New Zealand and the Miners

When the Pukemiro miners went on strike, considerable interest was aroused—the whole business reached a new high, caused by the resignation of six National Party Ministers from the War Administration.

To begin with, the miners should not have stopped work at this time. But the grievances were not justified by the strike. From one point of view, therefore, the Government's action in releasing the strikers from sentence is justified. If the production of coal is no longer held up. On the other hand, it gives at what confidence to the miners again they should wish to do so.

Coincident with the increased production of coal for the furthership of the war effort—and there has been an increase in the amount produced—have been greater profits for the mine owners. But there has not been a corresponding rise in the wages of the miners.

For this reason, State control of the mines is to be commended. In New Zealand there is a Labour Party, which commenced its term of office promisingly. Now, they assure us that their management of the Waikato mine is not socialization—and this from a party whose initial policy was that of socialization. Their policy is in support of all that is connected with exploitation, big profits, and exploitation, and all the rest of it. This connection is no different when those who resigned from the War Administration have nothing to lose, do so. Not that I mind, for their inclusion in the administration of the country at all increases their chances of winning a party majority after the war, their resignations are a darn good job.

THE FEDERATION OF LABOUR STATEMENT CONFRONTS THE STRIKE QUITE EFFECTUATELY.

It says: "However justifiable the stoppage might be under normal conditions, any action which holds up war production is contrary to the policy of the Government, no matter how much morality. Coal production, and with it the winning war, is an important matter. The workers, in a sense, have no liberty to strike disregarding the war effort. If the Walkato miners are confidant that their case is a good one, they should have no fear of submitting it to the disputes committee. Today is a time when nothing can be allowed to impede our maximum effort."

France and Freedom

"I wish for Germany's victory," (Pierre Laval, June 22nd, 1942, two months after becoming Chief of the Vichy Government, Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Interior, and Information).

"The hour of liberation for France is the hour when Germany wins the war." (Pierre Laval, August 11th, 1942).

With the arrival in New Zealand of M. Antoine de la Triboullie and his recognition by the New Zealand Government as Delegate of Fighting France, a strange situation has arisen. The functions that M. de la Trieboullie will exercise as Delegate in New Zealand will include the issue of passports and visas and other administrative formalities concerning Frenchmen who adhere to Fighting France," said the Rt. Hon. P. Fraser, Prime Minister of New Zealand. "The New Zealand Government will continue in the future as in the past to treat only with the French Miners, in which the collaboration of Fighting France is involved or required, in particular concerning those Frenchmen and French possessions and territories who adhere to Fighting France."

These diplomatic pronouncements by the Prime Minister speak over the fact that side by side with the Fighting French Delegation in Wellington there exists still a Consulate representing the French Government, in the person of M. Andre Pouquet, the Government of Vichy. It is an invidious position in which to place M. de la Triboullie, envoy of an Ally who has Fighting France in contempt of a nation's declaration that it adheres to its former ally. The whole thing is to make the Government of Vichy, that slaps down the war effort in belligerence and weakness more ashamed.

"C'est faible," said Mr. Pichon, Mr. Fraser. "We do not look upon Vichy as representing France. We look upon Vichy as representing bankruptcy of what was France." There is the principle: on which to act.

This is not the place to go into legal explanations; anyone who has studied the question knows, and anyone who has to try the case will find it for that, that it is not that the Vichy Government is setting itself up, makes the Vichy Government's Comité National the body leading, as the General himself says, "those Frenchmen who persist in applying the laws of the Republic, who remain loyal even unto death against the totalitarian power." It is there that the high duty to deliver the enslaved people and once again to give them sovereignty.

DISMISS POQUET!

"It would be intolerable that the so-called realists who from Munich to Munich has led lustry right to the edge of the abyss, should continue to delude the earnest, and to betray the spirit of sacrifice. How can the people that all our future is in victory, in honor, in capitalism, and that the path of duty is the way to glory, it is by our voice that we accept the neutralisation of France, as dictated by Hitler to Vichy, and recognise for the purpose of negotiators of things of Interest, joi my country, only the traitors who oppress the people and take their orders from the enemy."

