Ruapehu Eruption Flings
VUC Trampers into Notoriety

Many people were startled last week by reports in the daily papers of the explosive eruption of Mt. Ruapehu which caused injuries to two well-known VUC trampers, Robin Oliver and Jim Witten-Hannah. It is unfortunate that these reports were rather misleading, as they caused a good deal of alarm to many friends of the injured men and made their conduct seem extremely irresponsible. While not condoning the action of these two men in exposing search parties to dangerous conditions and in causing them a great deal of inconvenience, we feel that it is unfair to condemn them as foolhardy adventurers.

A party of ten trampers, all part-timers whose degree courses are far enough advanced to make it unnecessary for them to devote study week to the purpose for which it was provided, planned to take advantage of the good snow conditions on Ruapehu after the recent snowfalls by spending some time skiing near the Blyth Hut, nine miles from Ohakune.

On arriving at this Outpost of Empire they learnt that the mountain had been sending out occasional rumbles and a large cloud of steam for the past week but there was no reason to suspect any violent activity. All the party arrived at the Blyth hut at various times on Saturday, June 30: two of them who had set out immediately after the train had deposited them at Ohakune at 3 a.m. put on a Baben in the Wood act, stealing out on the tracks near the 4-mile peg, whether because of fatigue or subterranean rumbles we are not aware of.

No Skiing

It was found that the steam cloud had been blowing in the direction of the hut most of the week and that it had deposited a layer of fine pumice dust over all the skifields making skiing quite impossible. An attempt to run down a 46 degree slope showed that pumice on snow can be a great help—it makes it possible to walk up without removing your ski, but it’s not much help when you can’t run down. However, a skier who complains that 95 per cent of one’s time is occupied in climbing up might be interested.

“When Climbing You

Sunday provided fine sunny weather and the mountain had been very quiet, so the party set out to climb it, accompanied by Mr. Ken Huxley from Ohakune, who had made the trip up the previous evening with the most rations which had been left off the pack-horses. The going was extremely good and the high peak of Ruapehu was reached about 1.30 p.m. The crater was active but by no means alarming.

The climbers found that the lake had disappeared entirely, although clouds of steam coming from the circumference might indicate that there was still some water at the bottom of the ice cliffs which surround the inner crater. In place of the lake was a mass of rock, sand and mud, in the middle of which was a fairly small opening which was emitting dense clouds of smoke and steam, and, occasionally, small rocks shot up but fell back in much the same place. The noise which accompanied this activity was about as loud as, and no more alarming than, an average thunderstorm.

Meanwhile some of the party developed cold feet, in the physical sense, of course, but Oliver and Witten-Hannah, who had brought their tent and cooking equipment, kept the rest of the party warm, and both soon looking for slopes to slide down. The only casualty was the back of one pair of thin in a half-baked condition, a huge meal of braised steak and plum pudding was soon demolished. Two of the party left to return to Wellington while the rest crawled into bed.

Action

About 7 p.m. a slight earthquake was felt and a rumble was heard from the mountain. This occurred again about 10 p.m. and a black cloud appeared over the crater. Up there, however, things were not going so well. Oliver and Witten-Hannah were just breathing some tea when the first explosion occurred. Both received fairly severe burns and injuries from the falling rock and Oliver was unable to move. However Witten-Hannah was able to drag himself some distance from the scene and then put him inside the two sleeping bags. (Anyone who knows what a man can withstand when a task like this is). Witten-Hannah reached Blyth hut about 2 a.m. a good deal the worse for wear. Mr. Harry Ford and Maurice Boyd immediately set off for the crater and Mrs. Lang and Mrs. Boyd for Ohakune for help, while Miss Beryl Adams and Miss Vera Schiwein applied first aid. Lang and Boyd were forced to return without reaching the crater, however, after an explosion lasting ten minutes. Mrs. Lang and Mrs. Boyd reached Ohakune about 6 a.m. and a search party was sent out. Mr. Huxley reached Blyth hut soon after dawn and set off with Lang and Boyd for the crater, followed shortly by the Ohakune search party.

However, it was a search party from the Chatham High School, including Mr. Lachlan and Mr. A. Mann, which rescued Oliver. When they reached the crater, there were no signs of him but they found he was already on his feet, having recovered his boots and packed both men’s gear into his pack and was making his way out of the crater, although still in a half-baked condition. (How did they know?) He had been out in the snow for 26 hours but had spent some of the time taking photographs. He was able to walk down to Salt but 4 miles from the Chateau) from whence he was taken to Rauhuti hospital. He is reported to be making excellent progress and was expected back in Wellington last Monday.

