IF YOU WANT PEACE PREPARE FOR PEACE!

It seems clear to me that it is utterly wrong to introduce peace-time conception in New Zealand today. Both political and moral considerations lead to this conclusion. It is because I feel that all of us who care for the welfare of humanity will want to weigh the question carefully from as many points of view as possible prior to voting in the referendum, that I ask you to consider my reasons.

I take my starting point from these considerations. Both sides of the issue are not being put fairly to the voters. "Salient," 8/49, has an excellent article on this.

We have not been given clear factual reasons why we should support conscription. We have been told that all we hold dear, and our very existence, are at stake. I shall suggest later why I think that is not so. We are told Christianity is at stake. I shall later give more reasons for my opinion that, if Christianity is menaced, it is not menaced by Russia alone. Meanwhile, I remark that it is said to be the conflict between Russia and America using as an instrument of aggression.

This conflict seems to be primarily between Russia and America, and is a conflict between two ways of group-seeking for material ends. Mr. Fraser has now said that it is Russia which threatens us.

We have no good reasons to believe that Russia is threatening us, and I shall deal with this more fully also.

To Fight But Not To Vote

The persons most directly affected by the result of the referendum, the 18-year-olds, have not been told why they must vote. Some people in New Zealand still hold the belief that the Government should govern in the interests of the people affected. Further, if those of 18 are not mature enough to vote, are they mature enough to decide whether they should take part in war or preparations for war?

The Prime Minister and others have tried to suggest that all opposition to conscription would come directly or indirectly from Communists. This is not so. There are pacifists, Christians who regard Christianity as an instrument of pacifism, and others who object to war, and also those who might approve conscription but regard it as unjustifiable, or unnecessary, or useless here in New Zealand at the present time.

Some say our thinking and our trifling actions can have no effect upon the big political events in the world. However, that may be in some cases, it is not the case here. Each of us has a vote, and each vote is a small, but a definite, influence. I shall seek to show how the decision reached by these small votes of ours has tremendous ramifications and raises very deep questions. Vast political movements may be beyond our control—but our vote here and now and forever is absolutely within our control. We must consider well how we exercise it.

The Case Against Conscription

The decision given by the referendum is a political matter in that the fact of conscription, and a vote to that end, is put into effect, and its immediate obvious effects, will be political. But when we consider all the other issues, we see that the matter is much more than a political one. The significance of the question to get the right of any persons organized into a State, and still less of any mythical "state," to "vote on" is fully recognized as its whole meaning of killing other human beings. These people are in essence the same sort of persons to whom the world is a State who are being absurdly not killed. It is always open to those who support such a State's policy to volunteer for active service.

Less Production

What does conscription mean? Periods of military training. This means, among other things, absence from employment, to the detriment of employer and employee, less production, the cost of housing and maintenance of the conscript, less individual responsibility for reasons including the one that under training conditions the recruit has to make no decisions other than to do as he is told. Physical fitness can be obtained without conscription.

Spurring Destruction

But conscription means much more than these things. Its effect on the occurrence of war has in the past produced the halt to the world in the last war is by force, to train him in methods of the most ravaging, and in this case the war, use of force and destruction. Its effect on people generally here in New Zealand is closely allied with this. People will see that with a step which has been followed by war when it has been done before. It will encourage in them the belief that disputes can be settled by violence, that another war is inevitable. It will assist in destroying any hopes of amicable settlement.

Our endorsing conscription would be regarded as a lead by other nations of British Commonwealth. If we are going to do that it will be more easily brought in elsewhere in the Empire. Nor does its effect as an example stop there; other non-conscription nations will be influenced.

Perhaps greatest of its effects will be on any possible antagonists or opponents. The natural reaction will be to make counter preparations to regard our act as one of hostility towards them. Their hostility will be regarded as real and not if not hypercritical, by those nations. The move towards antagonism will provoke antagonism.

These recent years have been witness to chaos and destruction unheard of in more remote history, producing feelings of utter devastation and despair in the minds of people all over the world. Conscription, a step to further violence and destruction, will damn any faint hopes that a few people may be beginning to feel. Hopes born of experience of friendship, and sometimes of long distance, hopes born of experience of the interests and respect for human beings in the work of UNRRA, CORSA, in the unselfishness of the people who are in this unselfish way at the apex of the State, in it is a move towards totalitarianism.

Antagonism Breeds

We know from our experience of other individuals and of groups that antagonism, hostility and violence provoke antagonism, hostility and violence. Conscription in New Zealand is an antagonistic move. It will provoke or increase antagonism in any group that imagines we have directed our action against it. Conscription therefore leads to an increase in the attitude of violence at home and abroad. I repeat what our faith in negotiation. In short, conscription is a step towards war. A step which some people in the Government ask us to take. If we value left for human happiness, friendship, and what until recently has been regarded as our life, we cannot and must not take that step.

Whose Aggression?

Mr. Fraser has accused Russia of being expansionist and aggressive. It seems to me that Russia has been, in some respects, expansionist, and may perhaps be aggressive. It seems clear, for instance, that less than half of the population of Czechoslovakia favored the Communist form of government when the Communists took over there. But it seems clear also that the United States would have been more likely to have been regarded as expansion and aggression. To mention only a few instances, America has given military aid to Russia, and the military aid to Russia that Greece needed aid to restore her war-ravaged country. So she did. But not all the American loss was used for that purpose. The same argument was urged in regard to Turkey. But Turkey was scarcely touched by any form of physical destruction in the last war. Yet the United States of America made Turkey a land equal to that made to Greece. As another instance, it can be mentioned that the United States of America has a considerable number of military bases outside her territory. Russia has very few, if any, military bases outside her territory. Expenditure on armaments is higher in the United States of America than in Russia. America gave military and material support to the Nationalists in China. Russia did not give such assistance to the Communists in that war.

