justice. John Cornford was a poet and a student, and there may never be a more fitting tribute to his memory than that, a thousand miles from Spain, another man, scarcely more than a boy, a poet and a student, should move an audience with ideals that they both shared.

What the Judges Liked.

Plunket Medal speeches that begin with the time and place of a man's arrival on this planet, and proceed chronologically to his obituary notices, are seldom a success. Bob Edgley was evidently determined not to make this mistake, for he began with Disraeli's funeral service, and worked round in a circle until he came to his death again. Disraeli is one of the most romantic characters in English history; books, and delightful books at that, have been written about him, so that as a subject for oratory he has great possibilities. These Bob made the most of, for he gave a colourful speech without burdening it with too many anecdotes, which must be a temptation to those who talk of Disraeli. After the funeral service he sounded the great man's knell with a series of sentences, all beginning with the word "Disraeli." At the fourth time the construction began to pull, and we were glad when he stopped after the fifth. The second half of his speech was much more natural than the first, both in treatment and delivery, but taken as a whole it was good, and well merited its placing.

Names that most of us would hesitate to pronounce in far less conspicuous places than the Concert Chamber seem to hold no terrors for Mr. Perry. This year it was General Chang Hsueh Liang, the young Marshal of China, who, having conquered the drug habit, proceeded to conquer everything else in sight. We were a little sorry for Mr. Perry, because he spoke after Derek Freeman, whose brilliant discourse on Spain made his China seem particularly colourless by contrast. Actually his speech was full of colour and vitality, but he failed to put them across to the audience, because his intonation was monotonous and his constructions involved. It was a speech that required concentration to listen to, but which repaid the effort of concentrating.

The Favourite Fails.

There was a wave of measurable anticipation when Margaret Shortall began, and she began well, but somehow the grey tale of Kemal Pasha disappointed an audience that remembered the glitter and the sparkle of Sir Basil Zaharoff. Her street scenes, with the man who changed his hat, and the woman who changed her sphere, didn't quite go over; and her notes, which looked like a badly sorted bridge hand on which she had to bid in a hurry, spoiled the effect she should have achieved. It is very uncomfortable for a sympathetic audience when a speaker forgets the speech and has to hunt for what to say next. Mr. Renner, in his sum-

ming up, described it as the deadly sin.

Margaret's speech was a disappointment because it was not up to the standard she has set herself in previous years, and there were a great many people present who would have liked her to win. We understand that this was her last contest, and although she has never won the Plunket Medal, she has achieved something, for she has delighted four years of Plunket Medal audiences.

From the gallery Mr. R. L. Meek looked so like he did as Mephistopheles in "The Plutocrats," that "Salient" had an uneasy feeling that he might be a contestant at any moment. He began his speech, with the initial applause still echoing through the hall, by saying "The room is very quiet," which was an astonishing remark under the circumstances, and a very poor way to begin a speech. Out of the quiet room (which turned out to be not the Concert Chamber after all) there emerged a medley of concertos, sonatas, and the story of Beethoven, who was badly-mannered, dirty and stone deaf, and who yet gave the world some of the loveliest music it has ever heard. Ron knew what he was talking about, and what he said was interesting, but it would have made a better essay than a speech. We think, too, that the audience would like him better if they were not completely ignored by him.

From Mr. C. A. Myers we expected better things than we got. He spoke of Garibaldi, delivering what sounded like an extract from the Encyclopedia Britannica, in as monotonous a tone as a wireless announcer reading a weather report. Towards the end he stopped telling us what we all learnt at school, and both his enthusiasm and ours increased. At the very end he reached the crux of his speech, comparing the ideals of Garibaldi, who loved liberty so passionately he would die for it, with the aims of Mussolini, to whom liberty is a dead thing. In this one moment, out of the twelve, "Salient" thought, "Mr. Myers will probably give an excellent Plunket Medal speech next year."

The words of the judges in 1936 appear not to have fallen on completely barren soil, for Mr. A. L. McCulloch began his speech by explaining very carefully that although Raiah Brooke was not as good a man as he might have been, only the more admirable aspects of his character were to be referred to. Paraded in polysyllabic splendour the Raiah's virtues left us cold. With a little more imagination and a little less vocabulary Mr. McCulloch could have got far more than he did from his very promising subject.

IN THE CAF. Negro Debaters

"Salient" sat down at the table where Messrs. Byas and Gilton, with Professor Alexander, their manager, were being waited upon adroitly by Jack Aimers.

"Salient" wants some dope, Professor," said Mr. Aimers, forsaking his waiting.

"Dope?" said Professor Alexander, (who looks like a mixture between Professor Miles and Oliver Hardy). "Well, I've got a couple of dopes here," he laughed.

The "couple of dopes," apparently used to such "wisecracks," lay low and said nothing.

We thought the Powers That Be were a little rash in inviting the Le Moyne debaters to the Caf. to tea. I mean to say—well, the Caf., you know! But Mrs. Gibson had excelled herself and the meal was excellent—the official table even had a menu! And Mr. Byas enjoyed the silver beet very much, making exhaustive enquiries concerning the method of its cooking, and finally discovering that it had been "boiled," and not "broiled." Apparently there is a subtle difference.

