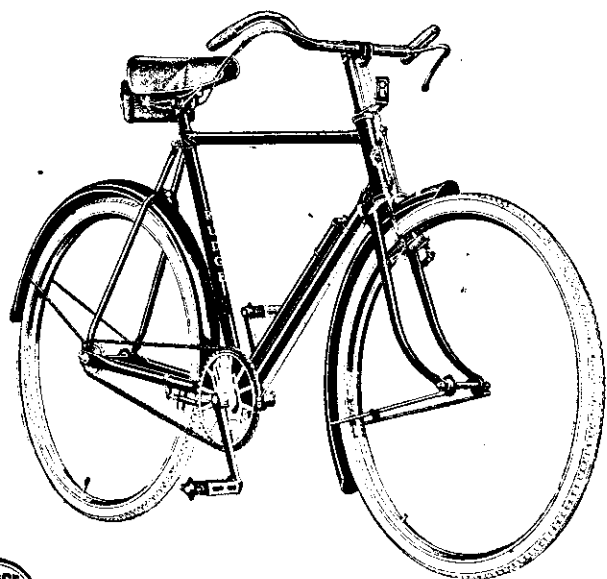


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## XYLOPHONIST FROM INDONESIA

A NEW performer in the NBS Variety Show, when it made its public appearance in the Wellington Town Hall on Saturday, April 6, was a visitor to this country—Wladimir Laskin-Tanin, who shortens his name out of consideration for foreigners to Wladimir Tanin. He is a percussion player from Russia, who has been in the Netherlands East Indies for the last 18 years, and is a naturalised Netherlands subject. He came here recently with his wife and daughter among the refugees from Indonesia. He plays the xylophone and vibraphone, and at the Variety Show in the Town Hall (which was relayed from 2YA) he played solos on those instruments.

Mr. Tanin was playing tympani and the xylophone in Russia before he left—in the middle twenties—and on one occasion played Liszt's second Hungarian Rhapsody with an orchestra of 200. Then he went to the Netherlands East Indies, where there is quite a sizable Russian community—big enough to have its own church.

We wanted to know what sort of music was in the orchestral repertoire in the middle twenties—were the Muscovites listening to Shostakovich then?

and Brahms's Hungarian Dance No. 3. When we said "Thank you" and "Very good" in our simplified English (Mr. Tanin is not yet fluent in English), he said "Not good. Not yet. In about two months, perhaps."

Mr. Tanin has one daughter, who is a violinist and who has just turned 21. She received very high praise from Simon Goldberg in the Netherlands East



WLADIMIR TANIN: At top, in Russian costume, complete with balalaika; below, as a variety comedian, with his percussion equipment

"No, there was not much Shostakovich then; mostly the classics, Beethoven Chopin, Tchaikovsky. At that time Rachmaninoff was very modern," he told us

In Java, he was in charge of a light orchestra, and used to broadcast a good deal. He showed us one photograph of the orchestra, with all its instruments, and his own elaborate percussion battery.

"The Japanese took all my instruments—gone—I don't know where. Destroyed perhaps."

And there were two other photographs, which we print on this page. He laments his long term without practice in interment (which he shared with Simon Goldberg, the famous violinist) and told us that he was once "virtuoso." In the main studio at 2YA he played for us *Czardas Munti*, Chopin's *Minute Waltz*,

Indies, and her father has hopes for her. He himself is a great admirer of Goldberg and says he has never heard such a violinist.

### How Not to Cook Fish

A YOUNG housewife we know recently discovered to her horror that she had used baking soda instead of flour on the fish. Awkward little pitfalls like that might be avoided by newlyweds and old stagers alike if they listen to a new quiz session from 2ZB—the "Housewives' Quiz." This is to be heard on Friday and Saturday mornings at 10.15. A class of three women appears in the studio and is roundly quizzed by a competent quiz-mistress on the domestic arts and sciences.