

## Recorded Personalities In Caricature (29)



**WHO IS HE?**—Born at Kazan in Russia, in 1873, at seven he was a cobbler's apprentice. He became a wood-carver, bookbinder, pawnbroker's clerk, novice in a monastery of the Russian church, and longshoreman on the Volga at ninepence a day. At 17 he was in comic opera at twenty-four shillings a week—machinist, promoter, stage manager, singer, all in one. Not long afterwards he was singing at Moscow at £100 a month. In Boito's "Mefistofele" he appeared with the upper half of his body nude and covered with luminous paint.

## CURIOUS COINS FROM THE COCOS ISLANDS

**F**ROM the Keeling Cocos Islands, some 600 miles south-west of Java Head, and one of the remotest places in the Empire, the BBC recently received an unusual form of subscription to its overseas journal, *London Calling*. Out of the envelope rolled a number of bone coins of various shapes—the local currency in rupees and cents (see opposite page). On each coin was stamped its value, the year of issue, the arms of the islands, and the name of the Governor, J. S. Clunies Ross—by whose secretary the subscription was sent.

The story of how the Keeling Islands came to have a currency of their own dates back to the third decade of last century when Captain John Clunies Ross started a settlement on Home Island. At one time the currency consisted of stamped notes on sheepskin, signed by the head of the Ross family. The father of the present Governor tried to introduce Strait Settlements silver coins—the islands are included in the Colony of the Straits Settlements—but the experiment failed because the coins were all used up in two years, having been made into brooches, ear-rings, and other ornaments for the women.

The present owner and Governor of the Islands, J. S. Clunies Ross, is the great-grandson of the founder. He lives on Home Island, where he rules over a community of some 1,400 Malays who work at the cultivation of coco-nuts and the production of copra.

## ★ HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW? ★

**H**ERE are seven questions, one for each day of the coming week and bearing on some item in one or other of that day's programmes, which appear in this issue of *The Listener*. You can check up your solutions by referring to page 55, on which will be found the correct answers.

**SUNDAY:** What famous concert overture was directly inspired by a visit to (and named after) a show place on the Island of Staffa?

**MONDAY:** Which song has, in another musical setting, the title "Blue Bonnets Over the Border?"

**TUESDAY:** Which of a Czech composer's 700 works is the only one generally known?

**WEDNESDAY:** Which waltz by a British composer sold a million copies in the Empire alone, became an inspiration for film scenario-writers, and

had novels written around its theme?

**THURSDAY:** Which famous musical artist served on the staff of General Gallieni, defender of Paris, in the Great War?

**FRIDAY:** Which movement from a famous symphony is said to express the composer's reflections upon the romantic love of Hiawatha and Minnehaha?

**SATURDAY:** Which famous seaside concert-party was founded by a man who ran away from home to join a concert-party show at Morecambe?

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