Witten-Hannah was brought to Ohakune by pack-horse as a bad gash in his leg made him unable to walk. He is now recuperating at his home in New Plymouth.

The rest of the party returned to Ohakune the next day, where they bought a copy of a Wagamani paper and found that they were all dead. Witten-Hannah and Oliver being the only survivors.

All students will wish to join with us extending a sincere vote of thanks to all those who took part in the search parties.

Concerning the statement published in the daily papers which criticized the action of the two trampers, we are not prepared to pass judgment. We think it likely that the ability to sleep in the crater was undertaken in a spirit of scientific investigation, but this implies, perhaps, that scientists who pursue such courses of action should arrange for their own search parties beforehand.

Dear Sir—It is with mingled feelings that we hear of the attempted seismic observations of two of our tramping stalwarts, Messrs. Oliver and Witten-Hannah, and we must commend the efforts of Mr. Witten-Hannah to rescue his unconscious comrade. While we are told that their action in camping at the edge of the lake was merely the foolhardiness of thwarted scientists with their noses to the trail, a suspicious mind inclines us to believe that a hitherto unsuspected sadism, coupled with a too inquisitive investigation of the more intimate secrets of Lady Ruapehu, was probably the raison d’etre of that tiny mouth's organ. May we recommend our ambitious pair: let them either confine their attentions to Ngarukhoun, a male of the species, or direct their researches among the females of the species homo sap...

Personally, we should like to see formed a Society for the Prevention of Wanton Excitement of Volcanoes.

—PRO BONO VOLCANICO

Milk and Sugar?

A Great Leader...

The death of John Curtin removes from the Labour movement one of its foremost leaders. He became Prime Minister of Australia shortly before Japan’s entry into the war, and it fell to his lot the task of personally directing the defence of his country from the then imminent threat of Fascist invasion. In order to accomplish this, he spared no one, subordinating party ties to national expediency. The job was done, but only at the expense of his own health, and it is no exaggeration to say that he fought and died for freedom—a soldier without a uniform.
THE LABOUR DAILY

Freedom, so we are taught, dominates our New Zealand press. This freedom is an elusive condition to define. It is generally accepted that no human being born into a community, whatever its stage of social progress, may do exactly as he wishes, but must fulfil certain obligations to his own society. In a democracy, providing that he is not transgressing the laws, he is then allegedly free to follow his own way of life: reading, thinking and talking along the lines he desires.

This, however, is largely theoretical. In New Zealand, as in any other capitalist democracy, there is insufficient security for a man to earn his living in exactly the way he wishes, unless he is fortunate. But he can still, insofar as he is not dominated by environment and convention, say and think what he likes, what he says and thinks being to a large extent governed by what he reads. Probably the main reading of the New Zealand public is provided by daily newspapers, of which over a million are sold in this country every day.

On the surface this is admirable, but it is a fact that in this country there is only one type of paper which predominates; one type which hammers at the public day in, day out, year after year, to the detriment of justice to all sides. This is the type which is controlled by the business interests of the directors, who, quite naturally, are unwilling to present the public with ideas which, in the long run, might be harmful to their profits.

Therefore our "freedom of the press" is a myth. Employees of our newspapers are often not permitted to always write exact versions of events. They suppress some aspects, unduly emphasise others, thus giving, not untruths, but, just as effective, merely false implications.

This obviously is a very poor position. No matter what his political beliefs, every intelligent person must agree that it is obligatory in a democracy to have both sides presented. University students being perhaps among the better read and more intelligent section of the community, or at any rate among the more patronising, are mostly capable of saying that no reliance can be placed on what appears in our daily papers. There are very few who would not agree that there is an urgent and immediate need for a daily which provides space for a more progressive outlook towards today’s problems than that hampered at every turn by the policy of moneyminded directors, whose cry of "protect private enterprise" leaves very little opportunity for members of the public to understand enterprise which is undertaken for the general good.

Such a newspaper is being established in Wellington under the auspices of the Labour movement before the end of this year. Not only will this new morning daily provide an admirable stimulus to the two other local papers, but it will also give the chance of being heard to what has previously been the unmentionable section of the public —those who returned the Labour Government to power despite the opposing press.

