

WARTIME ELECTIONS AND V.U.C.

Yours is the Power and Theirs the Glory

Quite a few of us have got votes, and few of us have as yet any strong political affiliations, and so our reporter has Bet out to study the policy of each party in turn. It is, of course, desirable that we should have some criteria on which to base our judgment. The question which obviously conies first today is the attitude of the various parties to the war, for it is apparent that however high our internal standard of living is, that would be cold comfort if the Japanese or Nazis occupied New Zealand. Other questions which will interest any New Zealander is the general standard of living, and of course the prosperity of the farmers is particularly Important, and also the position of workers' organisations. And, as students, we are interested in any advances in education put forward by the candidates.

National Party

The National Party in the "Passwords to Progress," lists the following items:—

- Work—and best possible working conditions.
- Freedom—no licenses and form-filling, a point which of course would need to be waived under any efficient war-administration.
- Government from the people up-wards, not from officialdom down-wards. (This against Trade Union influence.)
- Private ownership of home and of the means of production, distribution and exchange.
- Free enterprise and competition.
- Industrial harmony—of worker-employer co-operation. Wishing to bridge the worker-employer gulf and return to personal relationship of last century.
- A New Era for Youth.—This is fairly vague, but advocates the encouragement of moral and spiritual training and also physical training.
- Improved conditions for farm workers.
- Help for mothers and cheaper work-saving appliances for the home.
- Rewards for thrift and self-reliance.

Many of the points in this programme are desirable. Mr. Holland states his recognition of the necessity that everyone have "food, clothing, shelter, medical care and education." And finally, Mr. Holland states: "We will never allow another 1930-5 slump to happen in this country—that is definite and positive." This insistence of the progressive line of the National Party is disturbing—even if they pronounce themselves in favour of social security. Wasn't it this same Mr. Holland who called it "Social Insanity"? The National attitude to the slump does not unfortunately bear investigation. Mr. Holland states that *every* party in power was affected the world over by the last slump, and claims the sole rights to a new patent so that it won't happen again. This while he advocates *laissez-faire* in place of economic planning. The student of economics is not the only puzzled member of his audience. In general it seems that Mr. Holland wants to have his cake and eat it.

The most regrettable feature of this programme is that not one of its planks refer to the war. It is possible that Mr. Holland regards himself as parallel to Mr. Churchill. Mr. Churchill's "Freedom" is the old definition—the recognition of necessity. First of all, we must win the war.

Labour Party

It should be remembered that the Labour Party is not, strictly speaking, the Labour Government, the adherence of the late Mr. Coates, and of Messrs. Hamilton and Perry to the War Cabinet and the appointment of Mr. McLagan as Minister of Manpower made the Government more a Government of national unity rather than a Party Government.

First in importance is the pledge of the Labour Party to prosecute the war until victory is won over fascism. The questions of rehabilitation are dealt with, this including the practical details of schemes.

The question of the farmer and the countryside goes well into the question of governmental responsibility

to assist farmers in the spheres of road-building, river-control, action to prevent soil-erosion and the expansion of hydro-electric schemes.

Social Security is to be extended under Labour guidance, and housing schemes (limited under war conditions) are planned on a satisfactory post-war scale.

Stabilisation and rationing, two important factors in war time economy, are to be maintained.

It is obvious, however, that the best way to judge the showing of a party is, if it is the government in power, to look at its record. The war effort for which the Labour Government is largely responsible, has received the support of the great majority of the people of New Zealand. Despite the enrolment in the armed forces of nearly 200,000 men, in the first three years of war production rose 35%. Manpower control, very similar to that under Churchill's Government in England, prevents the wastage of manpower in unessential work. New Zealand has not only carried out a big defence construction programme but also is equipping her own troops as well as exporting certain manufactured goods to other sections of the allied nations.

D.S.L.P.

The first cry of the Democratic Soldier Labour Party is that of over-commitment. New Zealand, they consider, is being bled white, because New Zealand (according to this Party) is doing too much in the war effort.

The complaint levelled is that consumer goods are in short supply and that industry is on its last legs through lack of manpower, as also is primary production. Mr. Lee alleges, that today prices are rising, and that monetary reform is necessary. Controlled currency and credit should make for "debt-free finance."