Treated to one of Professor Alexander's genuine American cigarettes, "Salient" listened to the delightful small talk, which resembled closely a chat between the Two Black Crows and an interlocutor. The word "Yankee" was mentioned, and immediately an exhaustive discussion took place on its etymology and application.

"In the South," said Mr. Byas, "we call a 'Yankee' a great insult—as a matter of fact, most Southerners don't know what a 'Yankee' is. Up till quite recently the majority of Southerners didn't even know that 'damn Yankee' wasn't just one word! Of course, in the North, they just love the term."

From a discussion on "damn Yankee" the conversation dwelt for a while on "damn" and similar words. The debaters were rather amazed when they reached New Zealand and found that certain words which they used in ordinary conversation, not in any derogatory sense—nay, even as terms of endearment—were held by New Zealanders to be most opprobrious epithets! They had to make intense research into the matter before appearing in polite society.

A thing we noticed about the Professor. He didn't look like a Professor at all, and he certainly didn't act like one. There was no aloofness, no high-and-mightiness about him—he was just one of the boys, on terms of perfect familiarity with them.

A brief visit to the Gym., a brief game of ping-pong, and the debaters departed for the South. Before going, "Salient" elicited the following opinions from them with reference to University institutions:

- (1) The Caf. dinner was good.
- (2) New Zealand was a cold place, but the Caf. was warm because the windows were wisely shut.
- (3) The ping-pong table was good.
- (4) The Auckland debaters were splendid.

All students are urged to attend the debate to be held in the Town Hall on July 20th and see the debaters in action. If the Town Hall isn't full, it'll be a mighty discouraging thing.

Good! I'm going all American!

R.L.M.

When W. R. "Bill" Cundiffe leaves for Auckland shortly, the Football Club will lose a solid, hard working forward who has played many good games for the Senior and Senior B fifteens.

"At one time there was a leaning to Republican—that was because the Republican Lincoln freed the negroes—but now they vote any way. In the North things are much better—several States even hold the balance of power and have used it in their own interests. For instance, take Mississippi, where 57 per cent. of the voters are coloured."

"DOUBTFUL BLESSINGS."

"Are the negroes very religious?" "Are they what?" said Mr. Thompson, scratching his head very violently.

"Too religious, too many churches; that's what's holding them back. Religion is a curse—still, it's the white man's way to come and preach a 'big scare,' then grab you or your land while you're praying. And the Ku Klux Klan? Seems to me anyone they are against has the law used against him or her—over trivial matters, too. A friend of mine, coloured, had a son aged six who had a real boy's scrap with the next door neighbour's kiddie. Next night my friend was ordered to leave the neighbourhood immediately

or suffer the consequences. Of course he stayed, with the result his home was wrecked and he was tarred and feathered. It appears that the next door neighbour, a member of the Klan, wanted to get even over the hiding his son had received!"

"How do the negroes in Haiti and the Philippines fare?" asked "Salient."

"Don't ask me on that. It's a sore point with me," said Mr. Thompson, his wrath rising visibly. "All I will say is that the place is not American-

ized, and never will be; the Yanks are just there after money, to work the negroes out and keep them slaves. They are badly looked after, and the Americans are the wrong people to improve conditions from purely philanthropic interest if there's money to be squeezed out—nowhere, and you can pretty safely bet all America's supervision under Doctrines or other promptings are all for her own interests, never for the uplifting and civilizing of the natives, as is suggested."

—V.E.

Says Jim Gentry:

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OBITUARY

A brief note in the report of the last Executive records the passing of the Free Discussions Club. The patient had been ailing, in fact, bedridden, for nearly twelve months, following a sudden collapse, which was due to a severe shock received last year in the normal course of his duties consequent upon the visit and departure of the German Consul. A little over two weeks ago life was officially pronounced extinct, thus terminating what might have been a long and successful career. It would be unfitting for the Free Discussions Club to pass beyond the shades, unwept, unhonoured, or unsung.

Prior to his unfortunate collapse the deceased had enjoyed robust health, there being many who can remember the time when Discussion was not merely Free, but good and hearty.

The passing of this attractive personality represents a loss which the College can ill afford, and one feels justified in asking whether those responsible for his welfare did all that was possible to ensure his continued existence. On the evidence available, the coroner, who in this case is to be the students, will no doubt find that death was due to criminal negligence on the part of those from whom support might legitimately have been expected.

To freshers the deceased is merely a name, which, for a short time, will exist no more; but to many others who remember him in his prime, he was one of the most unique characters in the life of Victoria College.

Save for one memorable occasion, he maintained, amid the clash of conflicting opinions weekly heard within the walls of his abode, an attitude of rigid impartiality, deriving his pleasure solely from listening to the views of others, and enabling any who so wished to do the same. No question was ever so large that he could not accommodate it, no matter so contentious that it could not be reasonably discussed in his presence. Subjects for which his colleagues could find no place were readily accepted by him. No man was ever turned from his doors, be he Jew, Aryan, Christian, heretic, infidel or unbeliever, and many were the pleasant evenings spent in his society by eager seekers after Truth. His was a personality so distinctive of the true University life and education that we cannot afford to be long without it.

