(continued from previous page) killing all the time. A red stain on a sack had grown and there were others appearing. Suddenly the sack moved, and he was trembling, Hell! This couldn't go on. This was finish. There was an old scrubcutter's hut about a mile down, beside the creek; he'd cut through the bush to it and get a spade

to bury this. God, what a rotten busi-

ness! What a rotten business!

Down at the hut he had another idea, and taking an old flour sack he climbed back slowly up the trap-line. Already in one of them there was a big bush-rat, caught by the middle, and near another a hedgehog was scuffling the leaves. It took two trips, but by mid-day he had I brought all the traps to the top of the hill, In a thick tangle of bracken he dug a deep hole and buried them. He also buried the other sacks, but there was no satisfaction. . . . he felt sick and ashamed, his clothes hung clammy on him and he hurried to leave the spot for the creek below.

In the cool water his hands washed clean, prompting him to undress and bathe. In the shallow pool the slimed stones were too soft against the body, and although in the currents flowing round there was a healer's caress, their soft fingers were sensual, wandering on

Gracie Fields Sings New Zealand Songs

WO songs she learned in New getting a bit past Zealand during her tour of that now." Before 1945, Alfred Hill's Waiata she sang Now is the Poi, and the Maori farewell song, Now is the Hour, were sung by Gracie Fields in the 2YA Variety it. She had sung it, Magazine the other evening. They were received on shortwave from the BBC and re-broadcast. Before the songs, Gracie Fields told BBC listeners that she had been very impressed with the Maori music she heard in this country. The Maoris, she said, appeared to be something like the Welsh people—they loved singing.

She mentioned the movements of the poi dance, but added, "I can't do it; I'm

his skin. He got out, shivering, and rubbed himself with his singlet.

THE young man had turned his horse out, and was walking towards the house when his mother called from the window. He did not answer, but passed thoughtfully through the gate and round by the back. In the wash-house he pulled his boots off as his father entered expectantly. Watching the anger leap in his father's face. . . .

"My traps . . . some rotten cow's pinched the lot."

the hope that all England would learn she said, in New Zealand, Australia, and all through America.

Gracie Fields back with the BBC after an absence from broadcasting of four years, starring in a special series proοf weekly

Working grammes called Gracie's Party, with emphasis on the working. These programmes are intended to introduce on the air Britain's workers off duty, with all their native talent as entertainers, pianists, dance band players, instrumentalists, comedians, singers and more.

After launching the new series from Rochdale, Gracie Fields's home, the intention was to broadcast from large halls Liverpool, Huddersfield, Sheffield. Middlesbrough, and Newcastle, Although half of the programmes come from the North of England, major in-



GRACIE **FIELDS**

ered before the series ends in London These programmes are the result of much planning and careful preparation.

other parts of the

country will be cov-

The BBC negotiated with Gracie Fields in America, and the BBC producer re-sponsible for the programmes travelled to Capri to discuss details with

her. The records of thousands of BBC auditions were combed and where insufficient talent was forthcoming in a particular district, special auditions were held.

The BBC's searchers found talent in cotton operatives from Rochdale mills. steel workers from Sheffield factories. mer, and women from the woollen mills of Huddersfield, "Geordies" from the Tyneside shipyards, and housewives everywhere: The acts considered varied from a solo on a musical saw to a vast choral society of workers.



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