It would display unprecedented progressiveness on the part of VUC students as a whole, were they to support this paper; not necessarily because they believe in the policy of the Labour Party, but because they do believe in the right of every section of the community to have its say in our "free" press regardless of caste, colour or creed. Only when this has been achieved can we point to New Zealand as an exponent of true democracy.
"That any person or persons who arrived in New Zealand from Germany, Austria, Hungary or Italy, since 1939, must return to their own countries within two years after the cessation of hostilities with Germany, and that they be allowed to take out of New Zealand the same amount of money, property or both, that they declared to the Customs Department when entering New Zealand, any further money or property that they may possess to be sold and the proceeds handed over to the New Zealand Government for distribution to the wives and dependents of those who fought in their respective countries while they enjoyed peace and plenty in New Zealand." —Part of resolution carried at the Dominion Conference of the R.S.A.

Let's put the Alien in his Place. Let's show him Who's the Master Race. Hitler, alas, is dead and gone; But (Heil) his Soul goes marching on. He wrecked their Homes, He bade them pack, He chased them here —Let's chase them back.

An Alien's Skill or Industry: May they prove our ruin! Don't talk to me! In each case he tries, each Lathe he turns, It's money that he earns, Exhausting by his useless Toil Our over-populated Soil, A Breath, a Breathe is so much less For Me and Mine, and his Success

Disgusting thought is barefaced Lord knows. New Zealand isn't left. Much Better for the maize Bread That keeps its feeding Millions Fed! The Anzac's plain, the Logic's clear: Reduce the Population here.

The More we send or drive away, The More there'll be for those who stay.

Contributions —

Indicate to memory, and she will lead the way

Post-generally present in this present place

To the intermingled dregs and sweets
Of our parallel past.

Point her to the present of other places
Link her to facts of a sound faced Words, gestures and time-enhanced impressions.

This shudders back, ever back, back
Each step the weaker than its betteor.

Each recollection blurred to a mental image

Of a non-existent state in space.

Back is nothing thus;
Now is only back;
Forward is a poignent blank.
Always forward to the present never reached.

There is no escape by going back,
And we pause on the brink of the forward nothing.

Frightened

Then discard memory—horror, nothing.

—SEARS

Ripples of sea more gently up blank

Shifting a grain of sand
And slip back again.
This strawberry, another ripple cools.
And the ripples were, and I was one of each.
More recent ripple.

But now no longer shall I move
Near stagnant shore and smooth

These stones,
Now to float or dive in clear deep sea
Away from all but water.

—MEZZ

Let's start at once, at the Expense of the seats of those who have the least Defence of themselves. —(Menz Kampf) tells how; and after Them.

It will be easier to condemn some other section of this Reich Without Race or Face we do not like. And have them suddenly evicted, Until New Zealand is restricted To those self-guaranteed 1% To govern and inhabit it.

Though this to End, so much desired Expulsions may not be required; And we may build the Perfect Nation By voluntary evacuation.

Dear Spokesmen of the R.A.A.,
Will you not Members feel Diastole To hear you ignorantly shame The gents they fought for, in their Name?
Were Those who died no more concerned Than You, who speak for Those returned,
With righting Others' Wrongs? Did They, The returned, not choose that Way Not for their Own, with Hearts more great
That hence to Aliens in their State.
(Whim Wham, in "The Press," Christchurch. With the author's permission.)

NO MAN'S LAND

Dear Sir,—Many thanks for your complimentary copy of "Salient." I refer to the Building Fund and 5/- to the Old Contemporaries to make it as many pounds in each case. Plans sound ambitious, but will this cause such as this pays to be ambitious, otherwise future generations will read the East in their own very much hope that students will respond to the call and back up the equal. 100 per cent.

My best wishes to "Salient![" for 1945.—Yours faithfully,

MALCOLM T. GRAY.

Dear Sir,—If Blues are going to be issued to members of the Miniature Rifle Club, could my little suggestion be taken up at the next Exec. meeting? Would it be possible for me to start a Marbles Club? I am very keen on marbles really, and I thought that if we had a VUC Marbles Club, me and my mates would be eligible for Blues too.

Once we had club started, perhaps we could affiliate with the Hogscotch Club and the Ping Pong Club, and then we could ALL get Blues.

Yours faithfully,—SWEENEY TODD

(We feel that your suggestions are worth looking into. If you let us know what kindergarten you are at, and whether your mother does not object, we will try to cook it up especially for you.)

FILM and STAGE

Two amateur groups have presented classical plays in the last few weeks, and the feeling is that they will continue to do so. The Thespian's MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR and Repertory's IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST were lavishly presented, and on the whole well acted, but at the end of the day it seemed that plays are best left to the hands of the two masters of English comedy. But the fact is that both plays are badly dated, and their situations are completely out of step with EARNEST.