Let this be both the justification for his existence and the reason for his speedy resurrection. —A.H.S.

OUR EDITORIALS

To some of us the word "censorship," even if printed half-way down a column of small type, springs to the eye as though in letters a foot tall. And rightly so. We guard jealously what freedom we have. So when we read in "The Critic" (Otago) that one of their editorials has been censored, we are smartly on the qui-vive.

Fortunately this case does not contain all the unpleasant elements usually associated with the word. The editorial was written by a student and censored by a students' representative; for Otago University has its own censor, the chairman of the Students' Association Publications Committee.

The editorial, entitled "Commercialised Emotion," criticised the innovation of displaying patriotic pictures on the screens of local theatres while the National Anthem was played. The article contained no attack on the monarchy itself. The censor's objections were that the leader, being unsigned, might be interpreted as official student opinion; and that it was inexpedient to publish such an article on the eve of Capping, when the university needed the public's goodwill. The Editor replied that it was impossible to assess student opinion, that it should be obvious that one man's views could not represent those of the body of students, and that the expediency argument meant pandering to the public.

It is wise to be suspicious of the word "expediency"; but V.U.C. especially has learnt how easily a hostile press can misrepresent the university. It is the difficult task of a student publication to encourage controversy while giving the daily press as little as possible to bite on. It is for this reason that "Salient" has each leading article signed, the subscriber expressing his own views and making no claim to represent "the student body." Previously the Editor of "The Critic" had vainly advocated the system of signed editorials; the recent experience should convince his opponents of the dangers of the present method.

An N.Z.U. Press Bureau message on the incident quotes an editorial in "Canta," from which the following passage indicates well what a university's attitude to censorship should be:—

"Unlike our daily papers, university papers are not subject to the control of vested or party interests. We can express our own views and are thus more likely to be sincere and attain some standard of truth. . . . We do not demand the right to outrage public opinion whenever possible, but we must be independent and allowed to publish our convictions."

Let us offend the public as little as is consistent with a devotion to truth, which is no respecter of public opinion. —H.W.G.

FALLING LEAVES

Two ways of suppressing "Salient."
Dr. Crowther: "What's that you're reading?"

Student: "Salient," sir.

Dr. Crowther: "Very interesting. I'm sure, but put it away and read it afterwards. After all, why come and sit on a particularly hard seat to read 'Salient' when you could stay away and read it in comfort?"

[Yes, why?—Ed.]

"What are you reading?"

"A newspaper, professor."

"What?"

"A newspaper, professor."

"What newspaper?"

"The College newspaper, professor."

"What?"

"Salient," professor.

"Well, if you do that again you can go out and stay out."

(Prof. Adamson.)

ENTERPRISE

With Private Enterprise, they say. Our butter, wool and cheese will pay Much better than when State controlled.

"But pay to whom?" we crave to ask; The man mud-fixed to farmyard task Or middle-man to whom his labour's sold?

—C.

Have you heard about Mr. Edgley and the beer bottle?

You've all seen what some of the Exec. think is the weakest feature of "Salient." But boy! You ought to hear what some of the "Salient" staff think is the weakest feature of the Exec!

Be sure to see . . .

"The Plough and the Stars"

An outstanding film at the Paramount now.

ONLY TWO NIGHTS LEFT.

Be sure to see it.

Maths and Physics' Dinner

The Maths and Physics Society held their duo devigintal yearly dinner the other night at the Mockador.

The soup (we are at dinner now!) was a bit chilly, and Rickie said the fish reminded him of tepid filleted minute whitebait—but everything else was abundant and enjoyable.

The point of the whole affair is that it was so eminently respectable—there being a regrettable lack of bread rolls, lawdiness and beer.

Dinner over, the president staggered to his feet, clutching his gastronomy and attempted to make a speech. He got thoroughly mixed with professors and night clubs. His bribed interjectors made his speech much better than it might have been otherwise.

Professor Miles gurgled about the friendly spirit of the Club during the past eighteen years.

THE DANCE.

A bronchial amplifier, aided by Bang Crosby and Dick Hutcheons, dripped out some music. Professors came along hopefully without their wives, waved hands, propped up places, and acted as chaperones.

The dance was really quite enjoyable—went round and round.

—V.E.

Skating

To raise funds for the Otago Tournament, the Women's Hockey Club held on Thursday evening, June 20th, a successful and enjoyable skating party. At 10 p.m., despite the holstorous weather, over 100 lads and lasses queued up inside the familiar Winter Show Buildings.

While some expert skaters executed intricate and alarming manoeuvres in the middle of the floor, others, including "Salient," clung to the railings in a frantic and sometimes vain effort to maintain their balance.

The highlight of the evening, an exhibition hockey match, was distinguished more for individual brilliance than for solid team work. To the accompaniment of cheers and jeers from the sideline, Wallis's unusual and entertaining tactics, allied to the brute force of his team-mates, gave Men the victory by 3 goals to nil. Although they could not penetrate the solid defence of Johanneson at back, Women displayed sounder combination and superior ability to remain upright for any length of time.

