

# "GOOD NEIGHBOURS"

## BBC's Christmas Day Programmes

AS in previous years, the King will speak to people of the Commonwealth in all parts of the world on Christmas Day. He is expected to broadcast this year from Buckingham Palace and, as announced in last week's *Listener*, his message will be re-broadcast by the NZBS. Preceding and leading up to the King's broadcast will be a round-the-world radio link-up of messages of "good tidings to all men of goodwill," in which for 60 minutes listeners will hear the ordinary friendly voices of people in various parts of the world speaking from their homes to similar people in their homes across oceans and frontiers.

The programme has been called *Good Neighbours*, and how the people who will take part were chosen was explained recently by Laurence Gilliam, who has been working on it for several months as joint producer. "The search, in all parts of the world," he said, "was for people, especially young people, who are actively engaged on vital work of reconstruction, of mutual help, of international understanding; people who are working for higher standards of health and food, for a freer passage of ideas across the frontiers. In Britain, we searched for the right people to tell the world this Christmas that the Old Country is still young in mind and spirit, overhauling her moral resources as well as her machines, alive and awake to her destiny in the new Commonwealth that is taking shape, as much as in the new union of Western Europe."

The broadcast will range from Britain to the countries of Western Europe, and out into the Commonwealth, where, among other calls, it is hoped to make contact with men in the Canadian Arctic, and with a meteorological survey expedition in the Antarctic. Listeners may also hear how Christmas is being spent by a new generation of British pioneers in East Africa.

Robert Donat will be the narrator of *Good Neighbours*, and the programme is jointly produced by Laurence Gilliam and Leonard Cottrell. Music will be played by the London Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Walter Goehr.

*Good Neighbours*, followed by the King's message, will be heard from 2YA, 1ZB, 2ZB, 3ZB, and 4ZB at 2.0 a.m. on December 26 (N.Z. Time). Stations 1YA, 2YA, 3YA, 4YA, 2YZ, 3YZ, and 4YZ will give a repeat broadcast of the programme at 9.0 a.m. on the same day.

### BBC Programmes on Shortwave

Listeners on shortwave will hear on Christmas Day a good series of programmes in the General Overseas Service. At 6.15 p.m. (N.Z. Time) a Christmas service from the famous church St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London, conducted by the Rev. W. D. Kennedy-Bell, will be broadcast, and at 8.30 p.m. the service from St. John the Baptist Church, Greenhill, Harrow, Middlesex, conducted by the Rev. Joost de Blank. At 9.0 p.m. carols will be sung by the BBC Chorus.

At 9.30 p.m. listeners will hear *Gracie Fields's Christmas Party*. This was recorded before Gracie left Britain recently. It was a real party at which many members of her own family were present, including her mother, Mrs. Stans-

field, her brother, Tommy, and his wife, Cynthia Rawson. Teddie Holmes was there at the piano, and other guests were Robert Farnon—who in war-time used to conduct the Canadian band of the A.E.F.—and a large studio audience.

Two editions will be heard by overseas listeners, that for Pacific listeners (7.0 p.m. Pacific Regional Programme, December 26), lasting 30 minutes.

Handel's *Messiah* will be broadcast at 10.0 p.m., performed and sung by the BBC Northern Orchestra and Huddersfield Choral Society conducted by Sir Malcolm Sargent, the soloists being Isobel Baillie, Gladys Ripley, Eric Greene, and Norman Walker.

At 11.10 p.m. Sandy Macpherson will present his Christmas party, too, although it will be a less uproarious affair than Gracie's. Sandy will be host and for once will not go near the cinema organ, leaving this to Frederick Bayco. There will be a third organist in the programme, Felton Rapley, who will play two-piano duets with Jack Martin. Other guests to give variety to the proceedings will be Robert Easton, the popular bass singer, and Claude Cavalletti, saxophonist.

## SHORTWAVE HIGHLIGHTS

THE international programme service of PCJ Hilversum, Holland, broadcasts each night (except Sunday) to the Pacific area, including New Zealand, from 10.0 until 11.0. All three of the high-frequency stations carrying this programme are being received quite well at present (21.48 mc/s., 13.97 metres; 17.75, 16.88; and 15.22, 19.71), but the 6-metre transmission is rather poor.

The broadcast opens with the programme announcements and the news. At 10.15 p.m. a review of the Press, a report on Netherlands Parliamentary proceedings, or an Indonesian Review is heard, followed by Music by Dutch Composers at 10.30 p.m. and the headline news at 10.55 p.m. On Tuesday evenings PCJ opens at 8.30 p.m. with the "Happy Station Programme," presented and produced by Edward Startz, answering letters and sending messages to listeners.

### HCJB Quito

The Voice of the Andes is at present broadcasting a test transmission to New Zealand on 17.90 mc/s., 16.76 metres, from 8.0-9.0 a.m. on Fridays, and this is being heard at quite fair strength except for a slight echo.

On other mornings this test may be heard beginning at 7.0 a.m. Reception reports are welcomed and all letters should be addressed to HCJB Quito, Ecuador.

The Pioneer Missionary Station may also be heard daily (except Tuesday) in its usual afternoon transmission from 2.0 p.m. until 5.30 p.m. with its "mountain top music." This programme is heard on 15.11 mc/s., 19.85 metres, and 12.44, 24.12 on the 30-metre band.

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