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**MENTMORE DIPLOMA**

## Progress at Whangarei

LOCAL Northland talent will be called upon to the greatest possible extent consistent with a high standard of broadcast programmes when the next link in the chain of new NZBS stations, 1XN Whangarei, is fully established. With this end in view Station Manager C. A. McDowell plans to begin auditions within about a week.

Like its fellows 1XH and 3XC, 1XN will broadcast a partly commercial programme, has a transmitter of two kilowatts designed to serve an area within

experience of broadcasting, during which he has written, produced, or acted in almost every type of radio programme—and he hopes Whangarei artists will take full advantage of the facilities the studio will offer.

A home for 1XN has already been completed in Rust Lane, not far from the Whangarei Public Library, and excellent progress is being made with the installation of technical equipment, which is the most modern available. Studio and offices are all the one floor of a now rather attractive cream and grey structure built from prefabricated steel sections used during the war for United States Army hospitals.

Considerable ingenuity backed by a high degree of technical skill have gone into the adaptation of this material to the needs of a broadcasting studio, but the results are such that Whangarei should have every reason to be proud of its own local station. The most modern methods of interior decoration have been used to provide both a pleasing appearance and highly satisfactory working conditions. The building itself is set in roomy grounds, neatly laid out in lawns, with provision for flowering shrubs, and evergreens, which will be planted in due course.

Work on the transmitter building at Tikipunga, near Kamo, is sufficiently well advanced for the installation of



C. A. McDOWELL

a radius of about forty miles, and is intended to be a radio community centre for the district. Mr. McDowell is enthusiastic about this latter aspect of his work—he has had twelve years'

transmitting equipment to proceed simultaneously, while when this issue went to press the 175ft. steel mast, of the same type as that in use at Hamilton, was almost ready.

## Glyndebourne's Loss

RUDOLF BING, the man who conceived the idea of the first Edinburgh Festival of Music and Drama, and who has been Director and General Manager of the Glyndebourne Opera Company, is reported to have accepted an offer to become General Manager of the New York Metropolitan Opera as from next year. This will be as much Britain's loss as America's gain, for the success of the first two Edinburgh Festivals is said to have been largely due to Bing's genius as an organiser and entrepreneur in this difficult field of entertainment. He had a distinguished early career in operatic management on the Continent, and in 1934 he went to Britain, and later became head of the Glyndebourne Opera. The New York Metropolitan has been losing money for several years, and last season it nearly didn't open at all. Some of the causes of this are said to be (apart from lack of sufficient public support) its over-age scenery, out-dated lighting and staging effects, and under-enthusiastic singing and acting. But Bing's experience of handling opera, music, and drama on an international



RUDOLF BING

scale at Edinburgh should stand him in good stead when he takes over the running of "America's greatest operatic institution."

N.Z. LISTENER, JULY 22, 1949.

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