

# ON BOXING DAY IN THE MORNING...

## "Commonwealth Christmas" from the BBC

**L**EADING up to the King's speech (which 2YA will re-broadcast at 3.0 a.m. on Boxing Day) the BBC will broadcast, as in previous years, a round-the-world radio programme that will link listeners in all parts of the world and especially in the Commonwealth. This year voices from far-away places that have previously been unable to take part in the traditional BBC round-up will be heard. The programme has been called *Commonwealth Christmas*, and the producer, D. G. Bridson, has this to say about its theme:

"To anyone who has watched the big ships pull out from Southampton, Liverpool or the Clyde, by far the most dramatic of all peace-time sailings is the sailing of a ship load of British emigrants. What will life really be like for them out there in Australia, South Africa, Canada, or New Zealand? That is the thought behind *Commonwealth Christmas*. It will open with the departure of one of these ships and then do its best to answer some of the questions which must be in the emigrants' minds—men and women whose Christmas will be spent between two worlds, somewhere or other on the high seas."

To gather the answers, much preparation was needed. The Dominion's contributions are "live" wherever possible, but in addition three well-known broadcasters recently set out from London on a series of colonial journeys to collect news from the smaller members of the Commonwealth. When they came back they brought armfuls of recordings—Leonard Cottrell from the West Indies, Colin Wills from Africa, and Matthew Halton from Singapore and Hong Kong.

*Commonwealth Christmas* will be broadcast from 2YA at 2.0 a.m. on Box-

ing Day, and repeated from all the YA and YZ stations at 9.0 a.m. the same day.

### Special for Southland

One BBC programme of special interest to Southland listeners will be *Have A Go!* from an old folks' Christmas party at Blackpool, where Wilfred Pickles will be distributing food parcels generously sent to Britain by the Southland Branch of the Red Cross Society in Invercargill. By a special arrangement this programme is being broadcast in the BBC's Pacific Service at 7.0 p.m. on Friday, December 30, and it will be directly rebroadcast by Station 4YZ, Invercargill.

This unusual broadcast came about as a result of an earlier *Have A Go!* programme broadcast by 4YZ in which Pickles visited a Home for retired actors and actresses in Middlesex. So impressed were Southland listeners by the fortitude of the old people who took part that they decided to send a number of food parcels to Wilfred Pickles himself for distribution.

### "The Olympians" Broadcast

On the same night an outstanding musical programme will be the broadcast of a performance of music from *The Olympians* recorded in the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. It will be heard on shortwave only, at 9.0 p.m. on Friday, December 30, in the General Overseas Service (17.715 mc/s; 16.93 metres). This is the remarkable new full-length opera by Arthur Bliss and J. B. Priestley. The music for the broadcast has been chosen by the composer and will be introduced by J. B. Priestley. Narration by Henry Reed will be spoken by Robert Harris. Enormous interest has been aroused in England by Peter Brook's lavish production of this spectacular opera in which the gods of Olym-

pus return to the earth for a day. Karl Rankl conducts the Covent Garden Orchestra and Douglas Robinson the chorus. The singers include Edith Coates, Murray Dickie, and Howell Glynne.

At 6.45 p.m. this Friday (December 23), the BBC's Pacific Service will feature a special programme called *Pacific Nonsense*, starring the New Zealand script writer Ted Kavanagh (formerly of *Itma*), the Australians Joy Nichols and Dick Bentley (see page 16), and two more New Zealanders, Colin Horsley, the well-known pianist, and Inia Te Wiata, the Maori bass who is studying in London.

## New Year Shows

**V**ARIOUS ways of marking the passing of 1949 and the arrival of 1950 have been adopted by the NZBS stations, and most of them will offer listeners light, bright programmes during the evening of Saturday, December 31, and the very early hours of the following day. At 7.30 p.m. Station 1YD will be *Looking Backwards* at some of the year's musical events in Auckland. Station 1YZ will put on a request session at 10.0 p.m., and at 10.30 p.m. Station 1XN will present *Hit Parade Tunes of 1949*, followed at midnight by *Welcome 1950*. Hamilton's 1XH will broadcast a *New Year's Eve Party* at 10.0 p.m. Station 2YZ will say *Goodbye 1949* in a relay from the Marine Parade Sound Shell, Napier, at 11.30 p.m., and *Let's Start the New Year Right* will be the title of 2XG's midnight session. Station 2YA will broadcast, at 7.30 p.m., *This Was 1949*, a review of some of the highlights from the year's programmes.