The play has for a long time been a favourite of mine, and I feel it is the play nearest to my heart. The thing to say about this is that it was under-rehearsed. Again the acting, in the major parts, at least, was good. One could perhaps refer some of the characters to the actors of the Young Front. Progress in the play. It was interesting to note a large number of people from the college in the Thespian play. One especially came direct from Extrav.

FILM

For the benefit of those who are retching slightly less than four fingers, the stars for THIS HAPPY BREED, let me say at once that they are not presented for any particular event in the story, but for the almost peerless performance and the superb di-rectional touches of the film. If however, you can get over your feeling that that super-optimist Coward can't really mean what he says, you've got to pay a tribute to his peculiar insight into the tragedy of human life. He is able to present the just-alightly-mere-life portrayal of character that is the essence of good film and stage writing. But I think that Coward's greatest achievement is his resolute refusal to compromise with poor acting. In his three films so far there has not been one incompetent or slipshod or careless actor. I am quite sure that no other director can truthfully say as much. Coward in-sists that his minor characters are as important as the leads. One of the very best characters in THIS HAPPY BREED is the slavey in the Gibbons household: it is a tiny cameo, but quite perfect. The people in this film are all good.

The direction is equalluy good. Quite the most subtle piece of directing I've ever seen. It deals with the abdication of Edward VIII. It is handled in full, not in bits, without actually referring to the event.

The hallmark is the treatment of the Sordid Virtues of the English Home as against the wild and frothy carryings-on of the Young Front. The sentiments are dealt with in the most effective way possible—by making the objects of derision. And after all his youthful foolishness, the Rati-cal realises that maybe the Good Old British Way is the Best. The Good Old British Way is the way that led to the criminal policies of Baldwin and Chamberlain. It is interesting to see these gentry decried in the film, but we may well remember that the people who now condemn them were their supporters ten years ago. The treatment of the radical is highly dangerous to liberal thinking, and is well in line with the recent reference in the British elections to "wild-eyed" Right-wing.

It seems a great pity that has taken a total war to make British Actors and actresses do their part. It is true that the best films produced in the last six years have been British. THE HAPPY BREED is well up at the top of the list.
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FOR THE INFORMATION
OF THOSE WHO VOTED . . .

Your new Exec., representing about 350 of the possible 1,000 voters, held its first meeting about a week ago. These notes on its activities are intended for those 350. As for the remainder, who have no interest in their own affairs, they will have only themselves to blame if some drastic measure is taken, such as, as was suggested, raising their Students’ Association fee for the ensuing year to £1. . . .

Finance was the biggest problem. We appear to have adequate finance for the year, but appearances are deceiving. Coming activities, including Winter and Easter Tournament, and the costs of publication of “Spike” and “Rostrum” will sadly reduce our credit balance of about £60. Hence the reason for asking some of the more expensive clubs to make a levy amongst their members to meet their costs. If the past policy of the Association of charging all clubs from the Stud. Ass. fee is to continue, it rests with the clubs affected to support the inevitable increase in the fee which must be made to meet rising prices and the increased participation of students in their clubs.

The current outbreak of vandalism came as rather a plain-spoken fact. It may be your property but why the hell do you have to break it is the attitude of the Exec. Even though the congenial idiots who have managed to creep into Varsity in the last year or so may think so, it is not wise to pour liquids (unidentified) into the piano, jump in ballet boxes or pull the metal off letter racks.

Election of new members to the manifold committees which actually carry the work of the Exec., occupied time. The Building Committee required careful consideration in the light of an existing body of criticism. The Exec. wants to make sure that it gets the building that the students want—a building suitably modern in outlook. Hence Jack Barr has been elected as a person fully conversant with the aims of your Association. This committee has to carry out important work. Its activities are worth taking an interest in, if for no other reason than the fact that you are already paying and will be asked to pay more for the results of its cogitations.

The election of the Blues Committee gave rise to discussion of the basis upon which blues are granted. Your Exec. feels that there has been in the past to grant blues somewhat too easily and has directed its representatives to ensure that blues are not handed out with the usual packet of salts.

Majority opinion indicated that the Exec. wishes to return to the former policy of making “Spike” largely a record of College activities and to limit the amount of literary efforts. To some members this seemed a retrograde step, but the dead loss of over £100 last year is strong argument for at least some change of policy.

Exec., through its President, Dave Cohen, makes a strong appeal for student participation and interest in the management of its own affairs. If you have any views or difficulties you want to see something done, your Exec. is there to endeavour to put your ideas into effect.

