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A visitor from a developing nation will shake his greying head at the sight of New Zealand's pampered youth, a New Zealander in Sarawak would wring his hands in pity for the ill-treated youngsters in that country. The golden mean lies somewhere in between, but even an impartial observer may wonder if the Kiwis aren't already inclining to the gilt side.

Laugh a little . . .

In Austria "Count Bobby" is a much beloved, fictitious character. He is the vehicle for simple-minded jokes full of Austrian charm.

Bobby is in Paris. The head waiter informs him: "First breakfast from 8-11am, second breakfast from 11am-1 pm. Lunch from 1-5pm and dinner from 5-8pm.

Bobby: "Too bad, I had planned to do some sightseeing".

Also in Paris Bobby was introduced to the Prince of Orleans. Bobby asked the Prince very politely: "Do I have the honour of speaking with the son of the 'Maid of Orleans'?"

Bobby sits in the train headed for Italy. After Innsbruck a second locomotive is added to the train. Bobby enquires why this was done and it was explained to him that the altitude difference between Innsbruck and the top of the Brenner Pass made the second locomotive necessary. Bobby: "Goodness me, by now there must be a huge collection of locomotives on top of the pass".

Bobby is in the art gallery featuring cubism in painting. A cubistic landscape fascinates him and his opinion is: "This Cuba must be a terrible country".

A tourist asks Bobby if this was the street where a famous man was born.

"No," answers Bobby. "As far as I know only babies are born here".

Bobby is in a huge supermarket and asks at the information desk: "Can I buy tickets here?"

The information desk girl says: "Yes, on the third floor is the travel bureau. Do you want to go with the lift"?

"Oh no", says Bobby. "I want to go by train".

Bobby invites a friend to come and see him the following evening. The friend says: "Sorry I am already engaged, I go to see 'Lucia de Lammermoor'" (an opera).

Says Bobby: "For goodness sake, don't be a prude, bring her with you.

Collection from Nebelspalter.