To those who say that war is inevitable, I would say surely we should delay or reduce any moves toward war, because the intervening periods of peace are at the very least, happier for those of us. To those who say that the more prepared we are now the less sacrifice will occur in the next war, and that the war will be shorter the need for preservation of our reserves, preparations in the past have only stimulated counter measures, and the cumulative effect has been the devastating wars we have seen.

Must War Be?

But wars are not inevitable. It is the minds of people which (in the last analysis) direct all forces, deep natural forces. It is human beings who switch the machines on or off. War must be related to the minds of people. We give ourselves considerable influence over our own minds and activities and not (as the mind) of other people, should show such influence as we have toward the increase rather than the destruction of human happiness.

Look At The Cost

For our decision, let us try to assess the value or otherwise of war by comparing its nature, effects and consequences, and measuring these in terms of happiness of the people in the world (the individual persons, you and I and the less fortunate, the Indians and the USSR). The consequences of war are concealed by all to be terrible beyond description. Atom bombs, guided
OUR CIVIL LIBERTIES

How stands our democracy? A referendum, we thought, was the purest and most democratic of democracy. Mr. Fraser, after a little pressure from Mr. Holland, stated that everybody who wanted to be heard on the question of conscription, would be allowed to speak on the question, such as conscriptionists all over the country have clearly shown that our police force has acted directly contrary to Mr. Fraser’s public statement on free speech. Meetings have been consciously and purposely mobbed and disrupted without the police intervening to see the rights of the speakers upheld. Meetings have been deliberately arranged so that speakers have had to be taken into protective custody.

In Nelson police stood by while one man was injured and despatched to hospital, another debagged and a third doused in a pub. Was this not violent anti-conscription activities?

In Wellington the home of three elderly women was besieged at 4.30 a.m. Sunday morning by police wanting to know if they belonged to an anti-conscriptionist movement, and threatening arrest.

A student of this college was intimidated and threatened with personal violence by his local policeman if he did not cease anti-conscription activities.

We think that it is impossible to reconcile these facts with the ideal of a free democratic referendum. The elementary civil liberties of free speech and of the right to act by your conscience are being suppressed in a campaign which pretends to provide a means whereby those very liberties will be protected from some mythical foreign foe. It would be more to the point, Mr. Fraser, if first we achieved this democracy you talk of, and then proceeded to defend it.

P. F. J.

(Continued from page 1)

missiles, death sprays, flamethrowers, and bacterial warfare offer small hope indeed that the next war, if we have one, will be one where agonizing and indiscriminately-destrucive. The next war by war will be the inevitable repercussion. Helplessness, destitute, despair, pitifully some of these survivors will again die of slow starvation, of slow burns, or of all ravages and aftermats of war. Some have said the next war will mean the destruction of what has been called Western Civilization. Cold reason seems to prove that this is by no means simply war. War has in the past always cost even the victor far more than it has been worth. Measured in terms of wealth and in terms of happiness, or of both, the man who is left alive after the war would be better to let an invader walk in rather than risk the terrible agony, havoc, and dying that war brings. The next war will be worse.

Even if this price is said to be worth it, in no case in the past has a war achieved all the things it was ostensibly fought for. War has not even added a man to a good fight in the past. And in the case of us in New Zealand, to restrict freedom by conscription is to deny the very principles for which we ostensibly fought and won two wars (and to give in to totalitarianism after all).

Conscription Not A Total Solution

Even if war were worth it, and it achieved the things the war leaders argue it does (freedom, justice, and peace), it could still be suggested (as a solution to the problem of living together) to only one nation or group of nations, never to the whole world. But isn’t it obvious that all people have been born on to the earth, and have to find a way of living together? A solution in terms of one nation or group, since it does not cover everyone in the world, is not a real solution at all.

Neither war nor violence, our preparations for those activities, will ever do anything to help the whole world to live together. These things are the culmination of self-seeking. Self-seeking only makes others respond by the same sort of activity. Since the more we have the more we want, and there are not enough things to satisfy everyone that wants, clashes must occur so long as the policy of self-seeking is being pursued. This applies to individuals, to groups, to nations. In this way our limited freedom leading to conflict and destruction. Conscription prepares us for more direct self-seeking —it envisages action that excludes co-operation. Do we not recognize from our own experience how much better things could have been if people had been willing to think of our part never produces a true solution? And doesn’t this experience in history prove that we are asked to conclude?

“We must love one another, or, die.” (W. H. Auden.)

We are here concerned primarily with nations, however. The way of subverting and solving the problem that is, is it not a practical solution. It must lead to destruction. Are there any alternatives? There is one, and it lies in the solution of conscription, cooperation, friendliness. This is the hope that can be realized.

Practical Without Destroying

The first and most obvious objection that seems not made to this method of solution and cooperation is that it is not practical. I suppose by this the critics mean not practical on a political (large) scale. The most obvious, but most necessary, thing to say first in reply to this is: Assertion, aggression and violence have only been practical in the sense that they destroyed the helpless, weak and dealt them death and doom from millions to millions more. Each of these last two sets of so-called “practical” measures have culminated in wars, and have merely managed the conditions in which destructive war, is almost overpowering. It is no way an alternative that the aggression sincere, the means of firm support, that each and every one of us can give.

Even could I draw you no further than this, I would urge that a vote against conscription has been justified.

The Greatest Alternative

But to those who disagree, and to those who would proceed yet more desperately, the issue, I say: The only way the preceding might (for you) imply. We have a tremendous alternative. Whether it be in military-conscription or in the old method of tolerance, co-operation and friendship would work in that it would enable all people on the earth to have as much as they could reasonably have, that is, as much as their own communities could produce for themselves and for each other. There is no use in either alternative of bringing the world to the brink of war. If we all make up our minds to carry it out, bearing in mind that we are not enemies but those that are those that are allies, then it would work. Any step in that direction is in essence, exclusive self-interest on the one hand and co-operation on the other, any other step will lead to the one being tended to destruction. The course of co-operation and friendship, which, I repeat, would involve sacrifices, but none so terrible as a war involving us all will solve all the problems of the world, all the problems of all nations. He utters a hollow cry for peace who is not himself prepared to give something for it for its achievement. Once all our people, as individuals and as members of communities, would be willing to give up their lives, and for peace, and for peace, and for peace, and for peace, and for peace.