We have to believe in General de Gaulle if we are to believe that France is capable of resurrection. Else what has happened to the country they once illumined Europe and America with the spirit of salvation and anti-oppression and the ideals of freedom and equality? Therefore, why cannot the Allies—and why cannot New Zealand—better than the others—recognise the Committee of General de Gaulle as a Government de facto? After all, France's government was so recognised!

The two main paths are open to the New Zealand Government, using path honourable and loyal: in diplomatic language to hand M. Pichon his passport.

GABRIEL
INDIA

At this most critical time in the war against Fascism, a situation has arisen which is not, short of catastrophic, a situation where a vast mass of potential allies are being hurled into the struggle, but are causing a diversion of effort which should be directed against the Axis powers.

How is it possible that in a country which is now fighting for the principles of the West, there are still anti-fascist, and where the victory of the United Nations is a fight for real and complete independence, that such a situation can arise? It is easy for people over in India, or in the West, to be blind, or that the Congress is a wicked organisation. This attitude is based on a lack of understanding of the real situation, and is sometimes a deliberate attempt to drive movement Indian people further than ever from the allied cause, and to confuse the issue in the minds of the British people by newspaper reports of a prejudiced nature, which drive a wedge between the Indian and the Indian people. In any case it is an attitude which makes impossible any solution of the problem.

If we are to be realistic, we must understand the fact that the failure of the Indian people to gain the wisdom of age, but are content to retain the philosophies of school-children.

Most important is our failure in the community. A University is not a factory for manufacturing engineers; it is the duty of every community a culture to be understood, not as dead knowledge, but rather as live and vital things that the community as a whole should know. If you as a student attend the University merely to get this or that label after your name, you should not be here—you would pass your time more profitably if you spent your five guineas during the year in buying beer at the nearest pub, and at least you would have some contact with reality.

The majority of the students at V.U.C. are part-timers, and that is at the same time the greatest strength and the greatest weakness of our College. It is commonly said that V.U.C. is not a proper University because it has so many part-timers, but that also means that there are a great number of students who are sufficiently keen on their studies to clear their ordinary course. If students do not take this trouble merely to attend lectures, a University should provide a place where minds can contact one another—not just absorb what the lecturer says, but debate among themselves on different aspects of a subject. A common common-room would help in this too, and we doubt whether separate common rooms could be considered enlightened.

Army education—to press for this is our clear duty, and to offer any help we could—we have not done nearly enough there. In our last issue we published an account of a Russian in the war—of the widening field of activity—while ours is narrowing—every group of people, whether going voluntarily or conscripted, into some branch of the war effort, should have the opportunity to study not merely advanced school subjects, but their social and political and the political set-up of the world to-day. A people sure of what it is fighting for is far more formidable than one fighting for a vague idea. Are most of us students sure of this ourselves, let alone capable of teaching others of this subject? At this rate, in a couple of years at most, the University will be completely divorced from the community at large, and, moreover, its students will be confining their activities to attending lectures.

Next year we should put our house in order, if we are to survive as a University and do our part in the war effort by being of use to the country, not only by direct help from the scientists, but in all educational schemes. Gaudeamus Igitur!

AMERICAN STUDENTS AND THE WAR

"The attitude of American students can be well seen in their relation to the youth congress, and other general social work. Thus, Bob Gollan, in an article written for "The Hull-School News," a socialist newspaper in History and was Australian Representative to the World Youth Conference in Mexico, 1941.

"They believe that men and women in Universities are not distinct from the rest of humanity. They are made up of essentially similar problems, and so they have worked together towards a common solution of them."

The American Government has for long recognised the essential element of democracy is the training of the young men and women of the nation to become politically active citizens.

This principle was given practical form when the American Youth Congress was formed largely on the initiative of Mrs. Roosevelt. By 1940 it had a membership of some 5,000,000 people.

University students and organisations have an important part in its development.

