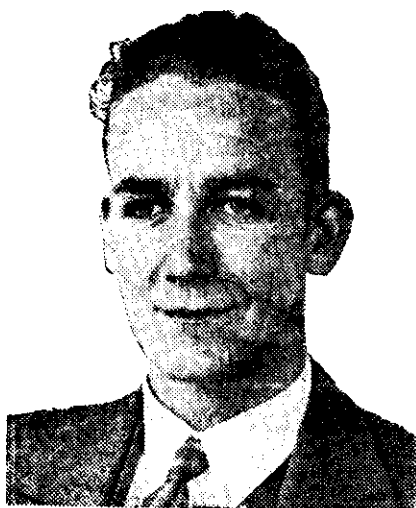


July 27



PROFESSOR J. RUTHERFORD, of Auckland University College (left), who will speak on Captain William Hobson (right) from IYA on Thursday evening, July 27, in the series "New Zealand a Century Ago."

Is History Bunk?

A Layman Questions A Professor

(Professor F. L. W. Wood, of Wellington, in the series "History for Everyman")

Layman: You seem to be deeply interested in that book you're reading—what is it?

Professor: A new life of Cook.

L: I suppose you mean Captain Cook, the explorer? He discovered New Zealand, didn't he?

P: He did.

L: Well, I know that about him. But I've never been much interested in history. History lessons used to bore me stiff at school, just a lot of dates and names.

P: Well, as a matter of fact, I was sometimes bored by history at school myself. Whenever I came into a history form it was just beginning to study the feudal system, so I seemed to do feudalism and nothing else for years on end.

L: There you are. Why on earth should you bother your head about mediaeval people who have been dead and buried for centuries? What does it matter whether the battle of Hastings was fought in 1066 or 1067? Can't historians tell us something interesting?

P: Well, what do you find interesting?

L: The present day, of course. I want to know whether there is going to be a war—and if so, who will win. I want to know whether there is going to be another depression, and why I have to pay so much income tax.

P: I am interested in those things too. They are part of history—or very closely connected with it.

L: Then why do you go worrying about the Middle Ages?

P: Because in so many ways the Middle Ages are so up to date. You mentioned war—people went to war then for some of the same reasons that take them to war now. They had depressions, too, though not so bad, for different reasons.

L: So you think that history can always be brought up to date—that even when you are talking about the Middle Ages you can be comparing it with the present?

P: Of course. When you are dealing with a problem in the past you will nearly always find some similar problem in the present. History repeats itself, you know.

L: Why not leave the past alone? Henry Ford said that history was bunk and I'm inclined to agree with him.

P: Henry Ford didn't say that history was bunk. I understand that he said that history as written is bunk, which is a very different thing. I grant you the present is important, but the present grows out of the past, and you can't understand the present and deal with it unless you know something about the past.

L: For instance?

P: Well, just look around you. Have you ever considered the differences between the four principal cities in New Zealand—Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin? I suppose you have been to them all?

L: Oh, yes, many times, and I have noticed a lot of differences.

P: Well, hasn't it struck you that the main reason for the differences is the history of the four centres. Their foundations were different—I mean there is a very great deal of difference between the planned settlement of Canterbury and Otago with a strong church atmosphere and the unplanned settlement of Auckland. You can see the difference as you walk down the street.

L: Yes, I suppose that is so, but does it matter very much?

P: Well, that is a matter of opinion—but take another example. We are hearing a lot nowadays about exchange control and encouraging secondary industries. Do you know that other countries have controlled their exchanges, for much the same reason that we have done so? And do you know that other countries have cut down imports, and have tried to develop manufactures in a hurry? And as to Social Security, most of the history of the Middle Ages is the story of how people tried to get security in a primitive society. Do you know that in many mediaeval industries there was a kind of compulsory mutual benefit relief? You had to pay in dues regularly, and got benefits when you were ill or unemployed, and your children and widow got help on your death.

L: That's interesting, though it sounds more like economics than history to me. But let's get back to Cook in stead. We started this conversation because you were reading a book about him. What has he got to do with all this?

P: Cook? Well, he rediscovered New Zealand a century or so after Tasman had found it. He really put it on the map and introduced it to the world. As a matter of fact, some people think that New Zealand might have been colonised half a century before it was if only he had lived a few years longer.

L: How's that?

P: Well, a few years after Cook's death the British Government was looking for the site for a new colony. Cook liked New Zealand and it's quite possible that if his advice had been asked he would have persuaded them to choose New Zealand.

L: As he was dead, whom did they ask?

P: His friend Banks, who had been with him in the "Endeavour." Banks suggested New South Wales instead—mainly, I think, because the Maoris were warriors and cannibals. Banks and his friends thought that the new colonists would be pushed into the sea or eaten.

