

New Zealand now has 39 Clubs which makes that country next to the U. S. in the number of clubs per population. Here in Australia, I have been kept rather busy giving speeches to these clubs, and this month I have seven talks altogether, but two or three of them are to other organizations. I give them the choice of "Those Japanese" or "We Americans", and 80% of them prefer to hear about the Japanese. I guess they have seen enough of the "visiting firemen" to think that they understand the Americans better. My talks follow the general line of those given by Ambassador Grew in the United States, and they have gone over very well.

Through my visits to the Capital, I have met practically all the officials from the Premier down, and consequently now am running into someone I know wherever I go. I am kept pretty busy, as a matter of fact, in activities because of this. I am hoping to get up to the real front before summer, but just when I do not know. This is a back area here. There is considerable development doing, but, aside from the visits of high personnel, we are sort of out of the war itself. However, my travels bring me into contact with a good many real situations. I went through one light bombing since I last wrote you, but apart from disturbing my slumbers it did me no harm. I was sort of glad to have this experience since I had just missed quite a lot of them and this was the second experience I had had here when anything happened at all.

Things seem to be moving extremely well, but a study of the map shows that it isn't going fast. I think it is going thorough, but I have never been optimistic about the early end of the war either with Germany or Japan. If you think the war is going fast with Germany, I suggest you read again the story of the Thirty Years' War, which shows that the people in this area were reduced from around 25,000,000 in population to about 4,000,000 and still fought on.

I am glad to hear of the splendid spirit of cooperation going on in America. It is just simply fine and gives me a sense of inspiration. After all, there is something fine about our part in the war. The Filipinos were very loyal to us and fought well. They suffered terribly. I have my full faith in their present loyalty. The Chinese are receiving help from us and are loyal to us. The American born Japanese are contributing immensely to our function in this present war, far more than can be told, but as a class they are giving help that could not be given by anyone else and it is simply remarkable. I know considerable about this as I have seen prison camps and a good many prisoners of war.