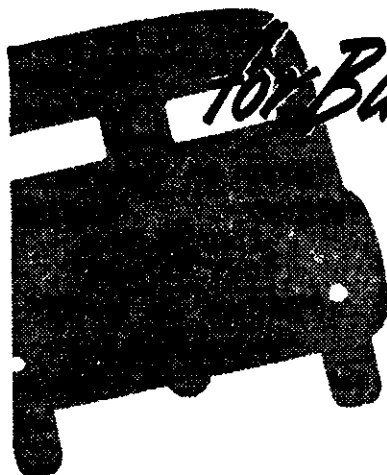


IT'S A

HARD LIFE...

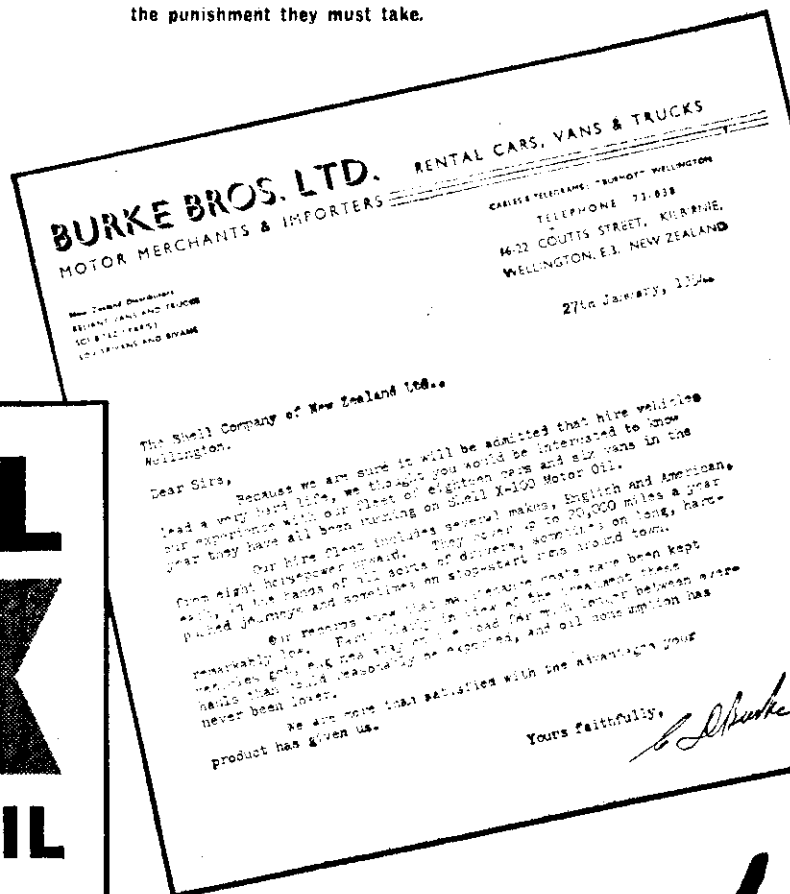
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CHOPIN, BY SMETERLIN

"[I]ATS off, gentlemen: a genius!" pronounced Robert Schumann after hearing Chopin's Opus 2. "As pianist and composer he is an artist apart. He bears no resemblance to any other musician I know."

Schumann's generous tribute may well be echoed by Wellington concertgoers during the coming week. A complete recital of Chopin's works is to be given in the Capital on Saturday, June 5, by one of the foremost interpreters of Chopin, the Polish pianist Jan Smeterlin.



JAN SMETERLIN

lin. "Of all possible interpretations of Chopin," one critic has written, "Smeterlin's appears to me to be the most comprehensive and at the same time the most reasonable. They are beautifully planned as regards climax, and yet leave the impression of utter spontaneity; they are full of emotional significance, yet are never marred by overstatement."

Smeterlin's Chopin recital will consist of the Fantasia in F Minor, Four Mazurkas (Nos. 37, 41, 23, 25), the Sonata in B Flat Minor, Scherzo in E Major, Nocturne in D Flat Major, Four Etudes (Opus 25, Nos. 8 and 3, Opus 10, Nos. 2 and 11), and the Scherzo in B Flat Minor.

If the critics are correct, these Chopin works will be played in a manner not dissimilar to that adopted by the composer himself. An English critic has analysed Smeterlin's piano style as follows: "He likes to make things glitter, though he can make the piano sing. Characteristic of Smeterlin is the delivery of every detail with a high finish rather than an unduly impulsive surrender to mood." Chopin himself is said to have enchanted his hearers by his unerring sense of style, his exquisite phrasing and his remarkable singing tone. What he lacked in volume, he made up in nuance, substituting the most delicate tonal effects for his want of dynamic strength.

In addition to the Chopin recital, Jan Smeterlin's itinerary for the programme-week covered by this issue calls for a concerto performance with the National Orchestra at Auckland on Tuesday, June 1, and a solo recital at Dunedin on Thursday, June 3. The Auckland concerto performance will be broadcast by all YC stations, the Dunedin recital by 4YC, and the Wellington recital by 2YC.

N.Z. LISTENER, MAY 28, 1954.