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# "THIS IS NEW ZEALAND"

## BBC Programme for Royal Tour

LAST month, readers will remember, *The Listener* interviewed Geoffrey Bridson (senior features producer for the British Broadcasting Corporation) and Wilfred Thomas (commentator and producer for the Australian Broadcasting Commission) who were about to collect recorded material to be used by both the BBC and the ABC during the Royal Tour of New Zealand from February 28 to March 31 next year. Both men have now, in collaboration with the NZBS, made a brief survey of the New Zealand scene, including a chapter on Maori life in the Rotorua district. This will be broadcast in conjunction with the day-by-day reports of the progress of the tour, which at that time will make New Zealand "front-page" radio and newspaper news in England and Australia. Radio commentators in both those countries will have described for them the exact scenes the Royal Party are witnessing.

Geoffrey Bridson told a staff reporter of *The Listener* that during his stay in



GEOFFREY BRIDSON has paid special attention to Rotorua in his New Zealand programme for the BBC—and, of course, no broadcast about Rotorua would be complete without this kind of interview

Rotorua he picked up some good material for a dramatized documentary Maori feature, and as far as the BBC was concerned, it was probable that Maoris living in London would take part in it when it was produced there. "It is interesting to see that the NZBS has precisely the same technique as we have in England for outside recordings; but sometimes we have to use batteries, whereas for the work we have just done your Mobile Unit was able to hook up to power," he said. "At Rotorua we employed a short-wave transmitter between the commentator and the recording van."

"During the Royal Tour of South Africa, people overseas not normally interested in the native people got to know quite a lot about the Zulus; now New Zealand's native race will be featured in both the BBC Home Service and short-wave services," he added.

He has also written a feature *This Is New Zealand* for use as a curtain-raiser to the tour of New Zealand. It will be broadcast from the BBC the night before H.M.S. Vanguard berths at Wellington, the first port of call in this country.

"It will be somewhat unusual," he said, "because on this occasion

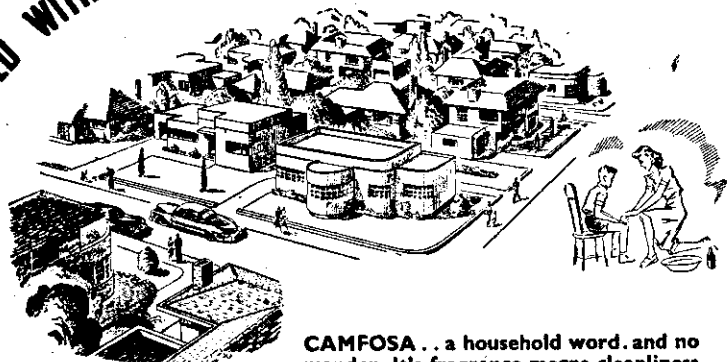
the story of New Zealand will be told to English listeners from the point of view of an English visitor." Mr. Bridson will produce the feature in the Production Studios of the NZBS, with New Zealand performers. The incidental music, written by the New Zealand composer Douglas Lilburn, will be played by the National Orchestra of the NZBS, conducted by Andersen Tyrer.

The recordings made at Rotorua cover such varied topics as the Land Development Schemes at Rotorua and Tauranga, the Tarawera eruption, and the excavation on the site of the buried villages; a short history of Tauranga and its association with the Maori Wars, Maori nursing, housing schemes, the Women's Health League, tattooing and carving; a visit to a Maori school, the thermal area at Whakarewarewa, and portions of a service in St. Faith's



YOUNG NEW ZEALAND—Geoffrey Bridson with young Maori children at the Whakarewarewa School

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