

THERE ARE OTHER WELLINGTONS

Radio Carries Greetings To Cities All Round The World

IF your name is Smith or Brown or Jones, you are, of course, perfectly aware of the many hundreds of namesakes you possess. But did you know that the name of New Zealand's capital city can be found in England, Canada, South Africa, North and South America, and Australia?

Some time ago, during 1939, K. W. Kilpatrick, CBS Programme Director, decided it would be interesting to find out more about the Wellingtons around the world. A gazeteer was consulted. There were about twenty places bearing the name Wellington. So to the mayor of each town was dispatched a letter explaining the idea of the broadcast, requesting information, possibly a recording of the mayor talking about his town.

The idea of the link-up appealed to several of the town authorities written to; some did not reply. But from the letters received, and booklets, a very interesting composite picture of several different towns in different continents, was made. The broadcast was given recently and you may have heard it over 2ZB Wellington.

A reply from Wellington, in Somerset, England, proved of great interest.

It is from the Somerset Wellington that our New Zealand city takes its name. Wellington in Somerset has a long history, dating back to the days of Alfred the Great, who gave the manors of Wellington, Buckland, and Lydeard to Asser, the tutor of his children. Asser died in 883. With his decease, the manors were given to Aldhelm, first bishop of Wells, and remained in the possession of the Bishopric until, under the reign of

Edward VI., the Borough of Wellington and the manor were granted to the Duke of Somerset.

Sir Arthur Wellesley took his title from the town, and about two miles south of the town, on a spur of the Blackdown Hills, stands the monument erected to commemorate his victory over Napoleon at Waterloo in 1815. The town has a connection with New Zealand through the exchange of wool and flannel suitings, and serge.

With an antiquity that goes back to the Roman invasion of Britain, Wellington in Shropshire has seen much history, has had many legends woven round its ancient streets. In Norman times it was called Walitone, and mention of it by that name can be found in the Domesday Book, compiled in 1085. Three miles south of the town is one of the most famous landmarks in England—The Wreckin, claimed to be the country's oldest mountain. Legend tells that a certain Welsh giant, his wrath aroused by the mayor of nearby Shrewsbury, decided to drown the Shrewsbury citizens by damming the Severn. To this end he seized an immense shovel full of earth and started on his way. By the time he reached Wellington he was weary and footsore. Spying a cobbler, he demanded how much further it was to Shrewsbury. The cobbler shrewdly asked why he wanted to know, and on learning the wicked giant's design, told him it was a long way yet—he himself had worn out twenty pairs of shoes on the road. So saying, he displayed his sack of old shoes to mend. Whereupon the giant decided it was too far, he would go no further. So he flung



FRED, MAGGIE AND DAISY with the Minister for Broadcasting, the Hon. F. Jones, Mrs. Jones, and "Scrim"

down his load, and as it was a large one, it formed a mountain—The Wreckin.

A unique connecting link between New Zealand's Wellington and Cape Province, South Africa, is found in the fact that Wellington, in that province, was also founded one hundred years ago—by Dutch and Huguenot settlers. The town, of some 8,000 inhabitants, lies in the beautiful Drakenstein Valley, on the main railway line to the interior of Africa. The valley is fertile and prosperous, yielding oranges, apricots, plums, and grapes. With its university college, training colleges and schools, the town holds a prominent position in education in the Cape. Its products—from wine, dried fruits and jams, to bacon, boots and shoes—go to markets all over the world. The people of the town speak both Afrikaans and English, and the mayor of the town, G. H. Donaldson,

finishes his message to the CBS with the wish "Alles van die beste"—All of the best.

For sheer numerical strength, the United States holds the record for Wellingtons—there are eleven there. A recorded message was received from the mayor of one American Wellington, E. R. Lehman, of Wellington, in the County of Lorraine, Ohio, where the townspeople were amused that he should be called "His Worship."

In Ontario, Canada, there is a Wellington; even on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, there is a Wellington. In Chile in South America is Wellington Island, and nearer home, just across the Tasman, there are Wellingtons in New South Wales and South Australia.

In effect, it is quite possible to live in half a dozen countries, yet always live in Wellington!

