

(continued from previous page)

were Cabinet Ministers being perfectly proper about the war effort, as of course would be their bounden duty.

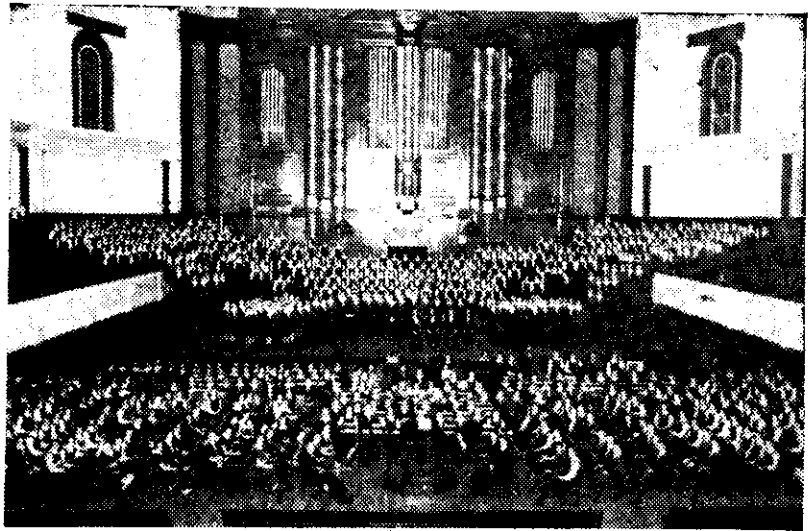
But it was a talk of this sort that gave us one of our biggest radio laughs—the exhortation to “invest our savings in the war loan and so defend the right to be free.” For men in our situation that was irony indeed, and the hoots of laughter from the cells proved how much it was appreciated.

Yet here again I had doubts and misgivings. I wondered sometimes whether we were just being given what was thought proper for us and not all the nasty things that might have been good for us. I cannot help thinking that the radio will emasculate us politically unless it is a really open forum, not only for local politics but also for those of the international order. Can we really form any proper opinions unless we listen to Stalin as well as to Churchill and Roosevelt, and even to such upsetting people as Hitler and Gandhi? Is there not a real danger of the radio becoming something like a respectable church in which nothing must be said that will upset the older folk (who are also the richer sort)? If this happens, the radio, like so much of the church, will just preside decently over the dead burying the dead.

“A Bit of a Shock”

I had never listened to commercial broadcasting before, and certainly got a bit of a shock. I had never before realised what a lot of things could go wrong with my insides nor what a lot could be done to put them right. Nor had I known what an army of authoritative, charming and apparently inexpensive people were willing to sell me remedies. It is fair enough that young men with lovely voices should beseech me to buy 50 different kinds of pills, but surely someone with a cold and unpleasant scientific manner should have the right to say that the ingredients for X's 2/- pot of ointment cost 2d, and that the whole can be made up by a local chemist for 6d? Surely the city fathers or some respectable group of the sort should have such a right?

Being a churchman, I would, of course, have liked to listen to a few more services, but these were not popular enough to go on. The few I heard were variable, and mainly served to confirm me in my opinion that a radio service ought to be taken from a small chapel that is properly equipped as a studio, and that the ministers who take these services should be men specially selected for the work. The popular man in the large church which happens to be wired (because it is large and important) is often the last person who should broadcast; and yet he is nearly always the man who does. More important perhaps, than even this is that it is highly inadvisable for the churchman to come to the microphone unless he has something to say with authority to the unchurched masses. Until he has that, it is better to refuse invitations—although paradoxically, if the word of God were to come to a man, he would probably be refused the opportunity. Indeed, perhaps, the gist of what doubts I have expressed through this article might be summed up in the question, “Would the prophet Jeremiah be allowed to speak over the air from 2YA?”



A DUNEDIN EXPERIMENT IN SCHOOL MUSIC

THE introduction of music into the school curriculum, and its inclusion in the school time-table, as a regular study for every pupil, is an experiment that has been made with notable success at the King Edward Technical College, Dunedin, during the past 10 years. Dr. Vernon Griffiths, now Professor of Music at Canterbury University College, who has always firmly believed that opportunity and wise guidance are all that are needed to unlock the door of music to ordinary boys and girls, and that exceptional gifts are not essential to enjoy or take part in good music, introduced the experiment 10 years ago, when he joined the staff of the college. He aimed at giving every pupil entering the school an opportunity to hear and to study good music, to take part in vocal music, and to learn to play any instrument of the orchestra, if he wished.

Dr. Griffiths believed that such a scheme would be useless were it to depend on any one person, and that it should provide its own leaders from its own students, so that when two years ago, Dr. Griffiths took the Chair of Music at Canterbury College, the school

music continued uninterrupted under Frank Callaway, one of Dr. Griffiths' own students.

The actual number in the various school groups are, perhaps, almost incredible to an outsider, but the photograph above gives some idea. It was taken at a concert in the Dunedin Town Hall in August, 1943. The massed choir includes more than 700 voices, the massed orchestra, the largest in New Zealand, more than 300 players, the senior orchestra, about 150 players, and the military band, conducted by Mr. White, a member of the school staff, and also a former pupil in music classes in the school, about 60 players.

A public performance is to be given in the Dunedin Town Hall on August 16 and 17, under Mr. Callaway. All the school music groups will take part in the programme, several items of which will be sung in six parts by the massed choir. An innovation this year is that for the first time part of the concert on the second night, Thursday, August 17, is to be broadcast. So those in other parts of New Zealand, interested in school music, will now have an opportunity to hear what is being done. The broadcast will be from 4YA, beginning at 8 p.m.



PROFESSOR VERNON GRIFFITHS
Introduced the experiment



FRANK CALLAWAY
Is carrying it on