Education should be free from kindergarten to university for boys and girls of talent. This is of course also a Labour plank. The *John A. Lee's Weekly* stresses in one article the necessity for a second front and on the next page condemns the Labour Government for over-commitment. The scheme for returned men is paralleled to Labour's' rehabilitation programme and is designed to see that no returned man suffers economically for leaving his occupation to go into the armed forces.

The final question is "Socialism," and this in the D.S.L. Party includes monetary reform and control and "social upbuilding." The ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange is not touched on.

The Lunatic Fringe

This perhaps is the most distressing of all the questions raised at these elections. John Hogan in his paper "Democracy" devotes much of his space to easy talk on the evils of money-power and about debt-free credit. (It is noted that Lee also descends to this jargon.) The complete unreality of this talk of "the recognition of the principle that debt-free currency (i.e., credit) can be issued to the extent of unutilised productive capacity, is obvious.

The other notable fact about John Hogan is his anti-Soviet attitude. It is regrettable that at a time when national and international unity is a desirable objective in this struggle against fascism, that a political party finds it proper to print these subversive and inaccurate statements.

A quick glance at the candidates standing in any electorate shows the rich crop of independents, official independents and independent independents. These mostly represent the same interests as the opposition parties and their programmes diverge on minor Issues only.

We cannot, however, afford to judge [*unclear*: only] on words; we must ask questions. Why did the Nationalists leave the War Cabinet after voting in favour of the decision which they claim to be the cause of their departure? Why was not Mr. Lee in the House to vote on the controversial land-settlement bill? What was the attitude to Social Security of Messrs. Holland and Lee?

It cannot be said that Labour's war effort is by any means perfect. It is ridiculous to talk of a shortage of manpower and over-commitment when our shops are full of luxury goods. It is ridiculous to object to increased rationing (see position in Great Britain) when it leads to greater equality in distribution. This war will not win itself. It is up to us to see that we put into power a government strong enough to lead a united New Zealand to a first-rate war effort. This is our duty and our responsibility. Read all about it. Find out all about it, when you cast your vote.

Mrs. Roosevelt

Salient sent a representative to the press conference held in Wellington by Mrs. Roosevelt on her goodwill

tour of this country. Mrs. Roosevelt holds a position in the American Red Cross and was wearing her uniform.

One of the first problems discussed was the question of post-war planning on the international scale. Mrs. Roosevelt said she hoped that Americans had grown to realise the fallacy of isolation and expressed her view that some form of international co-operation, probably based on the present unity of the Allies, would be necessary.

Mrs. Roosevelt had some very interesting things to say on the subject of women in the war. She stated that equal pay for equal work had long been a slogan in the U.S.A. and that in the war industries this was an accomplished fact. Investigation carried out by women's organisations in the U.S.A. have resulted in statistics showing that women need the equal pay as they usually go to work to support not themselves alone but also dependents.

Youth

Mrs. Roosevelt was also able to inform us about the growing problem in the U.S.A. of parents overseas or absorbed into industry. Youth workers were mostly called up for essential work and the States found themselves faced with growing juvenile delinquency and crime. This has been met, at least to some extent, by youth clubs, which the Government is keen to develop. Children of school age and young workers are given recreational facilities and also facilities for hiking and camps, which is desirable from many angles. Our problem in New Zealand, although on a parallel scale, might learn a good deal from the active lead the U.S. Government is giving to this work.

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Editorial

Election Day next Saturday! What do we think about it? Some of us, remembering parental strictures on this "red" Government, or alternatively, thinking on what a nice name Democratic Soldier Labour Party is, may cast their vote accordingly. Few, very few, however, we hope. It is high time we grew and faced our responsibilities. One thing is apparent—whatever the minor claim of any party, there is one paramount claim which must have first consideration in our minds and our hearts. We Must win the war. The administration under which New Zealand can make its most successful war effort is the administration we must back. We owe it to ourselves, to our friends fighting overseas, and to those who will not come back. We owe it to our country and to future generations of New Zealanders. We must pull our weight in the war.