NZUSA and Rehabs.

It is reported that a letter from NZUSA had been sent to the Minister of Defence asking for Improved Education and Welfare Services in the Mediterranean theatre, enclosing a copy of an article in “Spectator” by Jack Tizard on this subject.

The reply gave details of the numbers taking different courses and mentioned that the services had been considerably improved since Mr. Tizard had left the Division. It was suggested by the Minister that NZUSA get in touch with the Director of Army Education and Welfare Services with a view to providing students about to be called up with details of the educational facilities available in the Army.

Adviser from the Minister of Rehabilitation stated that NZUSA request Student Association fees to be paid by students would be placed before the next meeting of the Rehabilitation Board.

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For those who
 Didn't Vote . . .

Despite publicity, students showed little interest in the elections. This is, I know, not unusual but in my opinion it is due to the fact that this has happened before. Things would have been different. Those statistically inclined may be interested to know that of 800 students on the roll exercised their option. These 239 men and 102 women were most con gratulated, but the remaining 560 students on the roll who did not vote, all 840 in all, have shared the blame for VUC being designated just a mere night school—evidently that is their opinion of it. Of those who did not vote, in many cases they didn't even know of the candidates. Just whether this is to be taken as a reflection on the candidates or on the voter is not apparent.

WHITCOMBES
for
TEXT BOOKS

H. L. FEIRSE,
Returning Officer.

Parlon Francois

A record crowd attended the Wellington French Club Rooms on Thursday night, June 29, when VUC students presented two one act plays. Le Chapeur was well received, though it was rather drawn out towards the end. A. L. Whitley, the principal character, was excellent; he managed quite cleverly to change his voice as well as his appearance. Keith Sinclair's performance was also very creditable—his cane and boater causing much amusement. His mettalic accent suited the part very well.

The other play, Villa Meubler, was considerably shorter, but was none the less entertaining. Erik de Mauny was very much at ease on the stage in the role of his husband, who was beyond reproach. Jacky Patrick appeared quite at home as the shrewd wife, and her husband (Dr. Danilov) was in his element. In both plays the only criticism that can be made is that there is 'plus sentiment.' Apart from the plays themselves I had hoped that E. H. Jones sang two French songs. Not being a musician, I would say that his singing was not outstanding, not being a singer. I will leave Jones to criticise himself—"belly noises."
OVERCROWDING MAY MEAN LIMITED ENTRIES, SAYS COUNCIL

Money for medical schemes, lectureships in Physical Chemistry and Music, request to the Government for a grant for a school of social studies, new College buildings, and many other items of interest to students arising from the Annual Report of the Professorial Board at the May meeting of the College Council. At present there does not seem to be any demand from the University aiding the Student Medical Scheme with finance. The opinion of the Registrar is that the College Council has no power under its Act to provide money for such a scheme.

Two new lectureships are to be instituted, one in Chemistry and another in Music. The absence of a department of Music in the College has long been felt by those who cannot afford to go to Otago to study. This new lectureship should considerably ease the situation.

The College Council has resolved to ask the Government for an annual grant of $1,500 for a special school of social studies at VUC. This application parallels the Auckland one for a chair of Anthropology and is a very encouraging sign for social studies in New Zealand.

Preliminary plans for a new building to house Chemistry, Geology and Geography have been prepared, but so far with little action having been approved by the Government. The position is that if the College were provided with a building for Chemistry, a large and new Library building, both could be fully and effectively used. As it is, we have classes of 200 and 250 in the same room. There is only one room in the College that can accommodate such a class. There are 200 places in Chemistry I as the same in both of these subjects. Laboratory space is needed. The main space for Chemistry, which now has over 300 students, is in the same as at the College opened with not more than 45 students taking the subjects. All the lectures for Stage I in Chemistry have been repeated, an undue burden on our small teaching staff.

The Late Christopher Bean

The Drama Club recently presented a reading of RENE FAUCHOIS'S amusing and refreshing play THE LATE CHRISTOPHER BEAN. The audience was small; the reading good.

The postponement of the play for one week resulted in a noticeable loss of keenness on the part of the cast, particularly in the first act, but this was to a large extent alleviated in the succeeding acts and the play finished with appreciable gusto. The cast selected showed potentialities, and in some cases very definite talent, particularly Kerry Jordan as Dr. Haynes, and Edith Hannah as the spoilt daughter, Ada. As usual in a reading there were several late entrances and one or two ineptish attempts to cover up, but notwithstanding the performance was pretty slick, and the requisite atmosphere fairly well maintained. The producer was Pat Girling-Butcher.

