

THE QUEEN'S PARLIAMENT

PAGEANTRY such as New Zealand has seldom witnessed will be seen in Wellington on the afternoon of Tuesday, January 12, when Her Majesty the Queen will open a special session of Parliament. It will be the first time in our history that the Sovereign has performed this traditional ceremony, and it is an occasion that will help to make more tangible the link between the Crown and peoples of the Commonwealth. The whole of the official ceremony, the drive from Government House to Parliament Buildings, and the Royal Salute from the Guard of Honour will be described for listeners by a team of NZBS observers stationed along the route and within Parliament House. The broadcast, which will be made over a link of all stations, starts at 1.50 p.m., and will include the Queen's Speech from the Throne, at approximately 2.30 p.m. A diagram showing the seating arrangements in the Legislative Council Chamber is printed on this page.

THE ceremonial opening of Parliament is the major Royal event in the week of programmes covered by this issue of *The Listener*, beginning on Monday, January 11, and continuing until Sunday, January 17, when the Queen will attend Divine Service in Nelson Cathedral. During this period the Queen will also attend a Civic reception in the Wellington Town Hall, a State Luncheon at Parliament, a children's gathering at Athletic Park, and a race meeting at Trentham. She will lay a wreath at the Wellington Citizens' War Memorial, hold an Investiture in the Town Hall, and lay the foundation stone of the new Wellington Cathedral. These and all other events on the Royal itinerary will be covered by full broadcasts. In this week also stations will broadcast the Duke of Edinburgh's address to scientific organisations at the Dominion Museum, at noon on Wednesday, January 13.

The arrival of the Royal Party in Wellington from Paraparaumu airport on the afternoon of Saturday, January 9, will be covered by 14 radio observers at various points along the route. This commentary, which will be broadcast from Stations 2YA and 2ZB, will begin at 3.45 p.m. with a description of the landing of the Royal aircraft at Paraparaumu. Audrey Russell, a BBC observer, will speak from the corner of Bunny Street and Lambton Quay, giving her impressions of Wellington's preparations and decorations, and comparing them with similar Royal occasions she has seen throughout the Commonwealth. At Plimmerton, another observer will describe the passing of the Queen's car, and the scenic and historical nature of the drive into Wellington. A mobile observer who has travelled over the route in the morning will describe the preparations which have been made in the seaside towns and beach resorts which the Queen will pass through, and other observers will be stationed at Johnsonville, Ngauranga Gorge, Bunny Street, Willis Street, Cuba Street, Courtenay Place and the Basin Reserve. The Queen is expected to arrive at Government House at about 6.25 p.m.

On Sunday her attendance at Divine Service at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul will be covered by a short description of her arrival and a standard church relay from Station 2YA. On the following day a commentary on the Civic Reception at the Town Hall will be broadcast from 2YA and 2ZB, and this will be followed by a description of the ceremony of laying a wreath at the War Memorial. At 1.10 in the afternoon all

stations will link for an account of the State Luncheon and a direct broadcast of the speeches. Observers will describe the Royal drives through Lower Hutt and Petone, and a delayed report will be broadcast of a visit to the Ford factory. The latter will include interviews with employees who are spoken to by the Queen. The Reception later in the evening for Heads of Diplomatic Mis-

sions, which will be held at Government House, will be described in a delayed news report by Lionel Sceats, radio liaison officer with the Royal Party.

On Tuesday morning the visit to the children's gathering at Athletic Park, will be described from 2YA and 2ZB, and in the afternoon all stations will link to describe the opening of Parliament. Eight observers will describe the drive

from Government House to Parliament Buildings, and as the Queen arrives within Parliament Grounds. Norman Ventura, on the balcony of Parliament House, will describe the scene outside the main doorway and the ceremony of inspecting the Royal Guard of Honour. Inside the Ante Room Barbara Basham will take over and describe the Queen's walk through to the Legislative Council Chamber, where Clive Drummond will describe the scene as the Queen commands Black Rod to summon the House of Representatives into her presence. Inside the House of Representatives Leighton Dixon will describe the entry of Black Rod with his summons, and the departure of members for the Council Chamber, where Clive Drummond will take over and describe the remainder of the proceedings.

After Her Majesty has read her Speech from the Throne, Barbara Basham will describe her return to the top of Parliament Steps, and here Norman Ventura will describe the Royal Salute and the ceremony of dismissing the Royal Guard. Her Majesty will then return inside to the House of Representatives, for brief proceedings lasting about 15 or 20 minutes.

The Royal Investiture that evening at the Town Hall will be covered by an observer who will describe the walk up of the recipients of honours and give a brief summary of their citations. This will be broadcast by 2YA only, from 8.50 p.m. to 10.30 p.m.

On Wednesday, at 10.15 a.m., Stations 2YA and 2ZB will broadcast a description of the laying of the foundation stone of Wellington Cathedral in the presence of the Bishop of Wellington, the Most Reverend R. H. Owen, D.D., Primate and Archbishop of New Zealand. In the afternoon, at 12.5, all stations will link to broadcast the Duke of Edinburgh's address to scientific organisations at the Art Gallery Theatre of the Dominion Museum.

At Trentham Racecourse on Thursday, January 14, Station 2YA will broadcast at 11.0 a.m. a description of the arrival of the Queen at the Royal Box. At 1.20 p.m. all YA, YZ, ZB stations, and 2ZA and 1XH will link for a commentary on the main race and the Queen's presentation of the cup to the winner in the birdcage.

On Friday morning the Queen will depart by the Royal train for Masterton, where she will attend a Civic Reception, have lunch, and return by car, over the Rimutakas to Wellington. A commentary on these proceedings will be broadcast by 2YA.

The departure for Blenheim from Paraparaumu airport will be covered by observers along the Royal route, and the Public Welcome in the Blenheim Market Place will be broadcast from Station 2YA. The arrival and Civic Reception in Nelson the same afternoon will be broadcast from 2XN, and this station will also broadcast Divine Service at Nelson Cathedral which the Queen will attend on Sunday, the service being conducted by the Dean of Nelson, the Very Rev. E. A. Gowing. On Sunday afternoon the Queen will visit Westport Airport, where a Public Welcome will be held by the Mayor of Westport, and Hokitika Airport, where a similar reception will be held. She will then drive through to Greymouth by car and spend the night there. Commentaries on the Westport and Greymouth receptions, and the entry into Greymouth, will be broadcast from Station 3YZ.

