

apportioning of whaling rights. From the earliest days New Zealand was a natural centre for trade and missionary endeavour in the islands to the north, and it was largely due to this reason that the Colonial Office saw fit from time to time to transfer islands formerly administered from London to the care of the New Zealand Government. The same geographical factors pertain now as then, but their significance has been greatly magnified by the developments of the past decade.

New Zealand's voice has been heard at the Pacific Defence Conference and on the Pacific War Council, and it will

be heard again at the peace conference which lays down the post-war formula for the Pacific. Should she, a small country with internal problems of her own, agree to assume greater responsibilities of island administration which must inevitably increase her economic burden, or should she retire behind a screen of semi-isolation and leave the task to others?

The question is a vital one. No matter how long the war in the Pacific lasted there had to come a time when it must be faced and decided. That time has arrived.

WHAT'S IN A NAME

Modern readers of Dickens laugh at Sam Weller who, when asked whether he spelled his name with a *V* or a *W*, replied: "That depends on the taste and fancy of the speller, my lord. I have never had occasion to spell it more than once or twice in my life, but I spells it with a *V*." We today are often very particular about how our names are spelled, but there are many instances of even well-educated persons before the nineteenth century spelling their own names in different ways. The learned Dr. Crown, in the various books he published in the latter half of the seventeenth century spelled his name *Cron*, *Croon*, *Croun*, *Crone*, *Croone*, or *Croune*. England's greatest writer was so indifferent as to sign himself *Shagsper*, a fact which is usually emphasised by the Baconians. The modern spelling of any particular name is purely accidental. Of the many examples of one name producing several, by alterations

in the spelling, such as *Smith* and *Smythe*, perhaps the word *lea*, which gave rise to *Lee*, *Ley*, *Leigh*, *Lekh*, *Legge*, *Lay*, and *Lye* has produced more orthographic offspring than any other word in Anglo-Saxon.

To New Zealanders the pronunciations which usage has accorded many of the longer English names are often baffling. Not everyone who heard the name "Chumley" would realise at once that it was a telescoped form of Cholmondeley, for instance; or that "Marshbanks" was really Marjoribanks and "Mannering" Mainwaring. There are many examples that come to mind, such as "Stenson" for Stevenson, "Ensor" for Edensor, "Posnett" for Postlethwaite, and "Sully" for Sudeley. But there are few more startling contractions than in the case of General Auchinleck, former commander in the Desert, whose name, as most New Zealanders now know, is pronounced "Affleck".