In view of this crisis the Board had under consideration:
(1) A scheme for the immediate increase in staff.
(2) A plan for limiting the entries to the College in 1946 if this is accepted upon us by lack of staff and accommodation.

Encouraging reports were made of the summer school at Otago, and the increasing scope of adult education. The summer school at Otago is being very successfully run. This is a fine gathering and it is recommended to students who have a spare week at Christmas.

One of the less encouraging reports was that notifying the re-election to the Council of so many VUC ex-graduates. The Council is the governing body of this College, and all ex-graduates are entitled to vote for the candidates nominated. If the student body wishes to have a word in the running of the College it should instruct its executive to see that suitable candidates are nominated and that 195 ex-graduates at least are canvassed for votes. At present there is one student voice on the executive; Mr. F. C. McDowall.

It is reported that some microscopes are to be purchased if the Principal and Registrar are satisfied that funds are available.

Professor Lipson, Dr. Hare, Mr. Bailey, and Mr. Shearer are going to deliver this term at VUC a series of lectures under the title of "Post-War Reconstruction in New Zealand."

The library now has a total of 55,391, books, of which last year 18,512 were borrowed by 1,922 undergraduates.

It is pleasing to note, in conclusion, that 12 of our professors and lecturers published 26 books and articles during 1944.

—question and answer

Dear Sir,—As a constant reader of your papers for some four years and an interested member of various college clubs, I saw with some disappointment that the drama club—despite the set-up in E.P.S., Otago College and overtime, and the number of students returning from overseas was, at the last casting meeting, very poorly off for male parts. It seemed apparent then that male dramatic talent in this college is going elsewhere, and is not putting its weight behind the college club.

This impression was underlined by a recent visit to the Thespians production downtown. I recognised four VUC men in the cast, two of them in fairly prominent parts and therefore presumably a loss to our club. It is also common knowledge that a number of our students belong to town drama groups and while I would hesitate to condemn them for this, as doubtless the contacts and experience are of value to them, yet would question the propriety of them playing in a major production in town when our own club is badly affected by their lack of support.

—CONSTANT READER

(Decision was made on this matter at the last A.G.M. If transgressions still occur, we can only express our regret.—Ed.)
DEBATERS PONDER: "PRIVATE CONTROL OR STATE ENTERPRISE?"

That State control of coal mines would ensure an adequate supply of coal was a subject which brought forth a flood of statistics. Mr. T., from New South Wales, quoted figures from year books of the Resources Department. The number of ways in which the interchange data could be interpreted was amazing.

Mr. Or. opened the debate by enumerating the advantages of State control—more capital and co-ordination, less friction between employer and employee. The superior efficiency was indicated by the rise in productive mines, and the increased income of the miners. (Judge's comment: He was unrestrained for a self-declared socialist.)

Mr. O'Connor presented a shattering list of facts and figures to refute these arguments. The increase in the number of miners and the adoption of the open system accounted for the rise in total production, while individual efficiency had dropped. (Judge's comment: His arguments, but he should not have spoken as if to an audience of 1,000.)

Miss Marshall and Mr. Taylor defended the open system. The private ownership of coal mines was financially insecure, and the percentage of continuing. State ownership would ensure improved working conditions and thus increased efficiency.

Miss Kelly detailed examples of inefficiency since the mines had been subject to State control. Reports from various mines showed that "Wasson's girls have for figure." Morality was a subject debated not the one advertised. State control would prevent the sale of coal to the public.

Mr. Watts: A young country must create confidence in its mines.

Mr. O'Brien: State control won't solve the problems of Newcastle coal. Subsidies are paid to the government for the export of coal, only with Government support.

Mr. O'Connor: The miner will tell you that he is working at the pithead.

Mr. Or. And the miner cannot concentrate while he is working at the pithead.

The Judge, Mr. Taylor, advised the speakers to consider the interest of their audience. The speakers were placed as follows: O'Connor, Jack, Marshall, Or. O'Brien.

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Publicity ex Cathedra
Again YUc students have aroused the public with a local slogan ("Dominion," 22/6/45). The present charge is that CAPPICADE 1945 was laid as a suggestion.

We apologize, Reverend Sir, for our oversight. We, of course, could see what we meant, and the students in their unlettered ignorance could also. But, apparently, the man in the street could not. Wherefore we thank you for interpreting CAPPICADE to the masses, an interpretation surely classical, apt and appreciated.