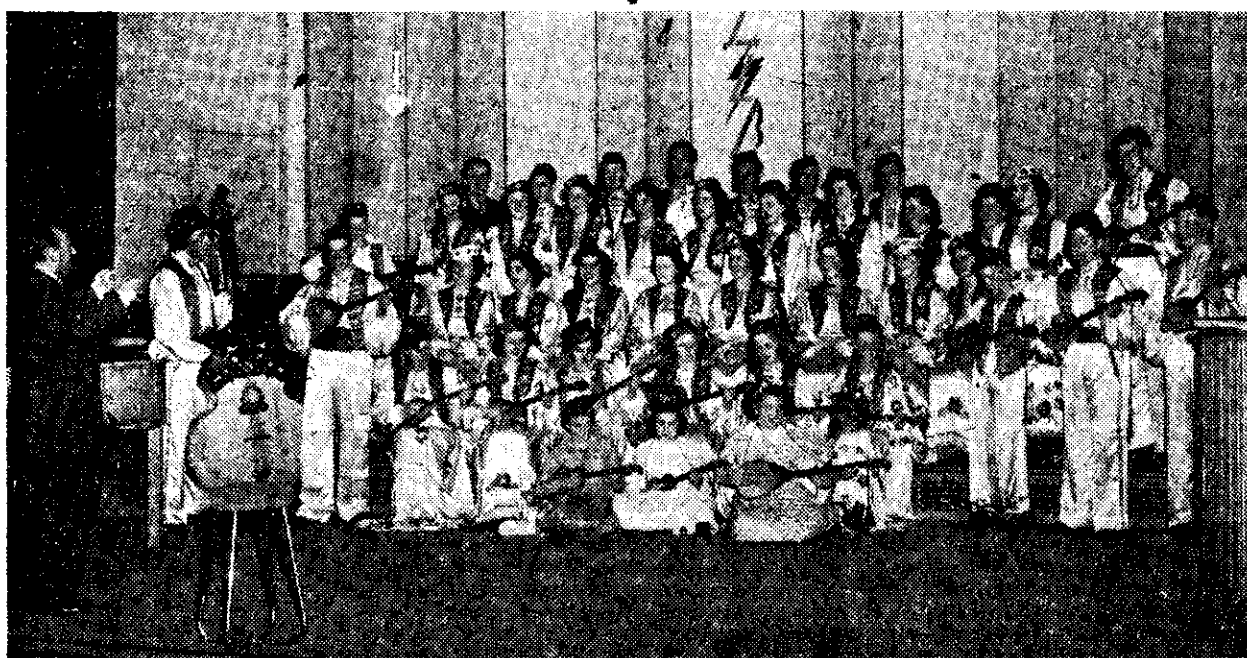
At 10.10 p.m. 2YA will broadcast a recording of a Christmas and New Year's



**WILFRED PICKLES**  
Southland will be listening

Eve Party made at the Mowai Red Cross Home in Wellington. The concert will be conducted along the lines of a wartime camp concert, with the ex-servicemen patients actively participating, and it should be of interest to all hospital patients and ex-servicemen listeners within range of 2YA. A high standard of presentation is assured by the presence of Henry Rudolph and his Harmony Serenaders, with Margaret Richmond (soprano), Joyce Izett (soprano), and Zita Outtrim (violin), and the Wellington R.S.A. Choir, which makes a practice every year of entertaining at hospitals over the Christmas and New Year period. There will be community singing, variety sketches by Anne Lane, Jack Dobson, and D. Boyd, and possibly bedside interviews with some of the patients. The programme will conclude with a message of goodwill from the Matron of the Home to all hospital patients who are listening in. The broadcast concert will last for approximately an hour.

Coming to the South Island, 2XN Nelson will describe the New Year celebrations from the Post Office, peals of bells and the noises of revelling citizenry in Cathedral Square will be broadcast from 3YA at midnight, followed at 12.15 a.m. on New Year's Day by a musical programme called *Hello 1950*. Timaru's 3XC will welcome the New Year with *Hogmanay* (a studio presentation by Timaru performers) at 8.0 p.m., and at 11.45 p.m. the station will broadcast a sound picture of the celebrations at Caroline Bay, with an introduction by the mayor. Seasonal greetings will be offered from its studio at midnight by 3YZ Greymouth, and a review of 1949 called *The Passing Year*, with flashbacks to important events in music and entertainment, will be broadcast by 4YA at 8.0 p.m. Station 4YA will also present a variety programme at 11.20 p.m. describing town and country at play, and called *Welcome 1950*. This will be interspersed with Scottish songs by Mary Pratt and items by the Dunedin Highland Pipe Band from the studio. Station 4YZ Invercargill will mark *The Passing of the Old Year* at 11.45 p.m. with the Caledonian Pipe Band playing in the studio.



**CROATIAN** Christmas carols will be heard from 1ZB this year (next Sunday, December 25, 2.0 p.m.), presented by the Yugoslav Choir of Auckland, seen here in their national costumes (and playing the traditional tamburitza instruments). The choir will be conducted by John Ferega (extreme left)