Today the Government of New Zealand is Labour, although two members of the National Party, Mr. Hamilton and the late Mr. Coates, remained to serve in the War Administration after Mr. Holland had decided to withdraw his support. This Government has successfully governed the country through four years of peace and four years of war. The standard of living has not fallen, although naturally some luxury goods are unobtainable. Social services have been maintained and the Government has rallied the people of New Zealand to make a very creditable war effort. Stabilisation in wages and control to prevent profiteering in foodstuffs and necessary but short-supply goods has been a necessary feature of our war economy—unless we are willing to face inflation. Rationing is comparatively slight in this country, limited as it is to sugar, tea, and clothing, and yet we have to face up to the fact that the National Party, in the name of "Freedom," objects to the control and regulation essential in wartime. The Labour Government in New Zealand is doing the work which Churchill's Government is doing in England—welding the people into a real unity on which attempts of fascist disrupters will only break themselves, and in the strength of unity New Zealand will go forward under a strengthened Government to further work and further sacrifice till this war, beside which other issues must be dwarfed, is won.

International Youth Congress

Statement issued by the Commission on Students

We stand for a free democratic-educational system, the use of science for the benefit of mankind and the fullest development of art and culture by the peoples of the world. We realise that Fascism perverts science and learning into weapons for the subjugation of the people. Therefore we declare that Fascism is the deadliest enemy of all peoples including the students, and that its destruction is our most urgent task. We realise that only in making the maximum effort in the present can we ensure a full and happy future for our generation.

We resolve to use our time and our energies so as to make the greatest contribution to the speediest possible defeat of Fascism and believe that as students our main duty is to raise our level and speed of study to the highest possible in order to provide the community with trained scientists, teachers, doctors and others in the shortest possible time. We shall use our vacations for more study to speed up our own training and do practical work in factories and on the land. We will improve our courses and our practical training so that we are fully equipped to take our place in war society.

Our tasks as students put on us the responsibility of clear understanding and the greatest awareness of the nature of Fascism and its deadly effects. Student organisations have the task of educating their own members so that they can never be deceived by the lies of Fascist propaganda. Equipped with facts we can do educational work in youth organisations and among the people.

Students have a long tradition of internationalism. The work of the international Council of Students in Great Britain must be developed so that it becomes an educational and driving force in the fight against Fascism. The presence of the Soviet delegation in this country and at this conference is historic and lays the basis for full co-operation from now on. The International Student Assembly in Washington, its wide representation and its clear programme for students marks a great step forward in the international student movement, and we must follow up the proposals which it has laid down. We now have the possibility of linking the international student movement in the United States, Great Britain, and the U.S.S.R., which will greatly further our joint progress.

Our work in all these fields will serve as an encouragement to the peoples in occupied countries from whose brave resistance we gain constant inspiration, and will greatly strengthen their struggle.

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Things to Come

Oct. 8th.—Informal Dance, 8-12 p.m.

Terms

Degree

Nov. 12th.—Final Ball, 8.30 p.m. to 2.30 a.m.

Exec. Meeting

The Executive sat on Monday, 6th September, to a full and interesting agenda. The president was detained in town, so Laurie Starke, the vice, took the chair. Formal business, minutes, correspondence and accounts, were despatched at a fair speed, leaving the floor clear for a series of reports on the progress, usually good, of our various sub-committees.

First and of most interest was Miss Eichelbaum's report on the avenues being investigated by N.Z.U.S.A. to get student representation on the Senate. The president, Mr. J. B. C. Taylor, is handling this and has drawn up two alternative plans of campaign for approval by individual Execs.

The more permanent plan involves amendment of the Victoria College Act and will be introduced, along with other amendments, when the general revision of the Act is gone into after the war. For the duration several alternatives are available but are still in the confidential stages. A fuller report will be available later.

Various anomalies in both boarding and medical bursaries are also being investigated by N.Z.U.S.A. with a view to presenting a report and recommendations to the Government. Individual cases are being collected and forwarded by the various Execs.

