

More Of Life "Down Under" From County 4-H Exchangee

After the work is all done there is plenty of time for all kinds of sports, including fishing and hunting. I had a try at wild pig hunting one Sunday afternoon. This proved to be a great sport. We started tramping up over the hills with three dogs and two guns, myself and the camera. We saw quite a few tracks but couldn't come across any wild pigs until we were ready to give up and start home. Then we heard the dogs bark. We listened and sure enough we heard a sow and her young ones in the bush. I looked around to see what I should do and found myself standing alone. The other two with guns were in the bush after the sow. I got all kind of scares and wasn't quite sure if I should go in after them or run to the nearest tree.

In the meantime the sow was coming in my direction by the sound of her grunting, so I just froze in my tracks and hoped the other guys would shoot. They did but missed and scared them off. I'm hoping for another chance to go and bring home a set of tusks. There are also plenty of deer and rabbits. These animals were all imported at one-time and now they are classed as a menace, because they do quite a bit of damage especially the rabbit because he multiplies so fast. The government is trying to poison the rabbit and deer to get rid

of them. This makes quite a few people cross because it is taken out of tax money and the people would like to attract tourists to come into the country to go hunting and fishing.



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Instead the people are taxed and the government employs people to shoot and poison the deer and rabbits.

This is also the time of year when they are having their Agricultural and Pastoral show, about the same as our farm-show. The only thing that I could find to be different is that they have red ribbons for first prize and blue for second. They

do however have more sheep than beef or dairy cattle at their shows. One thing I thought was rather interesting was their sheep shearing competition where each "Young Farmers Club" would have a team of four shearing and grading the wool. The top team in each district would compete against the next until the finals would be picked and sent to Australia. I also found that they have side shows which they call "Mugs Alley". They are very much like ours except you spend Pounds, shillings and pence instead of the dollars like we do back home. Their Pound is worth \$2.80 their Shilling is worth 12¢ and the pence is worth one cent. It was a bit awkward to get used to at first but I'm getting along fine.

I found their standard of living is very high in some respects. The average laborer makes about \$60 to \$70 a week and the girl makes about \$25 to \$30. The clothes are very expensive and are mostly imported from Great Britain so it isn't unusual to find the girls making their own dresses. The young fellow has quite a difficult time in buying a car so he does quite a bit of courting on the motorcycle until he gets engaged. Then if he is lucky he can buy a good second hand car which is usually 20 years old. Its quite common to see an old Model A which is in good running order. Since New Zealand doesn't have any car manufacturers it is quite expensive to buy a car from overseas. If

they have over seas funds they can get a new car sooner because this way they aren't using the New Zealand currency and New Zealand is trying to keep their money in the country.

It might be interesting to know that if a person has an American made car he is considered to be a well-to-do person. The latest model American car I saw was a 1960 Chevy. The other two most popular cars are the Ford and Plymouth. They all have the steering wheel on the opposite side of the car than what I'm used to at home. The people think the American products are quite good and would like to buy and sell more to the USA. The people feel that they will be dealing more with the USA in the future because of the fact that Britain is joining the commonmarket. In order to do

more trading we will have to weaken our Tariff laws and buy more of their products, so that they can buy our manufactured goods. It might be interesting to know that the price of a Ford Fairlane is about \$5000 and if they can buy it new and sell it at the end of the year they can get about \$500 more for it. A 1948 Ford would sell for about \$1000. It isn't at all strange to see a car with 200,000 miles on the speedometer to be wired together a bit at places but in good running order.

Their weights and measures are also quite different. They have what is called the imperial gallon which is one gallon and a quart. The price of their gasoline is about 42¢ for straight gasoline. It figures out to be a bit more expensive. (Continued on Page 17)

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