

Salient

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ART AND SOCIETY ALEXANDER KIPNIS TALKS

Alexander Kipnis, faintly heralded and almost unsung, probably the finest basso of the day in grand opera, recently arrived unostentatiously in Wellington. At his recitals he further enhanced his reputation. He was truly magnificent, with his rich deep Russian basso and dynamic personality—such stage presence! His name is now on the lips of all music lovers. For their interest "Salient" offers an interview with a great artist, traveller and philosopher.

"People usually ask me to describe Naples with its blue sky, or to speak in raptures of people I have met. But to 'students' of your University I would pass on some humorous account of my singing career, or perhaps discuss ideas as they come to mind," said Mr. Kipnis.

"Salient" took the opportunity of an encouraging beginning to tackle him on the subject of Modern Russia.

MUSIC UNDER STALLS.

"Although I was born in S. Russia I left at an early age, joining a touring opera company. To-day in Russia student youth are given great encouragement to study music and singing. They receive splendid musical guidance and get their big opportunity at special State recitals—witnessed by outstanding artists and musicians. A student who reveals outstanding talent as well as a genius for interpretation and expression may receive the title of 'Free Artist'—one of the highest honours that is conferred in Russia. An artist so honoured is privileged to do certain things and commands great respect from the mass of the people."

"You have toured Europe and attended many Festivals. Could you give some comment on them?" asked "Salient."

"Yes. It is a wonderful experience to be at one of these musical festivals," continued Alexander Kipnis. "I have been associated with many artists. May I mention some? Emanuel List, Gick, Lotte Lehmann, and conductors—Toscanini, Muck, R. Strauss and Siegfried Wagner. I have a special attachment for Bayreuth. There one will find the old theatre built by the great Wagner. His handwriting on the door has been preserved through the years. It reads: 'To-night, after general rehearsal, you please come into my house.' Yes, in every nook and corner I have felt the spirit of Wagner."

IN THE UNIVERSITIES.

"What impressions have you gained of musical taste shown by students in various countries?"

"In the older countries such as Italy, France, Germany, children have the incentive to pass on a fine tradition of song and music. Shall I say theirs is a rich inheritance? In younger countries like America, Australia and your own very beautiful land, I find the younger generation eagerly seeking to make acquaintance with the arts. The love and devotion for fine art is there—there is no doubt. I was tremendously impressed with the keenness and sincerity of students at American Universities. They desire only the best and finest—in their own words they demand something bigger and brighter. They sponsor special recitals for younger high school students. I remember well singing to a tremendous gathering of young scholars. Firstly, I selected several traditional folk-songs of Russia, and in singing them I endeavoured to paint a vivid picture of

Russian history, to recall how the oppressed masses expressed their varying emotions in song in their search for enlightenment, beauty and happiness."

His voice had become soft and appealing, his eyes were closed, yes, dreaming perhaps.

Mr. Kipnis will always appear as a charming personality—with his keen sense of humour and priceless stock of humorous incidences. Let him illustrate.

A BARREN BARON?

"No doubt you associate Chicago with gangsters. For me, however, the name brings back happy memories. As a member of the Wagnerian Opera Company I was to appear on this particular evening as Baron Ochs in R. Strauss' 'Der Rosenkavalier,' described by critics as a comedy with music. During the first presentation I footed a critical audience with unrehearsed burlesque. Baron Ochs, a rude boor of a nobleman, has sent one Octavian carrying the conventional offering of a silver rose to the young daughter of a vulgar plebeian—Octavian, however, falls in love with her and fights a duel with Baron Ochs, who, although slightly wounded, dances about frantically, presenting a ridiculous figure—truly a buffoon."

