

ROYAL TOUR

Southward through OTAGO

WHEN the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh leave Longbeach at 10 o'clock next Monday morning—January 25—after their short rest, there will be just five days of their New Zealand tour left. Two days of this will be spent in Dunedin, but before that there will be official functions at Timaru, Oamaru and Palmerston; and they will go on to Milton, Balclutha, Gore, Invercargill and Bluff. Through live commentaries and other special broadcasts listeners will be able to travel with the Royal party to all of these places, and to be on the wharf at Bluff when New Zealand says goodbye.

The broadcasts covering these last five days will start at 11.15 a.m. on Monday when 3XC reports on the progress of the Royal party towards Timaru. A few minutes later the first of five observers will be called in to describe the final "grooming" of the Royal train at the Timaru railway station. Other observers will be on the route to Ashbury Park—from which the civic reception will be broadcast—and from the park to the Grosvenor Hotel. At 1.25 the departure from the railway station will be described.

As the Royal party travels south during the afternoon broadcasts will be taken over by 4YA and 4ZB. The first, at 3.0 p.m., covers the visit to Oamaru, and the second, at 5.0 p.m., the stop at Palmerston. At 6.45 p.m. the same stations will broadcast commentaries by five observers on the arrival at Dunedin and the drive to the Law Courts Hotel. At about 9.30 that night these stations will broadcast a description of the fireworks display—part of the celebrations to mark the Royal visit to Dunedin.

Tuesday's broadcasts will start from 4YA and 4ZB at 10.10 a.m. Observers will describe the drive to and from the Town Hall, and the civic reception at the hall will be heard. From 2.15 to 2.55 p.m. there will be a commentary from 4YA on the Queen's visit to a children's gathering. Then the broadcast will cross to the sports meeting at Caris-

brook for a description of the Queen's arrival and departure and of some of the major events. Altogether there will be three broadcasts from Carisbrook, starting at 2.55, 4.0 and 4.25 p.m. Parts of these may also be taken by other stations.

In the evening the Royal Concert to be given by the National Orchestra of the NZBS, conducted by Warwick Braithwaite, with Richard Farrell as soloist, will be heard from YA stations and 3YZ and 4YZ. The broadcast, to start at 7.55, will include the drive to the Town Hall and the scene in the foyer before the concert itself starts at 8.30.

Wednesday morning's visit to Ross and Glendining's mill will cover, at 10.25, the arrival at the mill; at about 11.30, the departure for the cafeteria, to be followed by a report on the visit to the mill and interviews with people

spoken to by the Queen; and at about 11.55 the scene in the cafeteria and the Queen's farewell. The broadcasts will be from 4YA and 4ZB.

When the Queen visits the Karitane Hospital on Wednesday afternoon 4YA and 4ZB will describe her arrival at 2.55. At 4 o'clock the same stations will link with other ZB stations and 2YZ for the Queen's visit to the lounge for afternoon tea, a report on her tour of the hospital, interviews with medical staff and mothers spoken to by the Queen, and the departure. Immediately afterwards listeners will hear from 4YA a report on the Duke of Edinburgh's meeting with sportsmen and sports-women. The Dunedin City Council's reception to the Royal party that evening will be covered by a report from 4YA at 8.30 p.m.

Next morning 4YA and 4ZB will broadcast from 9.55 commentaries by

three observers on the departure from Dunedin. This will go with the Royal party as far as Caversham Rise. The same stations will cover at 11.20 the visit to Milton, and at 12.10 and 1.0 p.m. 4YA only will cover the visit to Balclutha. After that 4YZ will take over responsibility for broadcasts, and at 2.20 and 3.25 p.m. will link with 4YA for the Queen's visit to Gore and her departure for Invercargill.

From 5.0 p.m. observers—the first of them at a bend in Tay Street—will describe the arrival of the Royal party in Invercargill and their drive to the Grand Hotel. This will be heard from 4YZ only.

On Friday—the last full day of the tour—the Royal party will attend a civic reception at Queen's Park, drive past school children and around in front of the hospital, and in the afternoon will attend the Royal A. and P. Show. The civic reception and drive will be covered by a broadcast from 4YZ, starting at 10.42 a.m. Parts of the broadcast from the show, which starts at 2.28 p.m., will be taken also by other YA, YZ and X stations, 2ZA and 4ZB.

On Friday night the Queen will be heard from all stations at 9 o'clock in a farewell broadcast; and next morning, when observers have described from 4YZ (starting at 8.25) the departure from Invercargill, YA, YZ, ZB and X stations and 2ZA will link to cover the departure of the Gothic with the Royal party for Australia. The broadcast will include a description of the scene in the main street of Bluff, the arrival of the Royal party at the port, where local body members will be presented, the inspection of the Guard of Honour and farewells, and the departure of the Gothic—ending with a commentary from Stirling Point signal station.

All stations will then broadcast *Epilogue*, by O. A. Gillespie, and *Music for the Queen*—a prelude to Australia and the voyage home—with the Auckland Choral Group and the Auckland Radio Orchestra. That night, between 8.0 and 9.0 p.m., YA and YZ stations will link for *The Queen Among Her People*—a glance back over the Royal Tour.

More and More Dickens

WHEN a dear, courageous lad of 19 goes to work for a cruel, villainous character named Wackford Squeers (while his gentle sister Kate is exposed to the gross insults of a certain Sir Mulberry Hawk) there can be but one man telling the story. It's Dickens; the very Dickens whose Mr. Pickwick is at present being heard from 4YC.

But this time the production is by the BBC, and the novel is *Nicholas Nickleby*. The first of 12 episodes will be broadcast by 2YC at 10.0 p.m. on Saturday, January 30.

Nicholas, together with his mother and sister, are left penniless on the death of his father. The family relies for help on an uncle, Ralph Nickleby, but he is a graping usurer and it is not surprising that Nicholas is sent to that infamous school, Dotheboys Hall. Listeners will meet, in the first episode, the principal of this unpleasant place, besides making the acquaintance of the wicked uncle; of Newman Noggs, the uncle's downtrodden clerk, and of the miniature painter, Miss La Creevy.

Charles Lefaux, who adapted the novel for broadcasting, has described in the *Radio Times* the problems facing anyone who sets out to adapt Dickens, a writer whose works teem with sub-plots, characters, incidents and descriptive matter. He set himself these rules: first, to concentrate on the story and shear away anything that did not further the plot's development; second, to dramatise fully and not allow the voice of a narrator to intrude or interrupt; and finally, to remember that many characters which are admirable upon the printed page are disastrous in the studio.

A further series of Dickens programmes produced by the BBC is also to be broadcast shortly. Entitled *Portraits from Dickens*, it consists of short



vignettes of five of the novelist's most outstanding secondary characters. They are Mr. Jaggers, Pip's guardian in *Great Expectations*; Sarah Gamp, the snuffy, gin-tipping nurse of *Martin Chuzzlewit*, whose inseparable umbrella added a new word to the English language; Miss Miggs, of *Barnaby Rudge*, who was "though not absolutely ill-looking, of a sharp and acid visage," and who lost her place when she came out on the side of the Gordon rioters; Grandfather Smallweed, whom readers of *Bleak House* will remember as the decrepit old miser who kept a spare cushion handy to fling at his spouse whenever she talked of money; and Mr. F's Aunt, from *Little Dorrit*, an eccentric old woman with stiff yellow wig and an inspired irrelevance of conversation.

Nicholas Nickleby: 2YC, 10.0 p.m., Saturday, January 30, and later from other National stations.

Portraits from Dickens: 1YC, 10.2 p.m., Thursday, January 28, and later from other National stations.