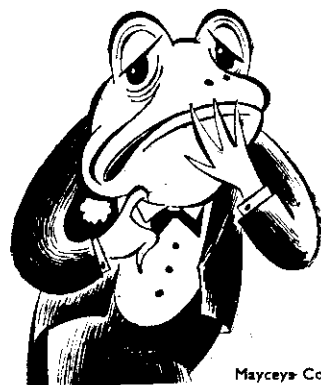


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"PENNY ORCHESTRA" Queensland State Quartet's Tour

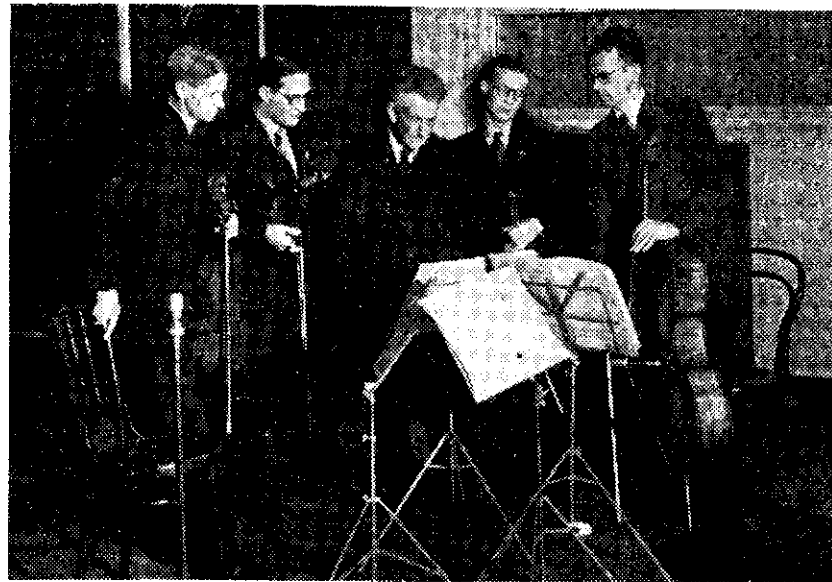
THOSE who are accustomed to paying high prices to hear recitals by visiting musical celebrities will be interested to know that across the Tasman they sometimes have different ideas on the question of providing culture, in the form of classical music, for the people. About four years ago in Queensland, for instance, a benevolent State Government organised a chamber music ensemble to give free performances throughout the country of the best classical music played by four of Australia's best string players. They called this group the Queensland State String Quartet, and because all its concerts were free, it soon became popularly known as the "penny orchestra." The penny was for a booking fee, and all other costs, including salaries for the players, travelling expenses, and the hiring of halls, were paid by the State Government.

New Zealand audiences will have opportunities of hearing the Queensland State Quartet during the next two months, when they will tour the principal centres giving recitals and broadcasting over the main National stations. Their first broadcast will be from IYA

kinds of audiences, in canefields, mining centres, and pastoral areas all over the country. This has entailed much long-distance travelling, and to reach places like Cloncurry, Longreach, and Mt. Isa, the players have had to go three thousand miles. But they say that these journeys are really worth while, especially as many of the audiences also have to travel long distances to hear them. Fifty miles is said to be quite common, and many people travel up to a hundred miles just to hear one performance.

Although the Quartet began with a repertory of standard classical works by Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven and others, their programme has since been extended to take in the chamber music of many modern composers, including Ravel, Bax, Hindemith, Prokofieff and Bartok. Among the recordings they have made, one of the most notable is of Alfred Hill's Quartet No. 2 (the *Maori*), and the accompanying photograph was taken during rehearsals in a Sydney recording studio.

In addition to their broadcasts and recitals in New Zealand, the Queensland State String Quartet hopes to include several special broadcasts for school children.



THE QUEENSLAND STATE STRING QUARTET with Alfred Hill (centre) in a Sydney recording studio.

on Sunday, May 2, when they will play (at 9.33 p.m.) Beethoven's Quartet No. 5 in A major.

Recordings by the Queensland Quartet, which is considered, by the way, to be among the best chamber music groups in Australia, have already been broadcast by the NZBS, but this is the first time they have actually visited this country. Their leader is an Australian violinist, Richard Llewellyn, and—a point of local interest—the second violinist, Harold Taberner, is a New Zealander. David Powell plays the viola, and Don Howley the 'cello.

The Quartet was originally formed in 1944 with the idea of developing musical appreciation in children, but its scope was quickly extended to include adult audiences. It does not, however, confine itself to giving highbrow concerts in the big Australian cities, but has played during the four years of its existence to all

Posers, Penalties and Profits

WITH prizes in hand to the value of about £3,000, the Commercial Service of the NZBS has closed its list of donations for *Posers, Penalties and Profits*, to open at the Empire Theatre, Dunedin, on Thursday, April 22. The show, on the lines of the American *Truth or Consequences* programme will occupy half an hour on the stage during picture screenings in Dunedin, Christchurch, Wellington, Auckland and Palmerston North (with a second visit to the four main centres), taking up nine weeks in all. The dates are: Christchurch, April 29; Auckland, May 6; Wellington, May 13; and Palmerston North, May 20. Repeat performances will be staged at Dunedin on May 27; Christchurch, June 3; Auckland, June 10; and Wellington, June 17. All ZB stations will broadcast the show at 9.0 o'clock.