It would mean ultimately that peace would have to be put into effect over all the world, and for all the world, in the interests of all individuals and as members of communities. This would mean that each person would have to be prepared to put his life in the interests of all other people, and of all nations. But this does not mean that we must have to be completely equal to each other. Diversity, coupled with true community, robs each one, and the other the other.

What Christ said about loving one another.

There are some of us who believe that Christ came on earth to show us, among other things, the way to live together. By His teaching and His life, He showed us that it is the way of serving for each other. One of my questions (Matthew 5, 38), “Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them” (Matthew 7, 12). So he taught us that we should not be do good to others; we should do good to others, help them, bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. (Luke 6, 27-28.) “Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, that ye resist not evil: but whatsoever is offered to thee, take it.” (Matthew 5, 38, 39.) And Matthew 26, 51 and 52, “And behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck the high priest’s ear, and smote off his ear. Then said Jesus unto him, Put up thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.”

These are not the leafless instances of Jesus teaching and examples—they are in harmony with His whole life on earth. Furthermore, they are specific, practical examples. We must meet evil, not by returning evil, but by loving those who would do us evil.

I am of the opinion that Russia is not menacing us. But even if Russia were menacing us in the most terrible way, the all of us who call ourselves Christians is to vote against conscription. Our action as Christians is to vote against conscription. Our action as Christians is to vote against conscription. Do not rest there, of course, but in New Zealand today it may be said to become something more. We must also look to ourselves. We must look to ourselves. We must consider the high offices of all nations, to all national, to all national, to all national. Many Christian groups have been active in the Society of Friends, in the Missionary Alliance, and in small but significant ways bridging the barriers between people and nations. We can take more practical steps by supporting these groups. Nor are groups designated Christian alone in these activities.

The True Loyalty

The method of friendship, indicating so far as the referendum is concerned a vote against conscription, does not mean that we are avoiding our responsibilities to our fellow-men, either in New Zealand or abroad. It means that we think that the best method of carrying out our obligation to our fellow citizens is by being friendly with them over all the earth, and by showing, by consideration in this way of every one that disagrees with us, that we think there is a better way of life, a way in which we can, if we will, live together. This course will never avoid the problems of having each individual person follow it for himself or herself. But this point just shows, in the light of how it is that such a solution as this does not submerge the individual in the mass, it depends on each one of us.

I have put this before you to show that there is a positive alternative to war or preparation for war. We must extend our friendship to the uttermost bounds of the earth.

The case against conscription in New Zealand today, then, is briefly this: We are faced with antagonistic activities between nations which are difficult to handle. The referendum makes this situation worse, rather than better. It is not a question of why conscription is or is not necessary. Conscription must be considered in the full light of all the circumstances. From these circumstances it follows that the case against conscription is that War produces more harm than good in the short run and in the long run, and so those who both victims and vanquished of violence, and the worst of all, the war will never bring human being, when all the consequences are considered. Any alternative must therefore be better. Even if there may be a partial victory, the case for cooperation and friendship can work, and wherever it has been tried faithfully it has worked. I suggest we can make it work, and that the way it will work is by the influence of our votes, and our power on the earth. Conscription will work if it becomes love in the Christian sense, Christ’s spirit and teaching and action, if it is by loving for what we wish to develop as to how we should act in regard to evil or possible evil. There is a better alternative—It is the way that Christ showed us.

For us at this time, whether Christians or not, this means many things:

IT CERTAINLY MEANS WE MUST VOTE AGAINST CONSCRIPTION.

E. R. ROBINSON.
HONORIS CAUSA

Mr. Chancellor, it is with a deep and humble sense of privilege that I come forward to ask you to confer on Ronald Syme, a scholar of international reputation, the highest honour which the Faculty of Arts in this University can bestow.

Ronald Syme was born in this country, and is a student of Victoria University College, who graduated with great distinction in the University of New Zealand. The brilliant promise which he showed in his classical studies has been amply fulfilled by his subsequent career as a Camden Professorship and as a Fellow of Trinity College, Oxford. The many articles which he has published in learned journals on various aspects of the early Roman Empire show originality, insight, learning and scholarship which have earned the admiration of students of Roman History throughout the world, and have brought him the coveted honour of a Fellowship of the British Academy. At the present time the finest fruits of his scholarship on his magnificent Carnegie exhibit. Oxford University, on the Frontier Policy of the Early Roman Empire, and his brilliant book "The Roman Revolution," hailed by scholars as a masterpiece, in which with skill and clarity he describes the complex interplay of character at the time when Rome and her provinces changed from a republic to an empire with a firmly founded Principate.

These works have put Ronald Syme in the forefront of those scholars who study the history of ancient Rome, and they are an example of the national pride of New Zealand that a scholar of such distinction has received from his country.

With the one regret, Mr. Chancellor, that Ronald Syme is not here in person to receive the honour, I pray you to honour his notice and the University in which he first began the higher studies, by conferring on him in absentia, on behalf of the University of New Zealand, the degree of Doctor of Letters Honoris Causa.

Lack of space unfortunately prevents us from completing Paul Zilch's series of articles on this issue: the last will be printed next issue.
IN DEFENCE OF THE AMERICAN FILM

I make no apologies for introducing an article on the "pitchers" into a journal with the pretensions of "Sallent." [We live and learn—Ed.]. It must be obvious to all and sundry that the film is the greatest weapon of the professional propagandist, and that the film may be used to shibboleth upon which to propagate truth. Properly handled, the film could coust literature itself in reflecting the true spirit of a nation. And in moulding the true intelligence of a nation. In assessing this I am not forgetting that literature has held unchallenged sway for a few centuries or more.

