

The point is that city repertory societies produce three-act plays, and that each performance is played to a capacity house, a fact which does not seem to have been considered. It surely must indicate that the local acting is of a sufficiently high standard to meet with the approval of local audiences. A full house is a pretty good indication of a keen demand.

One fundamental aspect seems to have been completely overlooked. A country does not buy culture. It is a product of social

development; a collective expression of national character, not designed for the gain of the few, but to meet the demand of all.

Dramatic Art as fostered by NZ Repertory Companies is playing its part in the development of cultural entertainment in a very young country. It has already a large following, and because of the quickening interest in this phase of our national life, it will continue to flourish and improve despite the thread-bare criticism of the blase anti-social few.

DECENTRALISATION IS VITAL

THE allocation of a greater number of industries to provincial centres in order to offset the drift of population to the cities and consequent housing problems, seems a vital necessity if New Zealand's post-war expansion is to be accomplished successfully and with a minimum of difficulty.

The desirability for a vast population increase in the Dominion has been widely accepted and whether or not this will be accomplished by planned immigration or a proposed transference of industries and staffs from the United Kingdom is a matter for decision by the authorities.

Nevertheless, an increase seems indicated and prudent planning is undoubtedly required to prevent a further gravitation of population towards the four main centres—a factor which is considered by many to be contrary to the best economic set-up of a small country.

City authorities have always been faced with an acute housing problem. For many years the acquisition of suitable low-priced building sites within city limits has been a big hurdle and in the past prices have sky-rocketed accordingly.

The proposal to erect 60,000 houses in the years immediately following the cessation of hostilities will meet with general approval, but it is emphasised that their allocation to provincial centres, maintained by a sufficient number of industries, would be a step in the right direction.

Moreover greater scope would be furnished to enable the erection of brighter and better homes in the best possible surroundings.

In the past 30 years the populations of Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch have doubled mainly through industrial expansion, but sufficient housing facilities have not accompanied this development. Nearly one-third of the Dominion's population is centred in the four main city areas which also accom-



modate 4080 of the total of 6395 factory establishments, while the number of employees concerned reaches even greater proportions.

In passing, it is of interest to note that the population of the main provincial centres, particularly those with harbour facilities, has shown little increase during the same period. Many have