Publicity Officer

An old dream—and now in practice. At the last Exec, meeting the possibility of inaugurating a publicity drive in the city, of placing Victoria College in the eye of the citizens of Wellington, was discussed and it was with wistful regret that the subject was shelved. The reason is—lack of personnel. This has now been overcome. Irish O'Brien, well known about the College as *Salient's* "large and brilliant sports staff," together with Jack Ilott, a live-wire student of former years, have consented to take on the job. Their main task will be to fight for space in the local dailies and report there all those things of which we are rather proud—Liberty Loan, Book Drive, I.S.S., and patriotic work days, etc. All College events of public interest are to be brought into the light. No more of this holding our candle in the corner. Let us tell Wellington what we are doing.

Faculty Committees

A recommendation as to the detailed organisation of these has now been prepared. It was presented to Exec. by Messrs. Boyd and Creed and will be discussed with faculty deans as soon as possible. It is hoped to have the spade work completed and tentative members of the committees appointed by the end of the year, to let the scheme swing into action first thing in 1944. The work of the committees will be mainly to discuss problems common to staff and students, to carry on the struggle for better equipment, to organise tutorials under advanced students, and in general to further the speed and efficiency with which this University is capable of turning out first rate graduates.

Social Committee

The Exec, has been gunning for Laurie Starke for some time. It came to a head on Tuesday. Apparently the convening of the first meeting was unsatisfactory, members of last year's committee were not asked to come on again, and insufficient effort was made all round. The result was that only four people turned up and the organisation has been running very short-handed ever since, with the inevitable results—the Gym. not cleared up, the supper room left in a mess, and so on. The meeting instructed Starke to send formal invitations to all previous social committee members and to guarantee the cleanliness of the Gym. There was also a very strong suggestion put forward, one which strikes at the root of the trouble, that the dissolution of the committee should take place, not with that of the Executive, but at the end of the year. An amendment to the constitution to that effect is to be brought up at the next general meeting.

The remaining dances of the year were announced: An informal dance, 8 to 12 p.m., October 8th (last day), and final ball, 8.30 p.m. to 2.30 a.m., on November 12th.

Save the Children

We have received a circular from the Society of Friends, which is unfortunately too long to print in full; it is briefly this:

Famine is threatening the population of Europe, where mothers and children are starving in the German occupied countries, where the foodstuffs are produced on a very small scale and largely exported to Germany and used to feed armies of occupation.

The Society of Friends believes we should be willing to face rationing of food here to help the unfortunate people of Europe and requests us to urge the Government to take action in the matter.

Editor's Note.—Since the circular was issued conditions in India have become infinitely worse. Floods have devastated large parts of Orrissa and we have word of the students and citizens there endeavouring to bring some relief to the suffering peasantry despite the apparent lack of co-operation of the British Government in India. Here is a field to which we are in the position to send immediate aid, without waiting for navicerts.

A Letter

Sir,—This year's "Rostrum" contains two contributions from Victoria—one from A. Alpers and another from a Sgt. F.A.P. As we are but scantily represented in this magazine, we should feel particularly grateful to these two writers. As few will recognise the initials, might I introduce the latter? He is Sgt. F. A. Ponton, formerly an instructor at Army School, Trentham, now in the R.N.Z.A.F. In 1941, his last year here, he was a part-timer for B.A. and was also a member of the Hockey Club. With evidence of his ability presented us, we will eagerly await future contributions to student publications from his pen.

Yours faithfully,

N. L. McLeod.

. . . and it ought to be remembered that there is nothing more difficult to take in hand, inore perilous to conduct, or more uncertain in its success, than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things. Because the innovator has for enemies all those who have done well under the old conditions, and lukewarm defenders in those who may do well under the new.—Machiavelli.

Plunket Medal

Respectability Triumphs

The Plunket Medal Annual Oratory Contest was held on Saturday, 14th September. The hall was full and the audience ready.

Mr. J. Winchester, in the chair, called on the first speaker.

Miss Margaret Stewart on Francois-Marle-Aronet-Voltaire, gave a straightforward exposition on the life of Voltaire. The handicap of a nervous speaker being placed first was apparent and her speech did not lend itself to oration.

Mr. John Ziman spoke on Darwin. While this again was not oratory, he made an interesting speech and used humour to advantage. His greatest assets were his undoubted stage presence and a pleasing voice. His main faults were his over-use of the rhetorical question and a slightly pompous manner. However, he was well in the running and deserved his placing.