Since your generous, free gratuities public could be assisted rather than hindered by immigration. An expanding economy demands an expanding population. Careful planning will be necessary, the immigrants must be absorbed, and immigration we must have if we are to avoid the degeneration and decay that will accompany a declining population. It is for the younger generation to decide now; will we have the courage to face the enormous social burden of a declining population? The future of young workers and labor will it demand the assistance of young workers, brought from Britain and Europe at an early age. There is evidence that many are anxious to come.

Prospects
The approaching reality of these and other factors is likely to increase the demand for workers. The contributions of the young will be essential. We must plan ahead, but let us at least tell them fully of what New Zealand has to offer, and assure them that it exists. If we do not do so, they will inevitably go elsewhere, and when we awaken to our desperate need, our chance will be lost. —M.R.
What is this Association of Scientific Workers?

The Association of Scientific Workers was founded in 1942 to help and co-ordinate the various scientific bodies throughout the Dominion and indeed the whole world. We feel, therefore, that this is what is sometimes taken from "The New Zealand Science Review," will be of interest to all students who are following the scientific development of the country.

Separated from scientists in other parts of the world by natural and artificial barriers which have been reinforced and augmented in the war years, it is in many ways difficult for the scientific worker in this country to keep in touch with the development of things scientific in the world at large. The standard journals, in spite of still erratic mail, inform us of the progress in the various fields of science; but few New Zealanders subscribe or can subscribe to journals other than those of special scientific purpose, and, as a result, the average worker has largely lost the intimate understanding of developments in the broader aspects of science.

As an example, the formation of the New Zealand Association of Scientific Workers appeared to some simply as a development from the enthusiasm of a small group with purely local interests and problems rather than as part of a movement which has commenced spontaneously in the various countries of the free world. The need for an Association of Scientific Workers in this country is not unique nor founded in local minor problems. The need here arises from conditions which led to the formation of Associations of Scientists in Britain in the closing period of the last war and in Australia, the United States and Canada in recent times. It would be the sincerest error to believe or assume that the factors which have led to the formation and growth of Associations elsewhere are negligible or absent in this country, and failure to consider that the formation of an Association in New Zealand has its roots in purely personal interests. The New Zealand Association of Scientific Workers is a natural step in the evolution of our country. It is a response from New Zealand scientists to conditions and underlying forces which, from the evidence of the formation of the Associations with parallel aims and objects, are of general distribution and the concern of thinking scientists throughout the free world.

The New Zealand Association has contended since its formation with difficult and dangerous times. Progress has been slow but steady, with always a gradual strengthening of support as scientific appreciation of the nature of the Association and turned to this organization as a means to the expression of the scientists' intention to take an active part in the current affairs at general meetings of the Association, and from these it has been made clear that the scientist does not look to such a body as the primary aim of the Association. Here in an example, along with the formation of the Association, that the scientific worker in this country is in harmony, if not actually in contact, with scientific workers overseas.

There is absolutely no room for any interpretation that the Association is to be aloof from the mundane, but vital, affairs of salaries and conditions of employment for scientific workers. The expression of the scientists on this point is quite clear. Inadequate reward and unsuitable conditions are not to be permitted to bar the way or make difficult the progress of scientific development and the application of science in this country. No doubt can be cast on the fact that the scientist holds the opinion that this is a real part of the activities of the Association, a role within the formula of our constitution, a charge on the Council and recognised as such by the Council, and a task to be undertaken when and where necessary. Salaries and conditions of employment are a recognised part of the business of the Association, but the considered opinion of the scientist is that this business is to be handled by the Association and without loss of purpose, strength or identity through affiliation with non-scientific organisations whose range of aims and objects is far narrower than our own.
SPORT
HUSH!

Every year Varsity sports clubs gather together to elect strong silent men and women to positions on committees. Maybe they are not always strong, but they are silent. These furtive bandits round gathering information apparently for the purpose of concealing it from the inquisitive. Requests that their glorious achievements be paraded before a goggle-eyed public through the columns of Salient fill them with superstitious horror. Of course such notoriously vulgar people as the Travellers and Harriers, being either ignorant or contemptuous of this fine old tradition, consistently blossom into print to prate of their exploits. For this they suffer the penalty of increased numbers of the common herd being attracted to their ranks by their blatant vulgarity; deceived into thinking these to be the only live clubs in the College.

Mind you, we must not be unfair to these conspirators of silence. We must admit that they have never objected to Salient sending one of their large and brilliant sports staff to report their matches; as matter of fact, several of them have suggested that we try it. However, when the suggestion was put to the large and brilliant sports staff he regretfully declined owing to his advancing years and the fact that he wasn’t the Lord God from Whom nothing is hid. This mysterious remark, it appears, is somehow connected with there being altogether twenty sports teams at Varsity which have an indescribable habit of playing not only on different grounds but also of all doing so at the same hour.