Film in Our Time

The end of the war brought an unprecedented boom to the British film industry, and so Hollywood has been compelled to hear criticism from within and without. It has submitted meekly to the castigation from overseas critics largely inspired by an excess of nationalistic pride. More surprisingly, it has lost its head and in the midst of an acutely felt impulse to appease, it has ground out a "very coarse grain of thrusters, naughtily" comedies, and Westerns, many of which are unworthy of what it knows in this world. I think that Hollywood may acknowledge in a weak moment. To imagine that the stowed movie boxes, always with both eyes on the box-office, could ever misjudge the audience is indeed difficult, but I think that they have—and badly. For once in their cynical lives they have aimed to low.

Now from the preceding remarks one may deduce that the article’s validity as a defence of the American film is, but the complaint given to suggest that the most recent film is an exaggerated example of admittedly ever-present weaknesses. It is not a true reflection of the general standard of the industry. I am basing this article on the output of a single Hollywood, paradoxical though this phrase may be. I would assert that had I been able to pursue this theme properly, the article would appear very soon, when the old cocksure self-confidence has overcome the present self-conscious restrained attitude.

Laurels To Hollywood

Commercialism

I hold Hollywood the rather gayer palm in the commercial cinematic competition because Hollywood above all has the comic; the comic is one of the British film industry, it does not proceed along the same lines, and claim that the let is the genuine one. It rarely strives to become self-conscious. It seems to know that a materialistic people like the Americans have little sympathy either for producing or appreciating a film of piercing artistic inspiration. Instead they rely on a consistent standard of competence in the average movie-ginger of today can rely. The Americans have achieved much from this honest recognition of their limitations—and have not received the praise they have deserved. "A Way to the Stars" is all but acceptable when it comes, but I think heaven above for sparing me from the acutely class-conscious efforts of the British film in between the masterpieces—the pattern is depressing and original—"Oxford and Cambridge, engineered servants, strict suggestions of the superiority of the English way of life, the interplay between the upper class and the lower class, and, worst of all, minor characters who look and talk as if they had just been borrowed from the Greta Garbo society. They make an unpleasant contrast to the accomplished American minor character—true artists, craftsman in their own right, real natural, giving that sensation that they have been pressed into service as they strolled along the set chewing gum. Men like Frank Fay, Jack Benny, and, of course, the hard, and Dan Duryea are counterpoint of genuine Hollywood history, known in our own life. Women may recall from this fish-like expression of Duryea but that in the mood of his reality as a character—the inexpressible direction of a personality who might have hoped to meet him otherwise.

To regain the main road again, I must reiterate my gratitude to the Americans in providing an entertainment to which I can generally turn confidently when the Press has informed me that there are no masterpieces around demanding to revive my Hollywood-drugged soul.

Up with Yankee Hoomour

American humour has no counterpart in present-day cinema. In the honesty of the American film has emerged a genuine comic face. The wisecrack so beloved of Hollywood is by no means the only comic mode aimed at allegedly sacred national innocence in order to appeal to the international audience—so we find Bing Crosby stating in the "Swedish Waltz" that he is a Presbyterian, a commercial salesman, and a member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, with such an earnest note in that video that smites of derision bubble upon the lip of the audience. [We live and learn—Ed.]. Perhaps one of the main reasons why American humor unscathed is that it is the humour of the new world—it is irreverent. It is a brisk attack, mock existing institutions with the implied proviso that they are at their best, that the American is hope for, so that the audience is left wondering upon the "honest cantour" of British films. Rather than feeling those effects which anything to them is founded upon a false base—"Come down Cap'n" says Captain Mitty of "Secret Lives of Walter Mitty" repeats the scolding of the legs ends of the deep south, the impossible hero and the casual relish of English with ingenuity. A flick of a Texan cowboy, cocking his level, the old medievalism of the sea captain who stayed at the wheel despite all mishaps—"Come down Cap'n" I'm all right, I've only broken my arm—and gleefully satirizing English relatives in the RAF officer who upon being faced with the seductive query of a thumb grit—"You like for hush?—replied as he gazed longingly at the maiden—"Rather!"

Photographic Club

PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB
by courtesy of
G. W. P. E. A.R.P.S.
The Club will pay a visit to his studio "PEFFY PHOTOGRAPHER" WEDNESDAY, July 27, 8 p.m.
Meet at Studio entrance (corner Beaulieu Road and Feaoton Street)
FOR FURTHER DETAILS, SEE NOTICE-BOARD.

No Screen For Problems

In the screening of social problems the Americans are not so honest as our brethren. These are the same could be said about most other film-making countries. Nevertheless, despite studied avoidance of sensitive topics, the negro question, Hollywood has at times shaken off its qualms and produced a "Grapes of Wrath," the pitiful saga of the exploited fruit-picker in California—a film of which it would be difficult to excel in acting ability, direction, and general purpose. One can only wonder perhaps with "Love on the Dole" or the final taste in "The Bridge on the River Kwai" left by the latter was one of depression, with no obvious submission to the changing conditions surrounding the characters while "The Grapes of Wrath" ended on a note of challenge with more than a hint of rebellion.

My generalisations proceed from a weekly attendance at the theatres (or cinema—Ed.) and from the impressions constantly received from visitors to the different films of different countries. The first essential of art is verisimilitude, i.e., the device must not should truthfully reflect what it sets out to portray. Bearing this in mind I think that despite its lapses into nauseating sentimentality, crude melodrama, and the too evident "bedroom comedy, Hollywood achieves with a reliable standard of the par excellence than any other film centre.

It was evident that the attitude of consistency with a masterpiece in the EUROPEAN TRADITION. Some day perhaps it will summon up enough courage to give the critics what many of them have sought—a searching exposition of the negro question.

FACE BOOK

B. J. O'MEECHIE

Study in Still Life: Children with Dog

The next car arrived very too late a still bundle of black fur housing the crushed head slinking the asphalt and on the pavement the children a solemn indication of death propping and whispering with joy a moment ago being taken on that adventure across the road to the grocer's new crushed pushed over the brink of the darkness and on the pavement the children tears smearing beneath the eyelids blood trickling from the scalp and nails. ALEC BRYAN.