Snakes, tris, streamer skates, Monte Carlos, proceeded until 12.30, when most people completed a strenuous evening's entertainment by walking wearily the odd miles home.

The Women's Hockey Club is to be congratulated on capitalising the current skating race so as to combine a substantial financial profit with a happy party for its friends and supporters.

Biological Talkies

On Thursday evening, the 21st July, the Biological Society invites all students to attend a meeting at which five talkie-films will be presented, dealing with biological topics of general interest. "Reproduction" and "The Heart and Circulation of the Blood" are the titles of two of the films; Professor Julian Huxley will be heard discussing problems and processes of nutrition in a film of that name, and two other films dealing with developmental processes in plants will be shown. It is obvious that the general interest of biology is increasing steadily, and the committee of the society are confident that the experiment of hiring these films will be fully justified by a good attendance of students.

At a recent meeting of the society, Mr. A. C. Gifford, F.R.A.S., lectured on "Life in the Universe." While many biologists tend to consider life as we know it on the earth an entirely unique phenomenon, Mr. Gifford, with the astronomical point of view, regards such a view as preposterous. The universe so far as we can explore it, is seen everywhere to obey the same general laws as does our own little speck of space. About one star in a million is estimated to have planets circling about it, and these may well be the homes of life such as we know it.

Mr. Gifford also regards the various cosmic systems, such as the spiral nebulae, as exhibiting all the phenomena of living organisms. These cosmic organisms, he says, live, grow, move, reproduce, and die just as do their terrestrial counterparts.

Don't forget Thursday, July 21st, 8 p.m., in the Physics Lecture Room.

Geel! Have you seen the last issue of "Cracum"? It's PINK! And, what's more, the joke of the month is taken from Gollanez's "Left News."

Whoa, there, "Cracum"! Take it easy. You're going all Radical.

Children's Art

With an impression of miles and miles of mounted pictures, of a bewildering kaleidoscope of colour, and an unusually animated crowd, I entered the Art Gallery to see the exhibition of children's art which has been collected with such obvious patience and perseverance from nine countries. If those whose hours of time lie behind the collecting, sorting, and mounting of these exhibits are looking for reward they will feel gratified by the interest they have aroused, for people are coming up curious, amused and a trifle sceptical, and going away still curious, more awed than amused and intensely aware of something missed. The scepticism is still there.

WONDER.

As one stands back on one's heels and looks and looks, a feeling of sympathy grows for the wayback Australian beholding the aard-vark, and one feels inclined to say in some humility, "Gosh-darn, there ain't no such thing," for assuredly it is hard to believe that some of the conceptions are entirely the product of child minds. Training can perfect technique, but what is it giving such a curiously penetrating conception as one sees in quite a number of the portraits and designs? "Cain and Abel" is a masterpiece which reveals intense feeling and extraordinary technical ability; two studies by a New Zealand girl, "The Dancer" and "Getting Up," show an amazing feeling for colour and design, and a particularly new angle of approach to descriptive work. Some of the abstract designs from Canada give no clue to let one discover how they were conceived, though the result is charming.

It is in design work and pattern making particularly that comparison between countries is interesting—and some reflection of the nature of national spirit can be observed. From India come meticulously accurate mosaic patterns in the tradition of Indian weaving; Canada sends designs that are bold, splashy and amusing; New Zealand's are descriptive; Australia's style is less abstract than the Canadian, but is as vigorous and sure.

"Free Expression" work which has tended to become almost a hysteria among school teachers lately makes an interesting section. It is a delight to see the spontaneous and refreshing results coming from the Horace Mann School in New York, where kindergarten children can make a frieze of brightly coloured animals, draw amusing sketches of each other, pictures of going walking with Papa fishing off the wharf, flying kites and helping on washing day—these scenes are drawn from vivid experience in vivid colours and show that instruction may improve technique but with young children does not necessarily cloud their naive conception. These drawings are utterly different from the Swiss ones, where detail and not vicar seem of first importance.

Among portraits again national differences were obvious. Japanese children had a direct and simple method of baldly drawing the subject—with hard bright colours and an oddly pleasing effect; the Indian style is subtle, traditional and romantic; the American pictures of "Myself" and "Teacher" and others were candid and quaint.

Withal, this exhibition is exciting. —E.M.B.

BRITAIN, BOMBS AND BAD TEMPER

Dear "Salient."

I have no intention of following "E.W." in his bull-like rampage about the landscape of Imperialism (your issue of June 15th), while he tramples underfoot the old school to which he, quite gratuitously, introduces to help make a Wellington holiday. I made three points and three only: that Britain warned the objects of military bombings, that there was considerable opposition to this policy in Britain, and that the fact that such a policy was openly discussed was a sign of freedom of opinion. I ventured to suggest that these conditions might be placed to Britain's credit. That was all I said, and the position of negroes in the West Indies or forced labour in Kenya has no more to do with it than the shape of Mr. Eden's hat. I did not condone the bombing. I did not say or imply anything about "niggers" and "E.W.'s" suggestion to the contrary is simply a stupid and very offensive assumption. I am pretty familiar with the darker side of British Imperialism; I was reading and writing about it probably before "E.W." was born. Britain may be a villain, but our villains are entitled to justice, and all I did was to suggest mildly a direction in which justice could be applied. "If 'A.M.' can think with any honesty on fundamental issues, . . ." How familiar this style of argument is! It is like a caste mark. —A.M.