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Plunket Medal

Once again there has come a time of great orators, men who by their words hold nations together, and whose speeches are pieces of history. The striking phrases and comparisons they create become household quotations. With their voice they strengthen their countries, and strengthen their people slogging along the weary road of war. But their speeches are not for, the thousands who could gather in the Athenian-market place, or in the forum at Rome, or in a large modern auditorium. They are for the thousands upon thousands, the millions, who are able to listen to a wireless.

In these awful days, when the basis of our civilization is being exploded steel and battle-raked flesh, the existence of nations depends on that unity and steadfastness of purpose, through whatever hardships toils and trials, Stakhanovity has been achieved in at least five nations to-day by a leader's oratory. Churchill Hitler and Mussolini all grip their peoples' allegiance in due by a microphone, and with them a new type of oratory has been born.

Address places great value on every word spoken. Empty phrases can no longer be sold by showmanship and mass hypnosis. The richness which welled in our mother tongue in Elizabethan days may soon return in a modern form, for a radio speaker must convey his meaning by dignity of expression and aptness of imagery. In this Churchill stands supreme. There is a tremendous audience to which a radio speaker must appeal directly. The common people must be able to understand him, while at the same time he must plant some of his own aridness in them. Roosevelt has done this in his fireside chat. The people are not merely impressed, but by a forthright, meaningful phrases, filled with the sentiments they have shown. The man's own sentiments, and anycondensation or in- sination, must be made so clear that nothing but dislike for a speaker.

All this arises out of the point Shakespeare delivered in the Plunket Medal judgment, that in conducting the competition in future the Debating Society should pay some attention to the change the microphone has wrought in public speaking. He announced Miss Cecil Crompton as the winner.

PLACING

Cecil, speaking on Pasionaria, had a large audience of the audience of her genuine admiration for her subject, and helped them a great deal. The basis of Pasionaria's career was straight-forward, and brave, which had filled her life, expressed boldly but without embroidery, is enough to grip any audience. Cecil did not attempt to astound the audience by her knowledge. The facts of the Spanish War are grim enough. They only need clear statement. Cecil got them from this. Pasionaria's inner feelings, plain from the very first, were not explained. Cecil did not attempt to do. And so, by trying to improve on facts, not without a few unconvincing pictures. It brought her victory.

**DON QUIXOTE AND THE WINDMILLS or "SPIKE"

This Spanish knight won an immortal legacy by tilting at windmills, imagining they were the foes of whom he had to battle. But one can't help feeling there is a good deal of unmentionable about some of the windmills. ""SPIKE"" seems to me a duck in the ghost of a windmill. What astonishes and hurts is the total absence of literary competence—after we exclude such practised hands as C.A.F. and J.C.B. I know the editorials informs us with apparently flawless sang-froid that ""love and laughter"" are the basis of everything that is a not the case. The writer's feeling of sincerity, and the feeling that there might be something in it.

No other speakers were placed, so they will be mentioned in the order they spoke.

NEW GROUND

Gwen Bell was not flaunt in her speech on Margaret Sanger. She broke new ground with her subject, and because of this was interesting, but she had too obviously tried to learn her speech, and had missed. If she had used notes she might have got on more smoothly.

Paddy Finucane seemed to have got a bit mixed up with Brick Bradford and Jimmy Allen in Bruce Smith's version of him, but at least he was disposed of in one instalment. The box office was standing on his head contained some pretty frothy soap. Bill Newall, appearing in Air Force uniform, had not had much time to prepare his speech, but made a brave showing. General Mikhailovitch, too, is an interesting speech character to retain this audience interest without help from his oral biographer. There were many well-placed laughs in Jim Winchester's speech on Tom Paine, and it was an enjoyable talk. But it was not quite oratory. He depicted Paine's career clearly and fully, and had the audience with him all the way, but perhaps it is because we know Jim so well that it seemed to us more like a contribution to a discussion than a speech.