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by ARNOLD J. TOYBEE
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HOUSE DISCUSSION

Despite a bed and breakfast regime, one wet afternoon last week, but has taken a new lease of life. The three discussions held so far have marked by a doubling of the average attendance of the institution of the supper, for the first week they were held every second evening in the last three weeks, generally last about 21 hours. Every effort is being made to get the project in the attempt is being made to alternate the "talkative," but it is not mentioned and supper.

Early in the term W. J. Scott spoke on American universities, and many residents were forced to reserve a consideration of American student mind, mostly derived from Hollywood and "Sallent." Ormond Burton led a discussion on compulsory military training with an attendance of 40. The subject was lifted completely from a cumbersome plane on which it is usually discussed, and the issue became the fundamentals of Christian belief. The subject certainly stimulated discussion and studies were flown out. A further points of serious disagreement had few present were not stimulated to discuss their political interest on this issue if only to reinforce their prejudices. The third discussion, led by James Bertram, was concerned with China Today? Mr. Bertram explained the present situation and the events leading up to it.

Mathematical & Physical Society

"PUNCH CARDS AND COMPUTATION"
A Lecture by
Mr. E. W. JONES, M.Sc.
This Society Meeting is being called "BIOMETRICS"
37 Major Banks St.
(Corner New Oxford Street)
8 P.M. THURSDAY, JULY 28

This was a case where prejudice clouded the issue. The distinctly Chinese elements in the Communist movement were emphasised by those who overstepped the Marxist angle, but who still imagine that "after all they aren't real communists."" After all, disillusionment. Most of those present were quite surprised to learn that the USUR there would not have supplied more arms to Nationalist China than did the USSR between 1941 and 1945. At present the discussion Committee is looking for a fourth speaker for either a formal or informal format. The life without discussion is a waste of time. It is not for discussion that full-time students, or arts students, might as well be out earning a living. but as expressed in the last issue of "Charta" they should be made to consider the intellectual values which are to the Anniversary "Spike" so rightly attacking.

Dissertations are held only once a fortnight, and each case was only 45 per cent of the House, but at this rate, it may well not be in the realm of art, but in the realm of art, but in the realm of art, but in the realm of art, but in the realm of art, but in the realm of art, but in the realm of art, but in the realm of art, but in the realm of art.
Once More Into The Breach...  
LYSENKO HITS LONDON

The import of the Lysenko controversy is more and more stirring the British scientific world, although the Press has treated it somewhat hesitantly. The social implications of the Soviet biologist's theories are being given deep attention among all progressive biologists.

Last night I attended a symposium on the controversy addressed by three prominent scientists and I should say there were over 600 people present— including Professor Haldane.

There is another meeting to-morrow night at Clerkenwell Green.

The occasion of the meeting last night was the recent arrival from Moscow of a book entitled "The Situation in Biological Science"—the English translation of the Lenin Academy of Agricultural Sciences of the USSR held last August. This book will go down in history as the most important book in Soviet biology and it is a part of "Origin of Species." Typical of the Soviet Union, it is being published in enormous numbers and the English edition is available here at the low price of 5/6.

Social Implications

The first speaker was Dr. Alan Macfie, biologist, who pointed out that last year's Conference of agricultural scientists was a turning point of a 20-year-old controversy, that 700 scientists present were specialists and experts in their own fields—biology, agronomy, etc.—and that they were not ignorant of classical genetic theory, having in fact all been trained in it. Further, they almost all realised the social significance of the questions they were discussing. The world faces something of a crisis in agriculture—appreciation of this crisis particularly the capitalist world. With the same firm established in the Soviet Union, the order of the day is now "On to Communism." Community requires cooperation and, in this, the participation of all our material requirements and the key to this problem is agriculture. This problem the USSR faces with a smile, for although Lysenko is there in the background, he has not detracted from the enthusiasm of a recent American agronomist, who, with the optimism permeating the repert of the Lenin Academy proceedings.

Attack On Chromosomes

Dr. Percy Brian, a micro-biologist, then turned to the heart of the technical problem. The illegitimacy between parent and offspring has been attributed to the passage of genetic material genes. Modern geneticists do not say that genes wholly determine the character of the organism which is the product of the interaction of genes and environment. But all say that environment has no effect on the gene itself, that the altered characters are brought about by the environment, and not vice versa.

"Lysenko" has emerged from its birth pangs, its existences takes form anew clad in a bold and virile cover by John Deanbridge, symbolistic and easily understood. The new version of the poem. "Lysenko" bears the imprint of the VJC Literary Society, but a glance down the list of contents fails to explain how the poem comes by any contribution by a VJC undergraduate. This, the symposium will remark, is just as well. This issue has in fact a representative and suggestive collection of New Zealand writers, principally from among the poets. There are just 40 pages of material, none of it of any great note. On the whole it is sustained on a level quite the equal of "Landfall," or any other local literary periodical. Perhaps the most important feature is the absence of any pretension or "prestigious" literary excursionism; there is, indeed, a perversely virile which the editor will do well to maintain. It is clear that greater discrimination has been exercised in the selection of contents than was the case with the first number.

Never Fear

The Editorial is devoted solely to the Conspicuous issue. It is a statement of attitude rather than an actual second case, while no doubt many "Lysenko" readers will agree with it, few others, I imagine, will be convinced unless their sympathy already lies with" a race-at-all-cost" movement. It is as well that the initial nepotism and its successors by the Editorial Committee in writing "in apparently political editorial" was overcome. NoBycism or nepotism is inimical to the health of the University, to the right of the student, and the question, if环境污染 makes the student, or even, to what extent is this but in politics, and has some political implication.

