

NEWS OF BROADCASTERS, ON AND OFF THE RECORD.

By *Swarf*

LET'S LEARN MAORI

BECAUSE interest in the Maori language and its use has increased considerably in the last few years, particularly among new settlers in New Zealand, a course of 60 five-minute lessons has been prepared for the Talks Department of the NZBS by W. T. Ngata, of the Department of Maori Affairs. Each week five lessons will be broadcast, starting at 1YZ on Monday, June 7, at 6.55 p.m. Broadcasts from other stations will follow fairly closely to enable listeners who have missed any lessons to catch up on the series.

Here is a summary of the first five lessons. (Listeners are advised to keep these panels for reference):

(1) There are only 15 letters in the Maori alphabet. The consonants H, K, M, N, P, R, T, W, are pronounced as in English; WH is commonly "F," Ng as in singer. There are five vowels—A as in bath (papa, father), E as in get (kete, kit), I as in ski (hiwi, hill), O as in port (Hoko, buy), and U as in blue (hu, shoe).

(2) The vowels have but one sound each, but the length varies. Papa—both vowels long (pa:pa:) means father; first vowel short and second long (pa—pa:) means bang; both vowels short (pa—pa—) means "flat" or a board. The long vowel is indicated here by a colon (:) as in pa:pa; and the short vowel by — as in pa—pa—.

(3) The number of the noun depends on the number of the definite which precedes it. For example, tenei tepu, this table, is singular, because tenei (this) is singular, and plural is enei (these), hence enei tepu, these tables. Here are some definitives: Singular, tenei (this), plural, enei (these); tena (that, near you), ena (those, near you), tera (that, over there), and era (those, over there).

(4) Here is a simple sentence in Maori: He tepu tenei—this is a table. It is an example of a sentence without a verb; there is no verb "to be" in Maori.

(5) The adjective follows the noun—big table is tepu nui; this is a big table—he tepu nui tenei.

Station 2YZ will broadcast the lessons on June 21 at 9.30 p.m., and 1YA on June 28 at 6.0 p.m.



bowing when called upon by wise conductors to do so, says Thomas Russell in his book *Philharmonic*. In such matters he will have the final word in any consultation which may be held between him and other string departments. He must also be a man of tact for he is in effect liaison officer between the orchestra and his conductor. . . The leader does not make his entry until the orchestra is comfortably seated and in tune. At the conclusion of the performance he will, on behalf of his colleagues, receive the thanks of the conductor which are often bestowed in public by one or more handshakes. "Personally," says Russell, "I consider these exhibitions of mutual congratulation in public to be out of place. . ."

READERS have shown a great deal of interest in the Scottish bass William Heughan since A. M. Johnson (Christchurch) asked for information about him. Here is something about Heughan's activities since he visited New Zealand.

It comes from A. H. LAST WORD ON Talbot (Mt. Eden. HEUGHAN Auckland), who was organising manager for Heughan and his concert party on their world tour of 1928-30.

The party called at New Zealand en route to Canada, where they gave concerts in the main western cities. Owing to the depression of 1930 hitting the concert world pretty badly, Heughan decided to try his luck in Hollywood, where he stayed for eight months doing concert and radio work; then he went on to New York to fulfil concert engagements. Later he went to England to appear in concerts and films. Mr. Talbot was in England last year when Heughan gave a luncheon party for the company that toured in 1928-30. It consisted of Heughan, Gladys Sayer, pianist (Mrs. Heughan); Maud Bell, 'cellist; Andrew Broom, manager; and Mr. Talbot and his wife. That was the first time they had all been together since the world tour, and Heughan and all the company paid glowing tributes to New Zealand and the many friends they had made here. In his job as head trustee for the large Scottish estates of Lady MacRoberts, Heughan is particularly interested in the breeding of fine pedigree cattle. Quite a number of the animals had been shipped to New Zealand, he told my correspondent. Mr. Heughan did not make any recordings.

Many thanks, Mr. Talbot.

A CONCERT report in a New Zealand newspaper included this: "Miss X sang very feelingly WE KNOW IT 'There's nae luck about the horse.'" I met that horse at the Hutt Park Trots.

ARTURO TOSCANINI, who recently retired as conductor of the National Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra in New York, has been hailed in many American newspapers as a world musical leader. The *New York Herald-Tribune* said that his farewell was accomplished with the

BEAUTY, BRASHNESS AND BRILLIANCE "same mixture of beauty, brashness and

brilliance that have characterised his musical deeds since he began his career in 1886. What the virtuoso singer was to the 18th Century and the virtuoso pianist to the 19th, Toscanini has been to us." Toscanini led the New York Metropolitan Opera Orchestra for several seasons. He returned to his native Italy in 1915, but re-entered the United



VALERIE SPENCER (above) has been appointed assistant to Elsie Lloyd (Supervisor of Women's Programmes, Commercial Division, NZBS) in succession to Elizabeth Bauman, who has been transferred to New Plymouth to take charge of 2XP's "Women's Half-hour"

States in 1921 to tour the country with the La Scala Orchestra. In 1926 he became director of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra and was its conductor for 10 years. He refused to return to Italy as long as Mussolini was in power.

RICHARD MURDOCH has signed a 17-weeks' contract with the Australian Broadcasting Commission to present a show called *Much Murdoch*. This contract has been described as a Murdoch rather than a

GEORGIE STERLING IN VARIETY Binding one. An all-Australian variety cast includes

Georgie Sterling (the New Zealand radio actress, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Sterling, of Wellington), Neva Carr Glynn, Ray Barrett and Harvey Adams, with Jim Gussey (who was in New Zealand four years ago), and the ABC Dance Band. A few years ago Georgie Sterling was well known in Wellington in radio and amateur theatrical work, and it was not long after she had gone to Australia that she became popular as a radio actress. She has appeared in several Australian films. Her most recent radio successes have been parts in such shows as *The Laughing Woman*, *The Troubled Air* and *To Dorothy, a Son*.



GEORGIE STERLING

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ne wears a red carnation; in the evening a white one. He often starts work on his scores in bed before he gets up, reading them as another man reads his newspaper.

(b) The leader of an orchestra will demonstrate on his instrument how certain awkward passages are to be played and decide knotty points of fingering and