A Call to Youth

NATIONALIST PARTY'S APPEAL ENCOURAGING LACK OF RESPONSE

On Monday, July 4th, Independence Day, seven seekers after the other side of the case went in response to a ha'penny card inviting them to listen while Mr. S. G. Holland told them why they should take an active interest in politics.

THE SETTING.

Two things arrested the attention immediately on entering the hall. The first was the large number of bald and grey heads in an audience which under any conditions would be judged to be tending a little towards the serene and yellow, and which at a youth meeting seemed rather incongruous. A careful count of those present on the ground floor revealed 37 youths or maidens present—using an extremely wide interpretation of the word youth.

The second feature was that it must have cost quite a lot of money to install two microphones and loud-speakers, and to send out all the invitations dispatched, in addition to hiring the hall. The Press did not mention these two matters.

WORDS TO REMEMBER.

It appeared before long that a good half of the youths on the ground floor didn't think much of the way the speaker was treating facts. Cries of "Speak the truth" became frequent, and as the evening wore on Mr. Holland, who remained cheerful and who had the support of by far the greater part of the audience, halted in the reading of his typewritten speech to utter a few words of great importance to the youth of this land. Words such as these: "If the audiences of New Zealand are not prepared to listen to addresses of public men then it's time we had a change, and we're going to have a change next November." Not "If some people are not prepared . . ." mind you, but "If the audiences of New Zealand."

What change can Mr. Holland intend to make people listen to him? Again: "I'm not going to allow political meetings to be broken up by gangs of hooligans." Immediate and continued protests—"Withdraw that word 'hooligan'." And one must admit the offenders didn't look much like hooligans.

THE PARTY'S POLICY.

At long last came the eagerly-awaited announcement of the policy of the National Party. It was to be a party serving all sections of the community, working in closest co-operation with Mother England (i.e., Joe Chamberlain), having as its basis the maintenance of the private ownership of land, private enterprise in trade, and touching solicitude for the man with the bawbees—"the forgotten man, the thrifty man."

An aggressive manufacturing policy would be adopted. Steps would be taken to increase industrial efficiency. Employers would be encouraged to pay more than the new minimum wage which would be established later. (We were not told how much smaller the new minimum wage would be.) Other points were stressed, such as the maintenance of pensions and gratuities at their present level.

THE MISSING LINK.

There was much else besides. But something was missing. What was it? Ah yes! At question time it came out. A V.U.C. student rose and asked Mr. Holland: "As this is an address mainly to youth, I've been rather surprised that there's been no mention made of Education. Could you tell us whether your party, if elected, will (a) carry on the Labour Government's education policy, or (b) revert to the disastrous policy of the previous Nationalist Government?"

"Aye, there's a nut to crack," said the sceptics. Mr. Holland didn't try. He said that the educational policy of the Labour Government, having been before a Select Committee, was not yet available for discussion—(rude people laughed here)—and he was very vague about the second part. Very vague indeed.

EPILOGUE.

There was a rude man standing at the back of the hall who looked over my shoulder when I was making a few notes. At the top of the page were the words "37 youths." He seemed not to like that, and made uncouth noises indicative of disapproval or disapproval. We had to tell him that we expected our own affairs to remain our own. Wasn't that what the Nationalist Party said? It turned out later that he knew all about that because he was well up in the Nationalist Party. Still, apparently he didn't think much of that idea of letting your own affairs remain your own. Only sometimes. —Henri.

Whither?

Dear "Salient."

That's the stuff to give 'em. Just received your March 16th issue. Judging by the illegible writing outside it may have been sent by one Aimers. Noticing a complimentary letter from him in the correspondence column and in view of our long association together on "Smad" and later as "Smad's" hecklers-in-chief, I feel bound to join publicly with him in welcoming your readable, interesting paper. Definitely, the right idea.

At the same time I want to draw attention to your leading article, "Whither Britain." You suggest that the British Government has abandoned the League idea and is sacrificing its ideals to Fascism. And you add that "the general opinion (in England), no doubt, will be that instead of telling Halifax to go to Hitler, Hitler should be told to go to Halifax."

At first glance you are quite right. But glance again.

Italy and Germany have abandoned the League idea of settling disputes on the basis of justice. That's obvious. Germany is 80% mobilised. You can see that for yourself if you go there. So if you're going to tell Hitler to go to Halifax you must be prepared for the consequences. And Britain is not prepared. Britain is still at the tinkering stage with Air Raid Precautions. London is practically at the mercy of a fleet of enemy bombers. In Berlin alone they can already deal with 30,000 casualties a day. And Berlin is not vital to Germany. But London is vital to England. Eight million people; seat of government; vital hub of England. Is it reasonable to expect a Government to take a step that might involve war knowing that the nation might be crippled in the first few days? I think not. The Italians had a saying: "Italy tweaked the British lion's tail and it opened its mouth and showed its false teeth." And that seems to be the position. Britain is playing for time. Time is the important factor. Sacrifices have had to be made and may still have to be made. It's only when you get over here that you begin to realise the position. After all any German knows what to do and where to go if there's an air raid. We don't—yet. Is it common sense to risk one when you know you're not prepared? And preparation takes time in a democracy. Of course it would be comparatively easy under a dictatorship. But I guess you don't want that!

