

How the News Will Come from Vancouver

THE NZBS is sending two men to cover the Empire Games at Vancouver. They are Winston McCarthy, commentator, and Lance Cross, sports administrator. The latter will act as editor and producer of the Games programmes.

Facilities for visiting broadcasters are being provided by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. The New Zealanders will have a fully equipped studio in which to prepare

their programmes, portable tape-recorders for the commentator, and at least 15 minutes of broadcast time daily on the CBC's shortwave transmitter at Sackville. The coverage plan is as follows:—

Each evening during the Games all ZB and YZ stations and 2ZA will broadcast a quarter-hour programme of commentaries, eye-witness accounts, latest results, and interviews with outstanding competitors. Throughout each day, all stations will broadcast results as they come to hand, with summaries at set times to be announced. Results up to

5.0 p.m. Vancouver time will be given in this way, the evening's results being included in the programme mentioned above.

The Empire Games begin with an opening ceremony on Friday, July 30 (Canadian time), and end on Saturday, August 7. The NZBS hopes to start broadcasting its quarter-hour evening programme five days in advance of the opening, to give listeners information about training, venues and competitors. The Service is also negotiating for extra shortwave time so that fuller cover can be given to outstanding events outside the range of the basic 15-minute programme.

Listeners following the various Games events from a dated timetable should remember that Vancouver time is 19 hours behind New Zealand's. It will, for instance, be Sunday in New Zealand before the events scheduled for Saturday in Canada take place.

In addition to its own advance programmes, the NZBS will be broadcasting a Canadian programme entitled *The British Empire and Commonwealth Games—Advance Report*. This introduces listeners to Vancouver itself and to the preparations being made there. Vancouver is described as a "sprawling and beautiful city of half a million people." It is Canada's third city, but until now it has had no suitable stadium for track and field events on the Games scale. The organising committee had budgeted some 600,000 dollars for a stadium, not nearly enough for what was required. So, a year ago last November the citizens of Van-

couver stepped in and voted 750,000 dollars toward the erection of a 35,000 capacity arena. A new swimming pool has been built which the Canadians claim is rivalled only by the one at the University of Texas. Among its refinements is a machine for producing artificial ripples, which helps divers to judge their distances. The cycling track has been described by Lorne Atkinson, Canadian Olympic rider in London in 1948, as "the hottest track I've ever been on." It is an oval, 250-metre track banked to 45 degrees at the ends, and represents a compromise between European indoor six-day tracks and outdoor racing "bowls." The surface is of British Columbia yellow cedar, a resilient softwood said to provide very fast going.

This year the "little Olympics" will attract some 820 athletes from 25 nations. They will be housed at Empire Village, on the campus of the University of British Columbia. The place was originally called Arcadia Camp, and was used for housing Canadian returned servicemen who returned to university after the war. The women athletes—about 100 of them—will live in a modern residence for women students, and will eat at a student-built house named Brock Hall. It's also at Brock Hall that one of the most important meals of the Games will be served—a dinner with the athletes, requested by the Duke of Edinburgh, who will be in Vancouver for most of the time of the Games. The Canadians propose serving some of their famous British Columbia salmon, and possibly some venison from the northern woods.

The Empire Games *Advance Report* will be broadcast by all YA and YZ stations at 6.45 p.m. on Saturday, July 24, and by all ZBs and 2ZA at 7.45 p.m. on Sunday, July 25.



WINSTON MCCARTHY



LANCE CROSS

HISTORY IN THE GARDEN

VOLTAIRE'S advice to "cultivate your garden" has nowhere been taken more literally than in New Zealand. At evenings and weekends, thousands of home gardeners head outdoors equipped with a few tools, a little knowledge, and a lot of good intentions. "Green fingers" being somewhat rare, most home gardeners need advice, and the country's press and radio see that they get it. One of the foremost experts in this field is J. W. Matthews, whose feature *Garden with Matthews* appears regularly in eight newspapers, with a net daily circulation of 400,000. In addition, his Horticultural Advisory Service last year answered 7000 inquiries. This week he'll be on the air, discussing some of the less pressing questions about New Zealand's gardens. In a series of *Women's Hour* talks entitled *How the Garden Got Its Plants*, he tells of the origins of a number of the plants we nowadays take for granted.

Behind the discovery and adaptation of our plants, says Mr. Matthews, lie stories of high courage and enterprise. The ones we can grow in New Zealand come from as far apart as the Arctic Circle and tropical Africa. Some grew on the earth long before man came to admire them. The Monkey Puzzle and the Maidenhair tree, for instance, were both familiar to the animals that roamed the earth millions of years ago. Other classes of plants, he says, are those improved by selection, and—by far the largest group—those bred by man for specific purposes: the hybrids. Mr. Matthews's 12 talks consist of an

introduction and programmes about roses, New Zealand native flora, carnations, fruit trees, camellias, sub-tropical plants, plants from China, vegetables, tulips, spring bulbs, and plant breeding. The rose, he says, was known as the Queen of Flowers nearly 3000 years ago. Nero is supposed to have spent the equivalent of £30,000 on blooms for decorating the scene of a great feast. The Empress Josephine collected varieties sent her by Napoleon's governors throughout the Empire. There were some 2000 varieties in her day. Now there are 15,000, being constantly renewed by the breeding of new hybrids. In his talk on carnations, Mr. Matthews compares a recent Otaki breed which has a bloom five inches in diameter with the original species "which had only five petals and was a weakly thing." Its botanical name, he says, derives from the Greek for "Divine Bloom," and it was appreciated by the Greeks for its perfume, which they used to mask their body odours.

Mr. Matthews is founder and editor of

The New Zealand Gardener, and the author of eight books on horticulture. He has lectured for the W.E.A. and the National Library School, and is founder and former editor of the *New Zealand Science Review*. Among the fellowships he holds is that of the Linnaean Society, one of the world's foremost organisations devoted to botanical and zoological research.

At Waikanae, where he lives, Mr. Matthews has his own trial grounds,

where new plants, fungicides, fertilisers and methods are tried out under varying conditions. Where possible he obtains plants two years before they are released to the public, this giving him an opportunity to study their behaviour before they reach the home gardener.

How the Garden Got Its Plants starts in the *Women's Hour* from 2ZB and 3ZB on Friday, July 16. It begins from 4ZB and 2ZA on July 30, 1XH on August 13 and 1ZB on August 31.



J. W. MATTHEWS inspecting new *Hemerocallis* introductions from America. His collaborator is Mrs. Matthews, also a well-known horticulturist