Rewi Alley, founder of the Chinese co-operatives, was Miss Helen O'Flynn's subject. Her speech, which was sincere and fluent, was mainly at fault in the lack of cohesion in her subject matter, and also she did not use range or modulation in her voice, and with this, while she was sincere, which is an important point in oratory, she was lacking in its superficial graces.

Mr. Campbell spoke on Michael Joseph Savage, but was hard put to present the life of a recent politician (although undoubtedly loved by a large section of the New Zealand people) in a suitable form. His anecdotes of the personal history of Mr. Savage lacked the interest which had attended his struggle for social reform, but Mr. Campbell would do well to remember the dangers of betraying emotion unless shared by the audience.

Mr. H. M. O'Leary on Marshal Foch was perhaps the most polished speaker: he concentrated on the personal life of Marshal Foch. His immaturity was a handicap, which showed in both presentation subject matter and voice, but his obvious training in speech and gesture did much to counterbalance this. His gravest fault—this in an oratory contest—was that he did not put his subject over to the audience. This was due partly to his subject, partly to his approach. The judges award Mr. O'Leary first place, particularly marking his stance, apt quotations, for sincere direct approach. The main defect of the winning speech was its remoteness from the present conflict despite little *nota benes* inserted apparently to link it with the present conflict, but the personal story of a French General (other than General de Gaulle) is unlikely to meet with ready sympathy at Victoria, although the judges were immediately struck and favourably impressed by it.

Mr. W. Rosenburg, speaking on a very different plane, achieved the only real oratory in the evening. With a few remarks he introduced his subject, whom he admitted was obscure, a Jewish rabbi from Poland, hung in a German labour camp for falling to work on the Jewish Sabbath. Simply and directly told, without embellishment but with poignant sincerity, Mr. Rosenburg chose an obscure but great man to represent the courage of the Jewish race under and against Hitler. His peroration was as moving an appeal as we have heard from a V.U.C. platform against fascism and all its accompanying evil. The audience was moved by the outstanding and most sincere speech of the evening.

Last of the evening's speakers was Mr. S. Gilhooley speaking on Cardinal Mercier. His didactic attitude, high-pitched voice and subject matter tended to permit the audience to allow their attention to wander. His choice of subject matter was, from the oratorical viewpoint and for appeal, lacking. The speaker, however, with the advantages of training and good preparation, was placed second.

The judges for the contest were Miss E. M. North, E. N. Hogben, Esq., and H. H. Cornish, Esq., K.C. This choice of judges was perhaps responsible for the unnecessary conservatism of Judgment. Judging apparently on the graces rather than the guts of oratory, the judges showed a preference for a well-learned piece of elocution rather than an effective sincere appeal. No judge of oratory should, however, be misled into believing that the

superficial arts will adequately replace the matter and genuine feeling and message in real oration. The most conservative subject matter delivered in the most conservative manner gained placing. Were the Judges frightened to admit that the courageous figures of Rewi Alley or Rosencrantz could be the subject of an oration? Victoria has not had a tradition of stuffed shirt judgments, and it is hoped that next year, while wishing this year's contestants well, the standard of both entrants and judges will be considerably higher.

V.U.C's LITERARY EFFORT SPIKE ON SALE SHORTLY PHOTOGRAPHS EXCELLENT
ARTICLES GOOD POETRY READABLE BE READY TO BUY LEND to Defend the Right to be FREE!
JOIN THE NATIONAL SAVINGS MOVEMENT

Photographic Club

The last three meetings of the Photographic Club illustrate Its varied activities very well.

On their last club night Mr. Perry conducted a tour through his dark room and studios, illustrating the various ingenious devices he had installed and contending that prints should not be touched up—make-up should rather be used on the sitter. He demonstrated this very well on an unwilling victim.

On September 9th an address was given by Mr. McDonald, President of the Wellington Camera Club. The highlights of this were his analysis of difference between "popular tastes" and good photography, his interesting points on landscape work, that most difficult branch of the art, and the emphasis on flawless darkroom technique, the need to do one's own work.