Hauled in the direction we have to fall back on the old method of pleading with club secretaries to submit brief reports to Salient, only to keep fellow students informed of their doings. But also in order to save our large and brilliant sports staff perving himself ever fortnight concocting colourful lies such as even Hitler might have envied.

If, being a science student, you cannot write English, don’t let it worry you, for there is no one on Salient staff capable of recognising the fact.


SCOTTISH HARD PUT BY VUC HARRIERS IN DORNE CUP

On Saturday, June 7, the Harrier Club held its annual Sherwood Cup race at Linden at the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Newell and Mr. Sherwood. The unsanctioned affair was followed by the arrival of J. C. Hawke (scr.), 1st; T. J. Collier (scr.), 2nd; M. J. Poole (scr.) 3rd. The revised placings were—

D. McKenzie (3 min. 45 sec.), 1st; B. M. Swindell (2 min.), 2nd; J. C. Hawke (scr.) and J. Saxton (30 sec.), 3rd.

Hawke’s time over the 31 mile course was 21 min. 19 sec.

The turnout at this race was the best so far this season, being due either to the thought of a delightful race through swamps and gorse in the rain or to the afternoon tea which was to follow (for those who returned).

The club would like to express its great gratitude to the Railways Department for the great cooperation shown to the runners and also for its generous contribution to the social fund.

On Saturday, June 16, a run was held from Island Bay, which finished with a swim for the braver types and an excellent afternoon tea for all at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Shoreland. As has often happened, the slow pack had the longest run, but the fast pack, putting something better into their act, not only exerted themselves, remembering that “first come, first served.”

On June 23 a run was held from the residence of “Sherry” Sherwood at Paekakariki to which representatives of the Massey College Harriers were invited. The attendance proved to be the largest this year and there were over 45 runners.

The Dorne Cup

On Saturday, June 30, the Dorne Cup, inter-collegiate harrier race was held at Petone. Out of the ten clubs represented at this race the only serious rival to the Victoria pack was the Scottish club, which has gained the trophy for several years past. Although Scottish again came first, the VUC representatives gave them a good run for their money and came a close second, awakening them to the fact that if they trained to the same extent as Scottish they would have no difficulty in carrying off the prize. As it was, however, the winning club came nearer to being beaten than it has for some time past.

Although the five-mile course consisted mostly of road, there was also a portion of beach and track, which generally encouraged good running. Our first man, T. J. Collier, came eighth out of the 147 competing. Ian McMillan and Dick Daniell coming ninth and tenth respectively. The next in for Victoria Club were in the following order: J. Haidane, J. C. Hawke, J. Lang, J. Saxton, M.

O’Connor, P. Whittle, and A. Soagar. The total points secured by VUC were 247, Scottish obtaining 229.

Unfortunately two of our best runners, Peter de la Mare and Marc Poole, were unable to compete as Peter had left the district and Marc had injured his foot in a previous run. Nevertheless, the result of the race and the enthusiasm shown by the 27 members who ran indicate that the club is rapidly increasing its strength and may, next year, be able to carry off the prize.

Varsity Soccer—To better or to worse?

Recent games show that although the individual members of the A team have the necessary ability, there is a lack of co-ordinated effort by the team as a whole, resulting in defeats of teams whose players know where to place their passes. This was undoubtedly the case in the game against Petone, which was lost 2-1, after we led 1-0 for the better part of the game. In the first half, playing against a heavily shadowed defence, the defenders played their usual solid game, Moore saving some well-placed shots. Varsity forwards had their share of the ball but made little use of it. Centring was poor.

In the second half Walls scored from close in and from that point the team deteriorated, the defence having lost its punch, leaving men unmarked, although Smith played well throughout. Petone scored twice, Varsity being content to punt the ball aimlessly along the field.

Playing Army the previous week we lost 5-1—our worst defeat to date. Army’s snappy set of forwards caused a lot of trouble.

The B team has added two more to its succession of defeats, but the enthusiasm of the players compensates for lack of experience.

A screening of some short films illustrating the English technique was witnessed by members of the Varsity and T.C. teams last Tuesday, and Mr. House got some useful advice on field tactics.

Word has reached VUC that Otogo is keen to play if a tournament can be arranged, so with teams from all centres prepared to travel, there would appear to be no reason why soccer should not be included in Tournament.