So my advice to you is not to judge too harshly yet.

Bear your souls in patience. The time for judgment will come when the Prime Minister can look round and say: "London is 75% prepared. The seat of government can be moved. We've a million trained air raid wardens. We've thousands of shelters. All the main centres can be evacuated. The food supply is assured. The Air Force is adequate."

Then your call for a firm stand will not be an ineffective, inhuman, or ignorant blast—Yours, etc.,

J. NESBITT SELLERS.

Liverpool.
8th May, 1938.

INSURANCE AGAINST EXAM. FAILURES.

Per N.Z.C. Press Bureau.
Providence College, U.S.A.

A new plan has been evolved by a group of enterprising "seniors" who have formed the "Student's Protective Insurance Company."

For a premium ranging from 50 cents (2/-) for freshmen to 35 cents (1/5) for seniors the company will guarantee an undergraduate's complete scholastic programme for a semester.

If he fails to attain the passing mark of 60, the Student Insurance Company will assume the payment of all conditional examination fees to the college, amounting to two dollars (8/-) for the first try and five dollars (£1) for the next two attempts afforded by the college.

Following the policy of regular insurance companies who issue pamphlets on disease the students' new organisation will issue a syllabus of scholastic "hot tips" for the examinations to policy holders in an effort to cut down academic "mortality" and lower premiums.

Phoenix Club

To-night (Wednesday) at 8.10 p.m. in the Women's Common Room. Papers will be read by Miss C. Hefford and Mr. P. Wells

Glee Club

A Community Sing will be held in the Gym on Wednesday Night at 7 p.m. Come and hear Hot Numbers by Ladies Trio. All please come along.



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The Railway Department has a special thought for Varsity Students. It makes very convenient arrangements for parties of them travelling together for Sport or other outings.

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Both the men's and women's hockey competitions were suspended on Saturday on account of the visit to Wellington of the English Women's hockey team. At Basketball, the Senior team had a bye. The leading V.U.C. footballers were engaged in a trial match between Senior A, Second Division, and Senior B representative teams, the ordinary competition games in these grades being postponed. For Harriers there was the important Vosseler Shield race, in which 'Varsity fared none too well.

At the Hockey Tournament at Dunedin the Men's team did fairly well. A victory was gained at Massey's expense, and drawn games were played with Canterbury and Auckland. Otago defeated us 7-3, and we also lost to the Otago B team. The Dunedin men won the Men's section, with Auckland second. Victoria tied with Massey for third place. Three Victoria men, S. Braithwaite, W. Johnston and F. Newcombe, were included in the N.Z. University team that went close to drawing with the Indians. Otago also won the Women's section, with Auckland runners-up. Victoria was a bad last, scoring only one goal in the whole Tournament.

Women's Hockey

All those who took part in the Hockey Tournament at Dunedin are in agreement, I think, in that they received two distinct impressions during their stay: the first, concerning the weather; the second, all other aspects of the Tournament. Of the second, everyone has brought away the happiest recollections of the first, the wondering thought, "How do they live through it?" The weather, in short, was shocking; the rain had turned the hockey fields at Logan Park into a quagmire where any step might land player and ball into ankle-deep mud or water, and at the conclusion of each game, one mud-spattered face and gym-frock was very like the next. When apologizing for keeping the Stick at Otago, the Captain of the Otago girls remarked, "But don't imagine we have given you nothing. Think of the mud, think of the liberal helping of good Otago soil you are taking home with you!" The chilly reception of the Dunedin climate, however, was soon forgotten in the warmth of provincial Scottish hospitality. Otago entertaining its visitors royally with Bob-Hop, Dinner, Picture Party, and Ball.

The form displayed by the women's teams was much the same as last year in Auckland, with Otago in the lead, closely followed by Auckland, and Canterbury and Victoria considerably further down the scale. "Salient" of last week, in speaking of Victoria's chances at the Tournament, announced: "The prospects of the women's team cannot be regarded hopefully," and so it turned out. The Victoria girls, in spite of their best efforts, were able to do nothing to refute this mournful prophecy, the only consolation being that so injured to defeat have they become, that it can do nothing to spoil their enjoyment of the games. Joan Bacon's energetic defence work gained her the place of emergency to the N.Z.U. team, but the remainder of the team return to Wellington no more distinguished than they left it. Throughout, the standard of play was spoilt by the poor conditions.

The Hockey Tournament is an event in which the 'Varsity as a whole takes very little interest; its representatives do not gain the distinction that attaches to participants in the Easter Tournament; yet, of later years, it has widened and developed until it has become what seems an almost perfect form of University entertainment. Once, inclusion of hockey in the Easter Tournament seemed a desirable, though impossible, object; but so enjoyable and finished an event has the Hockey Tournament become, that all hockey players would be very sorry to lose their individuality and their Tournament thus. Otago, acting as hosts for the first time, ably earned on what has now become the tradition of Hockey Tournament—to grow "better and better."