The necessity for careful choice of filters in camera work, to offset the indifference of most films to reds and yellows, was well dealt with by Mr. M. A. Johnson, member of both V.U.C. and Wellington Clubs, at the third meeting. He also recommended the use of lens hoods and tripod for greater clarity and freedom from "camera shake."

Numbers of good prints were shown at each evening and although the club has omitted to submit any for *Spike*, we may say that it is now a thriving concern.

Rostrum Reviewed

I don't know what happened this year, but *Rostrum* was sold out in a week, due, I suspect, to the efficiency of the distributor rather than the actual matter of the magazine. *Rostrum* is the responsibility of the N.Z.U. Press Bureau, edited this year by C.U.C.P.B. The standard is disappointing.

Despite an obvious attempt on the part of the contributors to write something worth-while, the standard is low. The editors are probably not culpable as they may have had to print everything submitted. The contents suffer from lack of originality where it is most needed, immaturity—perhaps excusable, and damningly—lack of coherent information on the subjects selected.

I would not for a minute suggest that every article must contain the divine fire, but take, for example, "Freedom"—despite the would-be impressive bibliography the wooliness of the article and the lack of any reason for writing it render it meaningless.

The article on Nazi education starts off to depict a vicious system, but loses itself and comes lamely to an end. Those articles which meet with more success are the factual account of Sunnyside Mental Hospital, which has matter and feeling, and a short note on the Student Worker Scheme. The monograph on Death, Donne and Caudwell, although interesting, lacked grace and style.

Vale Maria, by a V.U.C. student is an attempt to catch the snappy, hardbitten style of a second-to-second diary. The article on music has more desirable attributes. The writer has something to say and says it well.

But the verse! Heaven forbid. A sonnet with nothing to say has no satisfactory rhythm. *Rostrum* is distressingly vacuous the year.

". . . The university, the meeting ground of thinking men and women." states the writer. *Rostrum* has no proof off this.

—Eros.

Books

The Seventh Cross

—by Anna Seghers

When men are enslaved or imprisoned, any little thing whereby they outwit their gaolers counts as a tremendous victory. They regain some self-respect in the feeling that they are not completely powerless. So, when the governor of a concentration camp prepares seven crosses for the seven men who have escaped, the prisoners gain a sense of power as, day after day, the seventh cross is still unoccupied, and the morale of the commandant himself is gradually broken by this sign of the loss of his omnipotence.

But what of the seventh man? What are his feelings, as he makes his way across the country? He is different from an escaped convict against whom every man's hand is turned, in that some at least of the people are prepared to help him? But whom can he trust? Will his friends betray him? The characters and reactions of those who do assist him, working-class men, a scientist, a Jewish doctor, are carefully portrayed. How much the author knows of conditions inside prewar Hitler Germany it is difficult to say, but the book rings true. We feel that there is some hope left for Germany, if these men retain some of their old allegiances. Not of course that the book is a superb masterpiece. The writing is good, but not outstanding. Yet it is a book worth reading in its sketching of a situation and development of an idea.

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Soviet Women in the War Against Fascism

Here we have the story of Liudmilla Pavlichenko quiet student of the University of Kiev with no other thought on June 21, 1941. than the completion of her History honours thesis, who became the crack sniper of the Red Army—her total now being 490 Nazis.

Here we have the story of Tanya, the 18 year old student of School No. 201 in the City of Moscow, young Communist Leaguer, young Guerilla who none of the Fascist tortures could make betray the position of her comrades, who cried with the rope round her neck: "You are paying me now, but I am not alone. There are two hundred million of us and you can't hang all of us. I will be avenged. Men! While it is not too late, surrender. Victory will be ours in any case!"

Here we have the story of Tamara Kalnina, the ambulance driver, barely seventeen, whose ambulance, attacked by seven Fascist planes with incendiary bullets, blazed like a huge bonfire. There were fifteen wounded men inside.

"Tamara was now alone in the woods with the blazing car containing fifteen wounded men. And fifteen times she rushed into the flames to drag a helpless body to a hollow by the wayside, pausing each time to get a breath of fresh air and to put out the flames of her burning clothes.

"She then ran several miles almost delirious with pain, to the base hospital and told what happened."

Tanya was 18 years old, Tamara was 17 years old, and Liudmilla was 24 when they did these things.