"I realised that there was no response to my antics, no shrieks of delight from a silent audience. The thought of failure flashed through my troubled mind, when suddenly a tremendous burst of cheering and shouting filled the great hall. The seams in the gaudy trousers of my magnificent costume had parted under the strain! There was I, a truly ludicrous buffoon—Baron Ochs! A scene irresistible to the audience's sense of humour. They screamed with delight, laughed and laughed until they ached. I managed to complete the scene, dancing impressive waltzes with a pillow while the house was in an uproar. Yes, the opera season was an undreamed-of success."

MUSIC UNDER HITLER.

"You have travelled a great deal in Europe, Germany and Austria especially. What is the reaction among artists towards the recent purging of German music?"

"The musical festival at Salzburg, with its glorious tradition, will no longer attract the great musicians and singers of to-day. The historic Music Halls will resort to a different type of music—synthetic and grotesque Fascism!"

No more will the great Toscanini appear in any country under a Fascist regime. In giving a lead to fellow artists, Toscanini has exclaimed, 'A true artist cannot serve two masters. Art cannot play second fiddle to any political domination. We who profess to be artists cherish an ideal—to enrich the peoples of this world through the medium of the highest and noblest in artistic expression.'"

—R.P.

EXECUTIVE First Meeting

The birth of new committees is usually accompanied by a round of squawkings and squabbles on the part of the newly elected members, who wish to reform this and that to conform with particular views. The Child of the 1938 Election has proved to be an exception. Far from being a lusty, bawling infant, it began its incursions on University life in a quietly methodical way that is to be commended. The value of a committee depends not on its passive rowdiness but on its active efficiency. And in this respect the new Executive appears to have made an admirable beginning. It is to be hoped that the new ardour of office will not be dampened by lack of support or disinterestedness on the part of students as a whole. The Executive exist to organise University life for your benefit—see that you support them.

Questions ranging from Chinese Relief to Action for Labor were discussed. The poor response of the Victoria students to the appeal for Chinese Students' Relief was commented on, and steps are to be taken to bring this vital matter more prominently before the College. Any contributions should be sent direct to "The Secretary, V.U.C. Students' Association."

An unfavourable report on the new system of voting at the College elections was discussed. Apparently it had taken 8 hours per candidate to arrive at a final result. The stress and strain on the Returning Officer appears to have been too great, judging by the wealth of protest in his report.

Are you
coming to hear
the
Negro Debaters
tonight?

port. Suggestions for new ideas of large-scale voting would be welcomed from the point of view of harassed election officials.

Negotiations are to be made with football councils with regard to uniformity in the award of N.Z.U. Blues. The various sub-committees were formed. Messrs. N. Morrison and D. M. Hatherly were appointed Assistant Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

The possibility of holding the 1940 Tournament in Wellington is one that, in the opinion of "Salient," should be thoroughly examined. Not only would it be an attraction for the Centenary, but would bring New Zealand University students before the notice of the people of New Zealand and also visitors from abroad.

Perhaps the most interesting proposal of the evening was that of the formation of a Publications Committee. This committee will consist of a president, a treasurer, and three other students, one of whom at least is to be a woman. Such committees are already in operation in sister Universities. Their object is to coordinate the various College publications and become a clearing house for advertising, etc. "Salient" hopes that censorial authority will not be given to them by the Executive as has been the case with such committees. The "freedom of the press" should be maintained at least at Victoria University, and any restrictive force should not be countenanced. Mr. Fussell was deputed to bear the baby and gather the pieces.

After a discussion of the material frailties of man in connection with Extrav. writing prize money the meeting closed without a vote of thanks to the chair.

—M.J.D.

SOCIALISM DEBATED DISAPPOINTING MEETING

Last Friday's debate, "That Socialism provides genuine hope for the future of Civilisation," was disappointing. Neither side did justice to its cause, and the house was the smallest this year. Inadequate advertisement and the late choice of subject and speakers, combined with the imminence of examinations, probably explain the lapse. Even an impartial observer would have seen that the speeches for the negative revealed a profound ignorance of what Socialism means. One speaker said it meant the "complete abolition of private property"; another said that in a Socialist world, economic imperialism would still remain. Now one of the functions of a debate is to widen knowledge, and "Salient" would be the last to suggest that honestly ignorant people should not speak; but at the risk of seeming biased, one would like to urge that the subject's importance deserves at least a little study. You can't argue effectively against Socialism if you don't know what it means.

