

CHRISTCHURCH to CAIRO

Popular 3YA Announcer Goes East



Spencer Digby photograph
A. L. CURRY
To the N.Z. Broadcasting Unit

AS 3YA's announcer, A. L. Curry has listened often enough to broadcasts from overseas. Soon he will be initiating them himself. He is being transferred by the NBS from the position of Senior Announcer in Christchurch to take over Doug. Laurenson's job with the New Zealand Broadcasting Unit in the Middle East. Mr. Laurenson is now doing broadcasting work with the Imperial Forces there.

Since radio began to grow in New Zealand, Mr. Curry's pleasant voice has

been on the air. South Island listeners especially will miss him. Since he began at 3YA in the days of the Broadcasting Company, they have found listening to him very easy.

He was an accountant (in Masterton) before he became an announcer. In 1927 he worked in Wellington for three months.

He was appointed just after the opening of 2YA, and soon after was transferred to Dunedin. His work there earned him wide popularity and the Broadcasting Company recognised his worth to the extent of appointing him Chief Announcer at 3YA, then the headquarters of the company.

Other Interests

He has remained there since then, with his work as his great interest, and allied interests like debating contests and oratorical competitions taking up spare time when he has not been playing golf or tennis. In Masterton he first became interested in speech, and he has busily continued that special interest ever since he made speech his job of work.

However, he has made time for other interests. Tennis and golf keep him fit in Christchurch, and athletics at Masterton started him well. He once represented the Wairarapa in the harrier team under Randolph Rose.

OPENING OF NEW IZB STUDIOS

THE Hon. D. Wilson, Minister in Charge of Broadcasting, has stated in an interview that the new IZB Studios in Auckland will be officially opened on Monday, October 6.

"These new studios incorporate the most recent ideas in studio construction and design, and are indeed a triumph for, and a testimony to, the skill of local workmanship," the Minister stated. "An important feature in the design is the facilities that are provided for the broadcasting of local talent. It is the policy of the Government to have the broadcasting services give recognition to the splendid talent that can be gathered in the Dominion, and by recognising it to encourage and support it.

"Arrangements have been completed for an outstanding programme on the opening night, when in conjunction with recorded items, local artists drawn from throughout the Dominion will appear before the microphone," concluded the Minister.



S. P. Andrew photograph
THE HON. D. WILSON

His experiences with the New Zealand end of world-wide broadcasting have already been considerable. He announced for the first attempt at overseas broadcasting—the Dempsey-Tunney boxing match in 1927. When the first Empire transmission came through from SSW (Chelmsford) he introduced it to New Zealand listeners.

As the story developed he attended its progress. Next came Trans-Tasman flights, then the first two-way radio between New Zealand and America with Commander Byrd speaking to the *New York Times*.

His experience outside the studio will be useful in the Middle East. When he began, announcers were expected to cover anything anywhere. He has covered racing, cricket, football—all sorts of outdoor events.

His interest in the development of good speech led to the formation of the Federated Debating Societies of New Zealand in 1928, and ever since he has remained a busily interested god-parent of the movement as the only life member.

Recently he married Miss Julie Brosnahan of Wellington.

THE Anglo-Iranian Oil Company's concession in Iran was obtained in 1901, by William Knox D'Arcy, an Australian. It gives the company an exclusive right to search for and exploit petroleum throughout the whole of Iran with the exception of the five Caspian provinces, Azerbaijan, Mazanderan, Gilan, Astrabad and Khorassan, which were regarded as being in the Russian sphere of influence.

From the earliest days, use has been made of the oil seepages in Iran and Mesopotamia; we know that bitumen was used in cementing the bricks of Ur and in mummifying the royal dead in Egypt. There is reason to suppose that the Lorastrians, those early Iranians for whom fire was the symbol of the purity of the all-powerful spirit whom they worshipped, built their temples round a spot where the inflammable gases from the oil beneath the ground were ignited by lightning or other natural agency.

There are various stories regarding the manner in which D'Arcy's attention was first directed to Iran as a possible field of riches, but there is no doubt that anyone who has travelled at all in Khuzistan or in the region of Naft Khaneh field could have told him of the numerous seepages.

D'Arcy started drilling in 1903 at Kari Shirin, near the present rich field

THERE'S OIL IN IRAN! How British Developed Rich Field

THE general purpose of the Anglo-Russian occupation of Iran was to forestall an occupation by Germany. One of the particular purposes was to prevent Germany from seizing the Persian oil-fields. Here is the story of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, told by ROBERT H. NEIL, late Captain Royal Scots Fusiliers. Captain Neil had service with the Intelligence Corps in the Middle East, and speaks Persian

of Naft Khaneh, but owing to the expenses of operation, he was soon hard pressed for money. At this stage, he was approached by a German group with a proposal to relieve him of the concession. D'Arcy refused the offer, forgoing the opportunity of turning his losses into profit. It was, indeed, a fortunate decision for Britain. Even so early in 1904, the problem of converting the Royal Navy to oil fuel had been exercising the minds of those at the Admiralty. A committee was formed which came to the assistance of D'Arcy. This was the first occasion upon which the British Government extended a helping hand to the A.I.O.C.

The first step taken by this committee was the search for a new and more prolific area. The scene of operation was at Marmatain, not far from Ahwaz, on the Karun River. Here drilling was recommenced and hopes ran high, since the

locality was easily accessible from the Gulf and presented no difficulties. The results, however, were unsatisfactory, and a further search became necessary. The attention of the syndicate was next directed to an area in the-Bakhtiari Hills, about 145 miles from the head of the Iranian Gulf.

The Plain of Oil

The story goes that D'Arcy's attention was first drawn to this locality by Monsieur De Morgan, a French archaeologist, who had been engaged for many years on excavations in the neighbourhood of Shushtar. This spot was a desolate valley called Maidan-i-Naftun, which means the Plain of Oil. Here the earliest wells were drilled. As the limits of the field were extended, the name of Masjid-i-Sulaiman was taken to cover the whole area. The name means "Temple of Solomon," and refers to the ancient Toroastrian ruin, which is a central feature of the district.

Long before the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company came on the scene, the Iranian tribesmen had collected the oil by skimming it from the surface by roughly damming the streams. The oil so collected was used for burning purposes or for application to wounds both in man and beast. I might mention that these oil springs are common enough throughout all the mountain ranges extending from the Caucasus, on the north-west of Iran, to the Indian Frontier on the south-east.

Drilling proceeded slowly, money vanished rapidly, and in May, 1908, the fresh capital provided by the Concession Syndicate was nearly exhausted. Then on May 26, 1908, oil was struck, and D'Arcy's hopes were realised and his claims vindicated, since the strength of the gusher which wrecked the derrick and nearly killed the drillers when it came in, left little doubt as to the richness of the store that had been tapped. A year later, in 1909, the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company was formed.

Churchill Saw The Possibilities

It was in 1912 that the liquid fuel problem became even more pressing at the Admiralty. Winston Churchill was then First Lord and he set up a Royal Commission on Oil Supply. It is unnecessary to trace the steps by which this committee reached its decision, as Mr. Churchill himself has told the story in his own vigorous fashion in the first volume of *The World Crisis*. But it is necessary to emphasise that the famous

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