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"What future do you think radio and the stage have before them?"

"Well, I think radio as it is to-day is doomed when television comes in, but on the other hand, the stage, though it has suffered a set-back in the last 15 years by the movies, is now coming back into its own. Television won't affect the stage."

"One question for your radio fans. Do you live all the parts you take?"

"We couldn't possibly do that. We have 30 and 40 parts a week sometimes, and we'd be living in a mad-house if we tried to live all those."

He pulled on his coat, adjusted his tie and revolved in a circle.

"Do I look all right?" he asked. The calling voice passed down the corridor again.

"Anyway, you can tell them I like New Zealand very much," he said from the door. "I was here eight years ago in *Night Must Fall*, and I've looked forward to coming back ever since. It was winter then, too, but it's worse this time, because I had my overcoat stolen just before I left Sydney."

John Tate Prefers Films

I could see John Tate for only a moment as he paused between acts, but New Zealanders know him already. In the little time he had, he answered all my questions carefully and seriously, and he brought me a cup of tea to drink.

"I'm very fond of radio, but I like film work best," he began. "In fact, I played the lead in two propaganda films just before I left Australia, co-starring in the second with my wife."

"How then do you feel towards the radio?" I asked him.

"Radio work is very nerve-wracking, but it is very fine work. I consider radio playing the hardest and the most expressive of all the arts, and there is still a terrific amount of scope not yet utilised in this medium. The whole art of radio is intimacy. You must bring your character and scene to every individual at his own fireside. There is a side to radio work in Australia that you don't know here in New Zealand. Over there, radio production can compare with anything in England or America. The competition is acute. Most of the studios have their own theatrettes, seating 400 to 500 people, which means we actually have to give a stage performance at the same time as we broadcast."

But at this moment someone came looking for John Tate. Out on the stage the curtain was rising; the audience had stopped chattering—the play was on.

—V.C.

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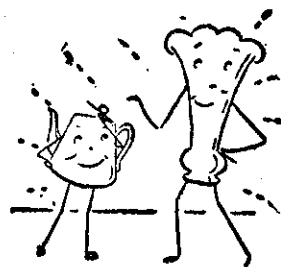


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