"Lysenko" has printed a talk by Peter Munz previously given at VUC on "An Idea of History." This is a well-argued case for a positive application with the concomitant values said to arise of such a faith. Two other articles are also printed. James King Dryden's article, "We Do Not Stop Writing," good as far as it goes, is brief and fragmentary; the same cannot be said to a less extent of the extracts from Professor Miles' talk on Hopkins. Either article could have been elaborated so as to preserve some thing more than those outlines. Space, of course, sets definite limitations, but as a matter of policy it would seem preferable for the editor to print larger articles in full, and less of them if need be. Glowing and Glitter

"Lysenko" has a unique number of "Lysenko" with the work of the poets. Of all I find the poem "Seagulls among the Mountains" by Charles Baxter the most attractive, though Baxter's sonnet 'especially "Sea-Change,"' are remarkably good. Their underlying technical excellence gives them a quality of ease which greatly enhances their intrinsic worth. In each of Campbell's three poems one finds that individual voice we seem to assume, that unique voice which speaks of the loss of music, of the falling of the New Zealand poet whose work, I know, some others glitter but few glow with the peculiar beauty which makes this distinctive.

Pag Wilson's "View of History" occupies seven pages and for the most part is sustained fairly well. His frequent naive style is suspended here chiefly on pure whims.

The poem's justification lies mostly with the fertility of the poet's imagination. Hubert Whitehead's poems I found at times rather diffuse—perhaps, because of much of his imagery is rather more subtle than the others. Arthur Barker's translations of Rimbaud, while suffering from the dehydrated symptoms common to all English translators of alien verse are nevertheless very pleasant.

HIGH ON A HILLTOP

Lively and Virile

The short-short story is perhaps one of the most difficult literary forms. Brian Sutton-Smith's "Before the Departure" is a dull read, but relies for its point on the all-too-common "kick ending." Such stories delegate greatest significance to the particular "situation" rather than the character. To the extent that this is to find the story lacking, Barbara Thompson's note on the marionette theatre is refreshing.

The overall impression that this number of "Lysenko" gives is one of liveliness and virility. Scraping editing is essential if a young paper of this nature is to survive and take shape. One would like to think that there is a hint of the momentary flash in the literary pan, to an impression that will burst of enthusiasm dies. Is there something more enduring at source than just enthusiasm? This number would lead one to suspect that this is the case.

In conclusion, a word for the printer, and little fault could be found with the type and setting. Indeed, compared with the first number it is a transformation.
OUR SS
— or Snatch! Snatching for Beginners

It is alleged that a certain high official in the naturalisation section of the Internal Affairs Department has been transferred to the Prime Minister's Department to head a Security Bureau. Rumour is persistent, and when it has the added support of probability in the current context, we can safely give credence to it.

Albert Einstein, world famous scientist, and the great literary giant Thomas Mann, were both refugees from Hitler's war-mad fascist dictatorship in Germany. Thomas Mann has already described the "multinational American civil life" as an ill omen, and Mann has declared that "as an American citizen of German birth ... I am painfully familiar with certain political developments—spiritual intolerance, political persecution and declining legal security; all in the name of an alleged state of emergency. This was how it began in Germany. What follows was fascism, and what followed fascism was war."

It Can't Happen Here?

While we are being told, in a shrill hysterical voice, that we are menace by foreign "totalitarianism," the very machinery of totalitarianism is set up under our noses. Mr. Holms has his snatched rifle, police essays attend political meetings, the Press and the Associated Chambers try to bully us into military conscription. And now, albeit muffled, the knock on the door we are being awakened to the approach of a secret police.

And Zaahn has had his experience of "security police" before. Back in the fifties, days there was an individual by the name of Major Frazier, shooting "moorer" in his own rooms and political meetings, "Frazier's Fuzes" searched the homes of pacifists, communists and other "seetish" persons—in many cases plundering books and papers chips "seetish".

The tale is told of how two of these people paid an unwarranted call on a leading member of the League in searching his book-cases, passed over in silence in heavy Mannheim wins, but sealing a copy of "Nicholas Nickleby" with joyful cries of "Ah! a Russian book!"

A Slow Poison?

Over the past few years, it has been fairly evident that the powers that be have been thinking along the lines of establishing a new gestapo. Remember the demonstration on July 31, 1947, and the role played by the police. In Sydney, the demonstration a few days before, had some sinister implications. Tense, angry, and disorganised, walking out provocation or the shadow of authority, they tremble in neighbouring cellars. One "interrogation" reported went like this: 1st Constable: What's your occupation?

Student: Student.
1st Constable: What's your nationality?
Student: Australian—Jewish extraction.
2nd Constable: You wouldn't like to have one of you Jewish bastards operating on me. That just tests the type of police that our little Hitler's are willing to employ in their service.

In the last months of 1947, the police took a hand in the breaking up of a stoppage meeting in the Wellington Government Printing Office. During the Carpenters' dispute in March, 1948, Union officials in Auckland were "interviewed" by detectives—no criminal charge had been laid.

Witch-hunting in the civil service, introduced in the States by the great depression, has since spread to New Zealand.

The Public Service Commission (13/5/48) claims to exclude from "positions involving secrecy" (there are declarations of secrecy for most jobs in the Public Service), and the "safety of the State" anyone in active association with organisations the objects or methods of which are connected with the national interest. This is dangerously vague and implies a secret police dossier on every member of the Civil Service. Declarations of loyalty were made in France in 1940, but proved more successful in producing patriotic than quelling. The Holmes and Deimyer cases are familiar to us all.

"Our Free Land"

Street meetings have now been banned in Wellington. As Mr. A. C. Borrington said in Court (July, 1948), "The City Council has a duty to ... facilitate assembly and discussion", but they prefer to ignore it.

While they are sweeping down off the streets, the police are sitting in on meetings of organisations which they consider, apparently, to be "dangerous."

Thus last February the present writer had the unpleasant duty of removing a police constable from attending the meeting of the local branch of the Peace and Anti-Conscription Federation. Peace, I believe, is in the interest of this or of any other nation. Conscription is to be submitted to a referendum of the people. How, then, can the gestapo claim that the organisation is sedition? And if they don't, what prompts the honour of such visits?