"This is not a static world," said Mr. Perry, leader of the affirmative. Change would come whatever man did to prevent it, and attempts to maintain the status quo could only result in the collapse of civilisation. The chief obstacle to progress was tradition, based on the economic systems of the past. Our own civilisation, like those of the past, was based on a society divided into owners and labourers. Unless we abolished the foundation of that tradition, our civilisation would collapse as did the others.

He quoted figures to illustrate the failure of capitalism to distribute wealth in the interests of the whole population. Socialism did not mean that a man could not own his house or buy his own food and amusements. Public ownership of the means of production would enable society to organise for current needs, and substitute planning for tradition.

GRIED AS INCENTIVE.

"It is frequently stated that Socialism is fine in theory but will not work in practice, because there is no incentive for people to work. Presumably the only possible incentive is to become a little capitalist. What a striking admission of degeneracy. If personal profit is the only incentive! But there is no justification for saying Socialism means equal wages. Marx and Engels said wealth should be distributed according to the social value of work done, and Lenin and Stalin practised that policy. Under Socialism, the head worker will raise not only his own standard but that of humanity generally."

"Socialism," concluded Mr. Perry, "offers the mass of mankind, for the first time, a real incentive to work. It will free the resources of the world and of the mind; give society a chance to plan and an ability to create as never before, and accord to everybody those things in life that really matter."

THE OPPOSITION AGREES.

No one was more vehement than Mr. K. Braybrooke. In denouncing present-day capitalism, his opposition to the motion was not at all a denial that Socialism could not be one of the mass. "Capitalism," he said, "has developed complicated systems of trade and finance, too complicated to be handled by the capitalists themselves. Capitalism has produced a vast technocracy to manage its affairs, and that technocracy itself has brought greater problems. Our moulding with difficulties only produces more chaos."

The people elected under Socialism would be those least fitted to control the economic forces. Capitalism had, by a process of trial and error, selected out the men who could keep it going, however imperfectly.

IS THIS FASCISM?

"If civilisation is to be saved, we must subordinate ourselves completely to planning; and we must not expect to change our own leaders," said Mr. Braybrooke. Sensitive people in the audience turned pale, but relentlessly spoke on the voice of doom.

"Society is faced with an increasing number of unskilled labourers whom it can never hope to use. Socialism has no solution for this problem; and, indeed, there is only one solution—they must be liquidated!"

Sighs of relief were heard when the gloomy prophet went on to say

KULTURBOISHEWISMUS.

"Even under capitalism," said Mr. Meek, "the majority of educational facilities are controlled by the State. Under Socialism, this control could be carried a great deal further, to produce a better-educated community."

"We are proud of our British culture, but what does it mean to the masses? To them, it can offer nothing. But without the support of society, culture cannot progress, because art and society are inextricably linked."

Science and capitalism had developed together, but now each discovered its advantages. Only in a Socialist state could social organisation keep pace with the problems outweighing its advantages. Only in a Socialist state could social organisation keep pace with the problems science created.

"The literary diet of the masses to-day comprises solely newspapers and pulp magazines. Powerful interests are making profits by debasing our intellect and emotions. How can we stimulate first-class literature? Only by creating a popular taste for the best, so that everyone can enjoy it, only by Socialism," Mr. Meek concluded.

McJOSHUA.

Mr. McJoshi always impresses us, but on Friday he wrought wonders. During a burst of stirring oratory, we heard a crash, and a wall seemed rent open, as certain pictures shot madly from their spheres, and in a cloud of dust and broken glass nearly crippled a Communist. Mr. McJoshi went on to talk about the loss of individuality inevitable under Socialism, but we were too awed to listen.