SCRYMGEOUR FIFTH

VOSSLER CUP RACE.

D. R. Scrymgeour, winner of the double race at Tournament, was the most successful of the eleven 'Varsity Club harriers who competed in the 10 mile race for the Vosseler Cup.

It was a hard course, and Scrymgeour's performance in running fifth was full of merit. O'Flynn and Farquhar also ran well. Once again the Scottish Club finished first, 'Varsity being fifth. Scottish also provided the winner in Riddington, second place being filled by McKinney, a 'Varsity student who runs for the Methodist Club.

Weather conditions for the record held of 112 runners were very fair. It was a cold afternoon, but the rain held off.

BASKETBALL

The Senior "A" team drew a bye on Saturday, but gained two points through Training College defaulting the held-over first round game. At the end of the round Victoria was third with eight points, the leaders being Wellington East Old Girls and Kia Ora with eleven points each. The V.U.C. nine are expected to beat the leaders in the second round—at least, that is the current "down-town" opinion.

Against the strong Kia Ora combination the Senior "B" team gave by far its best display of the season. With their first victory yet to be registered the team were hardly expected to run a leading team to 21/18. The experience of Joy Osborn is telling in the forwards, and we look towards the second nine to register some points in the next few games.

WELLINGTON REPS.

The choice of three Victoria College players for the Wellington Senior Representative team to play in the New Zealand Tournament at Timaru in the vacation is gratifying to a team that has played consistently and trained thoroughly. Of the three picked after searching trials two are new to rep. Basketball. Neither Eric Overton nor Marie Walker have participated in a New Zealand Tournament, and the experience there will stand the College well in future N.Z. University contests. Janet Grainger is no newcomer to the reps. Her forward work is outstanding in Wellington, and her combination with Eric will be of considerable value at Timaru.

"Salient" has ascertained the playing records of the representatives, who, by the way, make up one-fourth of the whole team.

Janet Grainger represented V.U.C. at Tournament in 1934-35-36, being given an N.Z. Blue in the last year. In 1937 she captained the Training College team and was awarded a Blue. Wellington Reps. in 1934-35 earned Janet a place in the North Island team in the latter year, when she was the outstanding forward on the field. Had she not refused selection to the Wellington team last year it is very likely that she would be in Meg Matangi's N.Z. team to Australia this year. She is very fast in positional play, combines with strange players as well as she does with her team-mates, and is a most accurate shot. Incidentally, Janet has an N.Z. Hockey Blue as well.

Eric Overton represented V.U.C. in 1936-37-38 at Tournament, the first two years as a defender. Owing to the shortage of forwards of talent this year she undertook the strange and difficult work of goal-throwing. Her success in this third of the field can best be gauged by her selection this week. No player in Wellington is speedier on the court nor has better hands. At Auckland this year Eric paved the way for goal after goal, and her captaincy and popularity were no mean factors in the team's holding of the Shield. The pleasing feature of her play recently has been a high percentage of accuracy in shooting, and this was the deciding factor in her choice for the reps.

Marie Walker played in the University Tournament for the first time this year. Illness prevented her travelling in the two previous years. Her contest with Meg Matangi in the Auckland game and her fitness and consistency earned her a Blue. In defence Marie is indefatigable, combines excellently, and gives the fewest of penalties. She has earned her place against the hottest of competition.

Victoria College feels proud of these players, and "Salient" wishes them well when the North Island team is being chosen.

In the annual match against Massey College, Victoria scored a rather lucky win, 13-11. As a spectacle, the game was nothing to enthuse over. Combined back play was lacking for the greater part of the game, Victoria providing what little there was.

McVeagh played a very good game at full-back, fielding and kicking well. His defence was very sound, and he had a lot of rush-stopping to do in the second spell. Eastwood used his speed and strong running to gain big stretches of ground, but was rather starved of opportunities. Tricklebank did some good line-kicking and made several good bursts on attack. He was, however, inclined to attempt too much on his own, a mistake with two fast wingers like Eastwood and Harpur outside him.

Harpur provided the highlight of the game by intercepting when Massey were attacking hotly and racing the full length of the field to score. The inside backs were very subdued, but this was probably due to the very slow heeling from the scrum. Bridges hooked very well, but after securing possession the forwards allowed the ball to hang in the back of the scrum. When it was heeled, the opposing loose forwards gave the inside backs no option but to pass the ball on quickly.

The forwards played with plenty of dash, but were rather overshadowed in the second spell by the vigorous Massey vanguard. McNicol, Russell and Blacker were in everything, and Corkill played a lively game in the loose. In the Massey forwards Terry played a good all-round game, and Thurston (ex Victoria) was prominent in the loose play. Campbell, the Massey full-back, was very cool and steady, and his line-kicking was good.

TRIAL MATCH.

Senior A, Second Division and Senior B, Championship games were suspended on Saturday for the purpose of allowing a representative trial match to be played between teams from these two grades.

In this game V.U.C. was represented by nine players—Tricklebank, Eastwood, Wild, Byers, Bridges, McNicol, Hansen, Harpur, and Armour.