Even other speakers were placed, more from Log Cabin to White House. Abraham Lincoln was a noble and reticent speaker, and in the future the same. It was a well-adept speech which had to retire after the first speech. The context was held in the Gym, as the Concert Chamber was unavailable because of earthquake damage.

**On "SPIKE"

"SPIKE" contains this year some four pages in all of verses and less than a dozen prose articles. Discussions of "love, and indeed of all emotional disturbances," the editor warns for "SPIKE" are now inventing new ways of war, and that paper is personal. This is a result of disunion and didacticism. "SPIKE" keeps its head above water by the best thing to recommend it to your consideration, that, and some of the photographs.

**D.M.S.

No Mans Land

(To the Editor)

Sir—I protest. If one is going to play the knight-errant why not do it properly? "Cheeked Up," who rushes so enthusiastically to the defence of the history department, who questions so searchingly the qualifications of its attacker, and who vigorously denounces the habit of "mud slinging," why should this same block be backed by radio blandly remark that political science as at present taught is "divorced from reality and sometimes from accuracy."

The statement is ridiculous and very unconvincing.

There are many departments in this college, and particularly in the arts, which tend to be divorced from reality. To study Latin, Greek, Pure Maths, even at times History itself, is to study subjects far removed from our present lives. But to study the political set-up of our own and other countries, to understand the workings of fascism, communism and democracy, to attempt to discover the causes of the war, to consider the long period of times, the calamities which form the proof of our wrongs, how can we study a subject divorced from reality?

As to the second accusation, that of immorality, it is obvious to refer to one section of the department only, as both lecturer and student in the C.P.I. section are aware that they must constantly search for reliable statements through the masses of propaganda and have consequently learned to mistrust statements not backed by reliable evidence. If "Cheeked Up" wishes to attack the Political Science department let him at least remember that this department is divided into two sections and refrain from incriminating the innocent with the guilty.—Yours etc.,

HELEN O. APPELEY.
Apology

Pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake, bip hurrash! The girls carry cakes on the cable.

Shamed by "B. Live's" letter, I unconditionnally apologize for all the unkind remarks that have been said in my absence. Our girls are undoubtedly seeing that the cultural standard of U.C.G. is not allowed to slip during the war. How silly I was to ever wonder what we were keeping the Phoenix Club alive while the men are away. They are doing it on the counter in the cafe under. And what foolishness on my part to doubt the wisdom of the college administration. Why, even as I doubted, they were preparing supper for a Dramatic Club evening. What did it matter if there weren't enough active members of the Dramatic Club to make the evening worthwhile? And they actually rally round the woman clubs to help them out. At least one whole column of the 16 in the last issue was written by women. Oh! Fancy one suggesting that the girls weren't doing their bit. How could a girl possibly think such a thing? But I should allude to this later. When she has to go to gymnasium classes and carry glass of wine up to the second floor?

Hampered as I am, through an invisible hand, I can't quite understand how our home front from Amazons are going to graze that intangible but very real thing called a University spirit by applying themselves with soddenness to their tea-pouring and dish washing. For the way in which they do carry it on. Upstairs, always upstairs, the gurriers have done, they earn my sincere gratitude. But with my stodgy ideas on University values I dofffully wish they could think of minds as well as stomachs. Perhaps they think that students' stomachs are cleaner than their minds. Or perhaps "B. Live" is basing her argument on Bacon, who said, "Entitle maketh a full man." Or did he?

Anyway, Beans' philosophy is the only clear cultural dark because no one is taking up the torch her service-women have left. The girls are in the majority now. It is for them to lift the torch high, instead of letting the pure hands which leaves them.

Regarding the subject of cakes, I note "B. Live's" if ever I chance to meet a cracking butterly, I shall be most vitally disillusioned. Buns, I can stand. purple croissants reciting the Gettysburg address, snake bowls along like horns, three-legged elephants with a face like Joe Stalin's, and big green bugs with bottle tops for eyes. But cracking butterflies. The pledge, quick, pass me the pledge.