L: So they sent the colony to New South Wales.

P: Yes, New Zealand only came into it vaguely at that stage. They gave the new governor a kind of general authority over New Zealand, and they hoped he might be able to get some flax or timber from there. His main idea about the place was that it would be a good way of punishing criminals—to send them over here and tell the Maoris to eat them. Fortunately he soon thought better of that.

4YZ INVERCARGILL

680 k.c. 441 m.

- 7. 0-9.0 a.m. Breakfast session
- 11. 0 Recordings
- 12. 0 Luncheon session
- 1.30-2.30 p.m. Educational session
- 5. 0 Dance music
- 5.30 Children's session: "David and Dawn"
- 5.45 Light music
- 6.15 In the Sports Club with J. D. K. Taylor, chairman of the Fiji Rugby Union
- 6.30 Rawicz and Landauer at the piano
- 6.45 "The Woman in White"
- 7. 0 After dinner music
- 7.30 Station announcements
- 8. 0 Book talk by H. B. Farnall, City Librarian
- 8.15 New dance releases
- 8.45 "The Hunchback of Notre Dame"
- 9. 0 Orchestral interlude
- 9.10 Community sing. from Civic Theatre
- 10. 0 Close down

3ZR GREYMOUTH

940 k.c. 319 m.

- 7. 0 a.m. Breakfast session
- 9. 0 Morning programme
- 10. 0-10.10 Weather report
- 12. 0 Luncheon programme
- 1. 0 p.m. Weather report
- 1.30-2.30 Educational session from 2YA
- 3. 0 Afternoon programme
- 4.30 Weather and shipping news
- 5. 0 David and Dawn
- 5.30 Merry tunes
- 6. 0 Dinner music
- 6.30 News and reports
- 7. 0 "Rheinlander"
- 7. 2 Mittens (last episode)
- 7.20 Papio
- 7.23 Ray Kinney with Dick McIntire
- 7.27 Jose Norman's Hawaiian Band
- 7.30 "Rhythm all the Time"
- 7.42 Parlophone presents . . .
- 7.48 Dad and Dave (episode 68)
- 8. 0 "Sonata in A Major" (Beethoven)
- 8.30 In the Sports Club, interviewing the wrestler, Jack Donovan
- 8.47 Lively songs and merry tunes
- 9. 0 Willie Smith (the Lion)
- 9. 6 In the Mystery Club
- 9.30 Do you remember?
- 10. 0 Close down

2YH NAPIER

760 k.c. 395 m.

- 7. 0-9.0 a.m. Breakfast session
- 11. 0 Light music
- 12. 0-2.0 p.m. Lunch session

- 5. 0 Light musical programme
- 5.30 Uncle Ed and Aunt Gwen
- 6. 0 Pinto Pete
- 6.15 Light music
- 6.40 Talk by J. Mason: "Dahlia Culture in Hawke's Bay"
- 7. 0 After dinner music
- 7.15 Inspector Scott of Scotland Yard: The Case of the Special Investigation
- 8. 0 Light orchestral and vocal selections
- 8.20 Radio play: "A Hundred Pathoms."
- 9. 0 Submarine drama
- 9. 0 Light variety entertainment
- 10. 0 Close down

2YN NELSON

920 k.c. 327 m.

- 7. 0 p.m. Miscellaneous light music
- 8. 0 Concert programme of chamber music, opening with "Sonata in D Minor (Schumann), played by Hephzibah and Yehudi Menuhin
- "His Last Plunge" (18)
- 8.15 Humorous interlude
- 9.30 Dance music in correct tempo
- 10. 0 Close down

2YD WELLINGTON

990 k.c. 303 m.

- 7. 0 p.m. Ragtime marches on
- 7.35 The Crimson Trail
- 7.45 Ensemble, orchestral combination
- 8. 0 The Old-Time The-Ayter: "Snatched from her Lover's Arms," or "The Menace of Geoffrey Mummery"
- 8.20 2YD Singers
- 8.40 2YD trailer
- 8.45 Khyber and Beyond (chapter 14)
- 9.10 Piccadilly on parade, featuring leading artists of English radio, stage and screen
- 9.25 "Console-ation," from the organist's point of view
- 9.40 Youth must have its Swing: Weekly session of modern rhythm, conducted by "Radiogram"
- 10. 0 Close down

12M AUCKLAND

1250 k.c. 240 m.

- 5. 0 p.m. Light orchestral and popular selections
- 6.45 News, announcements
- 7. 0 Sports session, "Bill" Hendry
- 7.45 Drama in Cameo: "Leicester's First Wife"
- 8. 0 Theatre memories
- 8.30 Music from the ballets
- 9. 0 Old-time dance
- 10. 0 Close down