Tricklebank had little to do at full-back, but played soundly. The Byers-Wild-Eastwood combination went well, although Byers was inclined to overdo the cut-in at times. Wild made an occasional burst, but was not as prominent as usual. Eastwood played a fine game, and his performance must have brought him before the notice of the selector. Whenever he received the ball, he ran strongly. Harpur, in the opposing team, had a heavy day trying to mark Eastwood, but managed to get in one or two dashes on attack.

Our four representatives in the forwards showed form to justify their inclusion in the trials, McNicol possibly being the best.

In the Senior B team, Armour went well in the line-out and the tight play.

WEIR'S PART

THE DEFEAT OF MASSEY.

That there are more ways of killing a cat than choking it with cream was again evidenced when the co-operation of Weir House was sought in the effort to repulse the visiting Rugby players from Massey College. Blissfully ignorant of the plot, the primary producers partook liberally of the hospitality extended by Weir. Yet though the noon meal shortly before the match almost administered the coup de grace to the visitors, the hosts were not content that their work should finish there; they supplied for the game itself three men in Larkin, Corkill and Harpur who well and truly played their part in the V.U.C. victory.

Larkin, as speedy as ever, assisted in the amassing of points by his conversions; President R. Corkill, in the front row, proved his worth in hooking and vigorous forward play; and Arthur Harpur supplied the dramatic. Both papers described Harpur's try as spectacular. It was a fine effort resulting from a quick interception, a breakaway, and a long fast run down most of the field.

The players appreciated the encouragement from the side-lines given by the large band of Weir residents, many of whom must have cut lectures in order to watch the game.

TABLE TENNIS.

Years ago Weir had a table tennis table and ladder. During the presidencies of W. M. Willis and H. R. C. Wild, the game enjoyed some popularity, but damage to the table and the loss of all the balls available in the neighbourhood brought the game within the precincts of the House to

old table was in the muck of the interest has flared up afresh. The with fittings, has been procured, and an untimely end. Now another table, basement; the new one graces the Recreation Room. It is a superior structure too, for it has a grained top in addition to the regulation six legs. As a matter of historical fact, play on it started some three weeks before the Table Tennis Club at 'Varsity commenced its activities.

A tournament is in strenuous progress at present. No player is outstanding, but there are some who favour the chances of the wily Tuck, whose strange styles and customs are rather disconcerting to opponents.

TRAMPING

Mr. Butchers was met by some of the party on the way up to Kime Hut, soon after leaving Field Hut. Sleet was driving up from the south, yet he had the temerity to mumble, "What are you going up to Kime Hut for? There won't be any snow. I'm going back to Field's!"

There was, however, snow in abundance from West Peak onwards, with enough snow and hail thrown in to make the prospect of Kime Hut a cheerful one. Of the 38 members on the trip, 24 stayed Saturday night at Kime. As the hut is 1,000 feet above the bush line, no fires can be had, so primuses were kept busy for hours on end melting down snow to slake mighty thirsts, and food in great variety and profusion was produced as if by magic the whole week-end. Despite the cold wind, which was accompanied by snow and hail, a very comfortable musical night was passed.

DISAPPOINTING CONDITIONS.

On Sunday morning Messrs. Oliver and Young pushed off into the sleet determined to ski or die. Skiing predominated, but only by the narrowest margin.

Conditions were slushy, with a bitterly southerly wind, but some more or less sheltered slopes at the south-eastern end of the hollow provided thrills and spills for all concerned throughout the day.

Other enthusiasts soon ventured forth, but six or seven was the greatest number out at one time. As time passed the surface hardened noticeably, and became fast enough for several of the more advanced skiers to practise Christiania turns quite successfully.

We can only console those who had visions of fun and games in the clear mountain sun high above worry level by saying, "Better luck next time," and by reminding them of the Holdsworth trip later this month. The good performance of some of the newer members of the Club, despite the bad conditions, deserves recognition, and augurs well for the success of future big trips.—A.P.O.

Hardship In American Universities

(Press Bureau Special Service.) University of California, May 1, 1938. A pamphlet from The Student Workers' Federation of the University of California reveals that one half of the University's students are either wholly or partially self-supporting, that most of the students receive less than 40 cents an hour, and many, even below 25 cents an hour.

Their University Calendar states that 55 dollars a month is a moderate expenditure, so that a student must work 34 hours a week at 40 cents an hour to eke out a bare existence. But most of the wages received are lower than 40 cents an hour, according to the statistics of the Labour Board. Compare this with the minimum wage of 75 cents an hour for organised unskilled labour.

Worse is the fact that students can work only 12 to 25 hours a week without serious interference to their studies. It follows that many who are self-supporting are living below an adequate standard.

In their own words, they "realise that these conditions are detrimental to the pursuance of an education, harmful to health, and demoralising. The conditions exist because the students are not organized to bargain effectively with employers. They must take what comes or leave College."

What is the solution? The working students have founded the "Student Workers' Federation," which is the mouthpiece for their collective bargaining to gain the following:—

1. Decent working conditions.
 2. Regular hours of employment.
 3. A minimum wage of 50 cents an hour.
- Can striking analogies be found nearer home?

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

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