Next time you're in the Caf. look round at the eighteen, seventeen and twenty-four-year-old girls you know.

Massey College

Joynt Scroll Comes Home Again

An agricultural college, we thought, possibly a cowshed or two, lectures in the barn, perhaps. Or that may be a bit sweeping—we'll allow them an old farmhouse to hold the debates in and a piece of drained swamp land for the football. Two or three lecturers—about 50 students—laboratories, if any, in the hayloft.

Thus we all thought in the Palmerston train and thus I fear have many, if not most, students in the four main colleges felt.

There were perhaps excusing circumstances; the Joynt Scroll team had the dry horrors and I myself viewed their last minute preparations with something akin to dismay. Our opinion of any college would have suffered at that time. But the point of all this is that we were wrong—our opinions have changed completely and this is written in order that your ideas, if they were as far out as ours, may change too. But let the story tell itself.

Reception

We were met at Palmerston station by Stud. Ass. members complete with car; petrol had been obtained for the occasion and that car figured prominently in subsequent activities.

First to our respective billets for lunch and then by car via the Esplanade Gardens to the College. Prepared as we were for polite exclamations and the remark courteous, we could say little when the College building appeared between the trees. Situated on a low hill, in the midst of daffodil pierced lawns, magnificent rock gardens and rolling acres of trees, one of the most beautiful and best equipped Colleges in New Zealand rose before us. A little behind and below were the hostel, registrar's buildings, dining hall and common rooms. We bowed our heads in shame—Victoria had nothing to compare with this.

Victoria Please Note

A very fine and sunny library, *well stocked, open for long hours and well lit*, modern laboratories and lecture rooms. I thought of my wasted years in other Universities and decided immediately to take B.Ag.Sc. at Massey.

The College has three farms, one directly adjoining. We spent an interesting hour revising our memories of cows and their functions, inspecting sheep saddled with strange apparatus, listening to learned discussions of the latest facial eczema experiments.

The debates were to be held in Massey's main hall, about the size of the Gym., but built some 30 years later; it rather put the Gym. in the shade for furnishings and stage equipment. The V.U.C. team viewed this with anguish and repaired hastily to the staff reading room for some final work on the Atlantic Charter.

Draws between the six Colleges had placed the debates in the following order: in the afternoon, Canterbury v. Otago on the motion "That Patriotism is a Menace"; in the evening, Auckland v. Victoria, "That the Principles of the Atlantic Charter are the essential basis for an enduring peace," and Massey v. Lincoln on a subject after their own hearts, "That the system of freehold tenure be continued."

Individual subjects were agreed upon between contestant Colleges and with the exception of the first, were ideal debating topics.

Patriotism

Dress in the afternoon was informal—Otago and Canterbury took the platform to an audience of about a hundred. The debating was of a fairly high standard, although handicapped by what most people considered a poor subject. A.C.1 Pill Newall (last year V.U.C.) led Canterbury for the affirmative. A strong speaker, he marred good material and reply by his speed. Leading the opposition was Bradley of O.U., a man of 35 or so and obviously of considerable experience. Patriotism was just his oyster—he loved it—and laid it on plenty thick. In fact he played far too much on the emotions of the audience and flung the dead bodies of fellow students at them so well that he put himself completely offside both with audience and judges. A great pity, for it was otherwise a fine speech.

In the Joynt Scroll contest no heckling is allowed and there are no speakers from the floor. While this is a good and necessary thing it seemed to leave the Victoria team, accustomed to an uproarious house, rather ill at ease, and unable to judge the feelings of the audience towards them.

The Atlantic Charter debate took place in the evening, first on the list. The town had turned up in force, a crowded hall, and evening dress on stage contributed immense gravity to the occasion.

We Do Our Bit

Peter Dempsey led off strongly for Auckland and placed the Charter and its extremely democratic principles before the house. In doing so, however, he stressed far too much the idealism of that document and placed himself right before the heavy batteries of Miss O'Flynn. She opened up without mercy. First by an enunciation of the fourteen points and a brief review of the historical events following Versailles, the depression, rearmament, Spain, Munich, and finally war again, the complete impracticability of the Charter was demonstrated. Next the inconsistencies, clause by clause, and finally the "cart and horse" loopholes, such revealing weaknesses as "They will endeavour, *with due respect to their existing obligations*, to further the enjoyment by all states, great or small, victor or vanquished, of access, on equal terms, to the trade and to the raw materials of the world."