Loudly Mr. Fraser screams about "police States." Yet in his own Prime Minister's department he has set up the modest of an R.S. that would nail down the very celluloid lid of our already declining liberties.

Student Congress passed a resolution in January opposing all attacks on civil liberties and intellectual freedom and to interfere with political, religious and Industrial liberties. NZUSA Annual Congress has let the student body keep body by failing to support this resolution. But that must not stop us students from giving it the support of our action now.

Remember Thomas Mann's words. And remember, too, that fascism is just as bitter as its victims, that in this age of reason and independent thinking, as it is on the verge of an indubitable movement itself. Don't fool yourself. It can happen.

"God defend our free land," sings our national anthem. But remember, God will help him who helps himself. Wake up, New Zealand!

COMING EVENTS

July 27: Visit to the studios of "Ferry Photographe" by the Photographic Club. See the main notice-board.
Roll up to the Herschel Club dance in the Gym if you don't like Photographe.
Aug. 2, 4, 6: Jazz Band Lawrence along in the Town Hall. Reduced rates for students. See main notice-board.
Sept. 21: Combined Tramping Clubs' Ball in the Majestic Cabaret. DRESS OPTIONAL.

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(Continued on opposite page)
(Continued from p. 4) while providing an expression for the aggression toward the "out-group".

NO SOLUTION YET

It does not matter that we and everybody else in the community of life have no substantial solutions of aggression necessarily aroused by social living. We have it, it is true, but we have no other substitute response, but no general outlet which can reduce tension for the individual, for the group, and for the society, and thus reduce the chances of war for the mass.

Some suggest that tension is whipped up to the point of nervousness. To the contrary, the position seems to be that any propaganda on the side of tension is simply a symptom rather than a reductio of the tension. Some seem to be actively engaged for aggression, and hence for war. The question then arises: what stands shall the individual take? I shall suggest that we shall probably derive more egoistic pleasure from going down fighting than by going down peacefully.

The idealistic pacific might suggest that there is no solution to aggression. However, the population of a small country like Germany could never be absorbed culturally. In other words, we would simply become a "host" (in the biological sense) for an aggressor.

N. D. Ferguson, on Sir Edward Cardew's book, said it was a well written book, that it was a valuable work. His name was placed first, for his book had much more of sincerity, much less of the show than any of the other book, N. D. Ferguson, who was second, praised the individual who wrote about his subject, and M. O'Brien, who had to make something out of a complex problem of preparation, as many brickbats as bouquets at this pillar of empire: the result was a quite pronounced impression of a complex personality.

NO MATHEMATICS

Plunket Medal 1949

The judges (Mr. Melzer, Mr. Sommert and Mrs. Matthews) were not made to understand the mathematical and philosophic leanings of the speakers. They remarked, through Mr. Melzer, that the subject was one to which the whole effect of the speeches had on the audience. This explained how the subject of the Plunket Medal was placed first, for his book had much more of sin, much less of the show than any of the other book.

He was more at home on the subject of the Madhav Narayan, in the sense that he had a really pleasant informality about it, and he did grasp the idea of the man at his aim of truth at all costs. It was not orthodox oratory, certainly, but it was effective.

ARE THE REDS GOING TO EAT US?

Speaking at the Town Hall on Monday last week, Frank Langstone remarked that "listening to the Prime Minister at the Labour Party Conference, I thought the Russians and the Chinese were just outside in the street, and I was on this obsession that we are to be stamped into the barrack square. Strange that we can forget so quickly the trust and friendship of our war-time alliance, and become infected with the contemporary American epidemic which U.S. radio commentator Johannes Steil referred to in the Forrestal-Breiding letter that of Hitler Germany." War preparation and red-baiting certainly point the way.

Will We Eat Them?

Professor Rhodes of CUG gave some telling facts with regard to American bases surrounding the USSR, and the absence of any overseas Soviet bases. That is an important part of the story, but it is only for the rest, I cannot recommend no better source than the thesis of American scholars: Michael Sayers and Albert K. Kahn, "The Great Conquest." First published in February, 1946, and reaching four editions by June, 1947, this book describes in easily digestible form why the Soviet Union fears the "West," but why she can have nothing to gain by waging war. In this second edition, the discussions of the governments of Britain, France, Germany and the United States show from the 20 years of 1917 to 1941, the Soviet aims and methods of hostility and by sabotage and slander, to overthrow the Bolshevist Government, including the very existence of a government seriously pledging to the interests of society—"America suffers today from paranoia closely paralleling that of Hitler Germany." War preparation and red-baiting certainly point the way.

Black Rock

The reads like a detective story. He was one of my many books on the story of a real story, not so much that a Stalin, but whether some of the agents in Moscow. Or that a Fascist hired, worked for the rank of Chief of Police in Soviet Russia?

No book describes so exactly in his historical development the Soviet people. Between the First and the Second World War, the Soviet German people, the "people's society," the Soviet people, the people's society, the Soviet people, the people's society, the Soviet people, the people's society, the Soviet people, the people's society.

The Russian people have had a hard time trying to have their form of government recognized by the outside world. The first signs of recognition came in the form of arms of intervention from England, France, Germany, and the U.S.A. and Australia, supporting the U.S.S.R. in its stand against Hitler.

They Want Peace

"Soviet Russia has always wanted peace. Lenin knew that the great power system would be destroyed, and not destroyed by war. The Russian people have always wanted peace. Education, production, exploitation of all the vast and rich territory, and the great govern of the Russian people.

Read this book, see if you still think the Reds are going to eat you.

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LETS HAVE IT!

With the approach of August thoughts naturally turn towards Winter Tournament events, soon to be in full swing. We hope that all club members are now keeping in practice for this period. Our next issue will be a Tournament Issue and I appeal to all club secretaries to send in form guides so that the college will know how to place their bets.