AND OBJECTION

Dear Sir,

Just because "Passer-by" has been among the dash-washers of the College, I shall not make the mistake of assuming that he does this by mind but essential task — rather let his apology be for not having a mind. I shall acknowledge his kind remarks about the monobloc Phoenix Club to which the monobloc. Wakefield and Schimwasser have been applying attesting souls throughout the land.

Incidentally, what about the Glee Club — a lot of inspiration for that. And how can one help speaking of the work and — who are the active members of club committee? Does the writer know that the Secretary to the Executive is a woman and the Secretary to the N.Z.U.S.A.I. Also, women occupied the first two places in the Plunket Medal, and a woman edited "Salient" last year, and is doing successfully this year. I would recommend that "Passer-by" get his facts right before bursting parlids and information into print. Also, moderation is enjoined.

LADY GODIVA

HOCKEY CLUB

In the last match of the season against Trentham Arthy, the Senior team, after a substantial victory, made an entry of winning by 5 goals to 2. Several Third Grade players were included in the Senior team, and all of them played a very good game although they showed a tendency to slacken up badly towards the end of the second spell. Stacey, playing at centre forward in place of Ivor Ting, and Peter Farmer at goal, both played a good game.

The prospects for next season are very hopeful and from the play in the last match the Third Grade team should be able to supply some useful material for the Senior team.

TENNIS CLUB

With balls almost unobtainable, tennis players are faced with rather lean prospects for the next few seasons. Fortunately, the College Club was able to purchase a number of balls and last season, with careful choosing of the slopes of Salamanca Road by members, the Club should be able to function at a tolerable time.

The Annual General Meeting of the Club was held on September 16th, when the following officers were elected — President, Mr. S. Eichlin- baum; Vice-President, Mr. K. J. McNaulty; Vice- Presidents, Colonel St. B. Beere, Mr. Justice Fair, Colonel St. J. Berke, Mr. Justice Fair, Professor F. F. Miles, Messrs. J. K. Elliott, H. N. Burns, C. F. Dixon, C. Evans-Scott, R. A. Wright, R. R. Franklin, M. Fraser, C. S. Plank, and E. G. Jones; Chairman, Mr. N. G. Ramsey; Hon. Secretary, Mr. M. O'Connor; Hon. Treasurer, Miss N. Turner. Committee: Messrs. R. F. Flinner, A. Reed and M. E. Bell-Wilson, Messrs. R. Moss, J. K. Elliott, H. N. Burns, C. F. Dixon, and R. O'Connor and B. O'Beili.

The opening day was held on September 16th, when Wellington obligingly turned on one of its really fine days. Some fifty members attended, including the Patron, the President, and two Vice-Presidents, Mr. G. F. Dixon and Colonel St. J. Beere.

An interesting and keenly-contested Yankie Turnament was won by Miss Helen Hampton and Mr. Peter Mc- Naughton. A closely-contested final with Miss Mary Bell-Wilson and Mr. Jack Wollon.

CRICKET

The Annual General Meeting of the Cricket Club was held on Thurs- day evening. The outgoing committee reported an excellent season, both for activities and for finance. The following officers were elected — Captain, J. A. Capt; Member of Congress, R. W. Hurst, Secretary, J. Oakley; Treasurer, J. S. Hore. Committee: Messrs. Green, O'Brien, and Dilson. A successful season is expected, and the members are urged to get in touch with Mr. J. Oakley, Weir House.

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HEDONISM

It was a nice dance, and there were nice people there, and the tea was nice, and everyone was happy, which is a good thing, and so are the dances. Rarely outside the activities of the young men's bible club can there ever have been such unaffected social functions as V.U.C.'s Saturday afternoon teas dances, and one is forced by this popularity to the conclusion that people don't come to them only because they have nowhere better to go. Before coming dance and the picture. Not a girl put a good deal of work into making the dances such a success, making it possible for everyone present to get a stomachful of quite pleasant food, and no romantic considerations of the joy of the day or the gratification of mingling seats can override the containment engendered by a full stomach. Next moment detracting from the romantic delights, mind you.