SHAKE!

Mr. Barrow quoted from Marx and the Pope to show their agreement on the inequality of capitalism. Both held that the masses had no private property, but the Pope came on the solution of the problem. Marx, said Mr. Barrow, proposed the complete abolition of private property, while the Pope believed in redistribution.

Defending the U.S.S.R., Mr. McDonald challenged the audience to name one peasant who had been liquidated. Quoting cases from India and Trinidad, he showed that Britain, too, was quite capable of "purges."

ANALYSIS.

Mr. J. D. Freeman claimed that opposition to the motion was based on an inaccurate analysis of the social situation. Speakers had adopted the traditional explanations and had taken the traditional attitude to change. The argument "it won't work" had been used when it was proposed to liberate the serfs. Capitalism had been a slight progression from feudalism, and in each case people had said "it won't work." Now, when Socialism proposed a further advance, the old opposition was met; Socialism merely implied the same use of human capabilities.

The motion was carried, and the judges—Mr. Poyles, placed Mr. Braybrooke first, Mr. Freeman second, and Mr. Perry third.

—H.W.G.

ADVICE TO SPEAKERS

"PUTTING IT ACROSS."

The following is a paragraph from Circular No. 3 sent to all "National" Party speakers:—

"National Party speakers must remember that their first duty is to oppose the arguments, claims, and promises of the present Socialist Government. Oppose! Oppose! Oppose! That is the essential duty of Nationalist speakers. Use every possible play of words, every fact you can advance to show that your political opponents are fools, political hypocrites, opportunists, seekers of power, despots, traitors to their country or their Empire."

THE UNIVERSITY MIND

"We labour and toil, and plod to fill the memory, and leave both understanding and conscience empty. Even as birds flutter and skip from field to field to peck up corn or any grain, and without tasting the same, carry it in their bills, therewith to feed their little ones; so do our pedants glean and pick learning from books, and never lodge it further than their lips, only to degorge and cast it to the wind."

—Montaigne.

Says Jim Contry:

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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. Edley 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! —C.

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 Rickle said the fish reminded him of tepid flitted 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 gastronomia and attempted to make a speech. He got thoroughly mixed with professors and night clubs. His blithered 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 Hutchens, 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 boisterous 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 Johansson at back, Women displayed sounder combination and superior ability to remain upright for any length of time.

Snakes, trios, 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 rage 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.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, 7 p.m., in the Physics Lecture Room!

Geoff! Have you seen the last issue of "Cracum"? It's PINK! And, what's more, the joke of the month is taken from Gollancz'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 nard-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 vicour 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 "niggahs" 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 even 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

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 sear 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 loudspeakers, 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 Nationalist 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 solifude 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 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 disagreement 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 Almers. 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 blarney—Yours, etc.,

J. NESBITT SELLERS.

Liverpool.
8th May, 1938.

INSURANCE AGAINST EXAM. FAILURES.

Per N.Z.U. 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 (\$2/-) for the first try and five dollars (\$5/-) for the next two attempts afforded by the college.

Following the policy of regular insurance companies who issue pamphlets on disease the students' new organization 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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STEWART DAWSON'S BUILDING

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-bespattered 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 proverbial 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 hopelessly," 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 returned 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 sports 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 carried on what has now become the tradition of Hockey Tournament—to grow "better and better."

SCRYMGEOUR FIFTH

VOSSELER CUP RACE.

D. R. Scrymgeour, winner of the 5-mile 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 Furquhar 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 field of 142 runners were very fair. It was a cold afternoon, but the rain held off.

RUGBY

A NARROW WIN.

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 healing 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 Corhill 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, Bryers, Bridges, McNicol, Hansen, Harpur, and Armour. Tricklebank had little to do at full-back, but played soundly. The Bryers-Wild-Eastwood combination went well, although Bryers 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, Corhill 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. Corhill, 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 pursuit 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:—

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3. A minimum wage of 50 cents an hour.

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