Indoor

Table tennis is an indoor sport which is rapidly gaining popularity in this country. The traditional game of pingpong is disappearing and being replaced by one of the world's fastest indoor sports. One has only to watch an "A" grade match to see real speed. A certain amount of fitness is seen in the higher grades over the shape of the ball, height of the net and lighting; this is necessary for the enjoyment of a first-class game. Table tennis can be strenuous. In the lower grades, in a 1 to 2 inclusive, competition matches are always played with 31 points the best of 5. Advantage meaning that the winner must be at least two points ahead of his opponent. The game could go on indefinitely after 31 points if the players get alternate points. The higher grades will usually play three games to 21 advantage. The winner is the first to 21, and the one who wins the match. In open competition games, players play to 21 and the higher five to 21. Rules are rigidly adhered to in open and handicap competitions. A rally rarely lasts more than seven or eight consecutive points; in the world championships there is a limit of about 50 points. Many of the most successful players in the world are now regularly training as a result of this. A game can last no longer than 20 minutes and at the end of that time the set is awarded to the player with the highest score. Many keen table tennis clubs as a game, but without complete concentration it would be useless to play in the higher grades. A good player is thoroughly exhausts generally after five sets with an equally good opponent.

A skillfully-played bat can produce unbelievable combinations of a ball and a rack, concentration, speed and accuracy to return a heavily driven ball. The table tennis player to play the game must be perfect and the table must be painted dull black or dark green so that people play well under adverse conditions (poor lighting, poor ball, etc.). In consequence of which standard conditions must be maintained. Many different styles are used, but for the sake of simplicity in "Barnes" is used amongst the best of the players. Lights must be 70 or 80 watts and 6 feet above the table. From these facts and the knowledge that 20,000 or more people go to see the world championships at Wembley every year, it can be seen that table tennis is a very competitive sport. Table tennis is in fact the national sport of Hungary. It is interesting to note that this year Hungary will send his hold the world title since about 1925. The world title holder is now Johnny Leech.

In the Hills

The Tramping Club has been stepping up its activities. Since King's Bachelor Week-end the energetic boys have been floating round in the vicinity of the Chinook-Dobson Hot. The regular presence of Hughley on the trip has seemed to serve special commendation. Apart from this, the Club has been keenly interested in helping to put the finishing touches to the hut and on 30th April the hut was officially opened by the club vice-president, Bert Osborne.

Although the weather was fine the week-end, we believe, was wet.

Strong representations from other clubs helped to make the opening a success. Congratulations to Cameron as building supervisors and to the generous help of all the willing helpers who put so many week-ends in the building of the hut away from home.

Rock climbing instruction was held on June 15th at Emerald, Phil Gardner (VICTC Chief Guide). It is reported that this is one of the best organised trips the club has arranged. Anyone intending to do any of the Christmas trips would be advised to attend the next instruction course at Ruapehu in August. Watch the notice-board.

Up in the Air

On Monday the first of August a meeting of all those interested in flying will be held. The meeting will take the form of a talk and lantern slides on the "History of Flying" given by Prof. W. A. G. F. The first meeting, which was held last Saturday, shows that there are many students who are keen to learn to fly and as the Wellington Aero Club are prepared to meet with us in order to discuss ways and means, it seems that flying will be well within the means of most students who are interested should come to the Biology Block and hear the talks. The Club Committee will be on hand at the meeting. Come and see who will get the joyride?

Soccer

The only game played for three weeks was against Miramar Rangers who were defeated 2-1. Although very little passing was done on both sides, the game was interesting and played in a fine spirit. The game was again outstanding in scoring an excellent goal from each wing. Jack Wallis was usual his usual selves, and a combination of the referee and F. P. S. referee appeared to be of double duty. Colin Barnes, the goalkeeper, was sound—and a fine player. The opposition was his excellent goalkeeping and frontman which seemed to find the half-way mark. Another young player, Ron Gray, making debut in the Senior team, gave a good account of himself and was definitely unlucky not to score a few times. He also sent across one or two copybook corners.

Since last issue the juniors have not played. If they beat Miramar Rangers next week they will be a fair chance of winning their grade. We hope the absence of Ron Gray will not be felt too much.

With August drawing closer everyone is thinking about tournament, but it is unlikely that for reasons of practicality and availability we will field a strong team this year.

Hockey

Our congratulations go to those members of the Men's Hockey Club who have been selected to represent Wellington. Two members of the senior team, Ting and Phipps, played in the match last Saturday when Wellington defeated Auckland 2-0. Unfortunately we have had no information from the Club but we can say that the senior team is high up in our grades and that the juniors are all doing very well. All this goes to show that Victoria should do very well in Hockey at Winter Tournament.

First Fifteen.—Thiel's, like the All Blacks, is another hard luck story.—lost to St. Pat's 5-3, drew with Athletic 3-3, lost to Petone 9-10, but might, with luck, have won all three games. Each of the team came on the call of time, one by a really fine penalty goal, the other by a converted try, so that, granted a small mistake in time, the team would have been in the Jubilee Cup competition instead of merely fighting for the opportunity of winning the Hardman Cup for Rep v. Wellington.

Jarden, the team's leading points-scoring, has again been selected to train for the Wellington B representatives.

Plunket Medal—cont. from p. 7. played. But a little more connection between the two in the English was in Auckland last year. The Auckland team was by no means at full strength. But the Victoria team, scoring 8 tries to 2, fully deserved their victory.

The game itself was not one of the most inspiring, as it contained too many errors, but many good tries were scored.

Scores for Victoria were Hansen (2), Fletcher, Smith, Stone, and Ballantine. Jarden converting one try and two conversions.

Auckland scored two tries and converted one.

PLUNKET MEDAL—cont. from p. 7.

The final score, 28 to 8 in favour of Victoria, roughly indicated the run of play. The result in Auckland last year was 60 to 13. Both teams were at full strength that day. The Victoria team scored 5 tries to 2. Full deserts were won.

The game itself was not one of the most inspiring, as it contained too many errors, but many good tries were scored.

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