Miss McMillan, for Auckland, finding all this a little difficult to reply to, contented herself with re-emphasising the democratic aims of the Charter and maintaining that these principles, workable or

unworkable, were the basis of an enduring peace.

Mr. Fowler then rose and gave a typical speech, surveying analytically and dispassionately the economic causes of war and concluding on its inevitability until these were removed. Had his genius for ignoring the audience been tempered by a little oratorical fire this would have clinched the case. As it was. Miss O'Flynn, in a fluent and fervent summing up, knit all arguments into a very strong debate.

Land Tenure

Massey and Lincoln fought very well over the leasehold system of land tenure—Massey against and Lincoln for—and provided the most interesting and amusing speeches of the day. Mr. MacDonald, an experienced speaker although a new debater, led for Massey, strongly supported by Al. Rae. Lincoln leader suffered from that most annoying of all handicaps a heavy cold, but his seconder, Mr. Taylor, a most pugilistic speaker, amply made up for any defects.

Finally, ten minutes of acute anguish on the part of the twelve speakers, brought us to the judges' placings and remarks. Mrs. Mountjoy, Joynt Scroll contestant of previous years, spoke for herself, Mr. Opie and Mr. Bennett in saying that their fear that the wartime standard of debating might be low was entirely unjustified, in congratulating the teams on their efforts, in awarding the trophy to the V.U.C. team, and in placing Miss O'Flynn, then Mr. Taylor, as the two best speakers. Victoria were rather overcome but Helen O'Flynn kept enough presence of mind to receive the Shield and say a few words of thanks.

So it ended. The myth about Massey has been exploded and Victoria have brought back the Joynt Scroll yet again.

A Good Thing!

Law Faculty Club

The annual dinner of the Law Faculty Club was held last month. This is the first occasion for two or three years on which the club has felt that it is able to launch out into such a venture as having a dinner. The great proportion of students are, of course, in the forces, but nevertheless those who were available, together with recent graduates and members of the lecturing staff of the College, turned out in force at the Grand on the occasion.

Proceedings went with a swing and except for a small clash with the hotel proprietor over some licensing regulations, there was nothing to mar the success of the dinner. Altogether between 30 and 35 students and graduates were present; a thoroughly representative selection of those who are still here.

All who were present hope that the dinner will be merely a fore-runner of successful future occasions of a like nature.

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In the case of female education the main stress should be laid on bodily training, and after that on development of character; and last of all, on intellect. But the one absolute aim of female education must be with a view to the future mother.

—Hitler ("Mein Kampf").

Woman is to be neither comrade nor beloved, but only mother.

—Spengler (official fascist).

Catholic Students

Despite the vacation the Catholic Students' Guild has had very good attendances at recent meetings, and some lively discussions have been held. Topical subjects certainly promote discussion, as everybody wants to say something, and from that point of view the discussion on "Communism" and "Catholic Social Teaching" were a huge success. After Bruce Cameron and Joe Doolan had led the discussion on "Communism," other speakers dealt with many aspects of the subject, the discussion leading up to the social teachings of the Catholic Church. This latter subject was discussed at the next meeting, Miss Marie Finlay and Peter O'Meaghan being the leaders.

A recent lecture of interest to students was that given by Countess Wodzicka on "Post-War Relief in Poland." The Countess gave a very vivid description of present-day Poland and showed what a vast task reconstruction would be Polish students in particular had suffered, and assistance from other countries would be required to provide teachers and also to restore educational institutions to their former condition.

I.S.S. Effort

The dance held for the I.S.S. on 31st July was a great social success and the financial result was very gratifying. With the net door takings, donations and competition proceeds, the sum of £13/10/0 was raised. The Catholic Students' Guild committee wishes to thank all who helped in any way to make this effort worth while.

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The full liberation of woman and her real equality with man requires a communist economy, a common social organisation of production and consumption and the participation of woman in general production. Only through this will woman take the same place in society as man.—Lenin.

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