

The Orchestra's Year

UNDoubtedly "Dunedin, January 26," has a big ring round it in the log-book of the National Orchestra. That was the occasion when their concert was graced by the presence of Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. The programme included Sir Edward Elgar's *Nursery Suite*, dedicated to the Queen and Princess Margaret, Gordon Jacob's *Festal March*, excerpts from Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, sung by Dora Drake and Lex McDonald, with

100 girls from local secondary schools, Prokofieff's *Cinderella Ballet Suite*, and Richard Farrell playing Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 1.

It was a grand and glittering occasion for the Orchestra, who played that night in a hall bright with flowers and the panoply of full evening dress. But the Royal Tour brought other assignments for the Orchestra. The summer "Prom" series was given only in Wellington. In other centres, the Orchestra helped to entertain holiday crowds with programmes in light classical mood which chimed in well with the gaiety abroad.

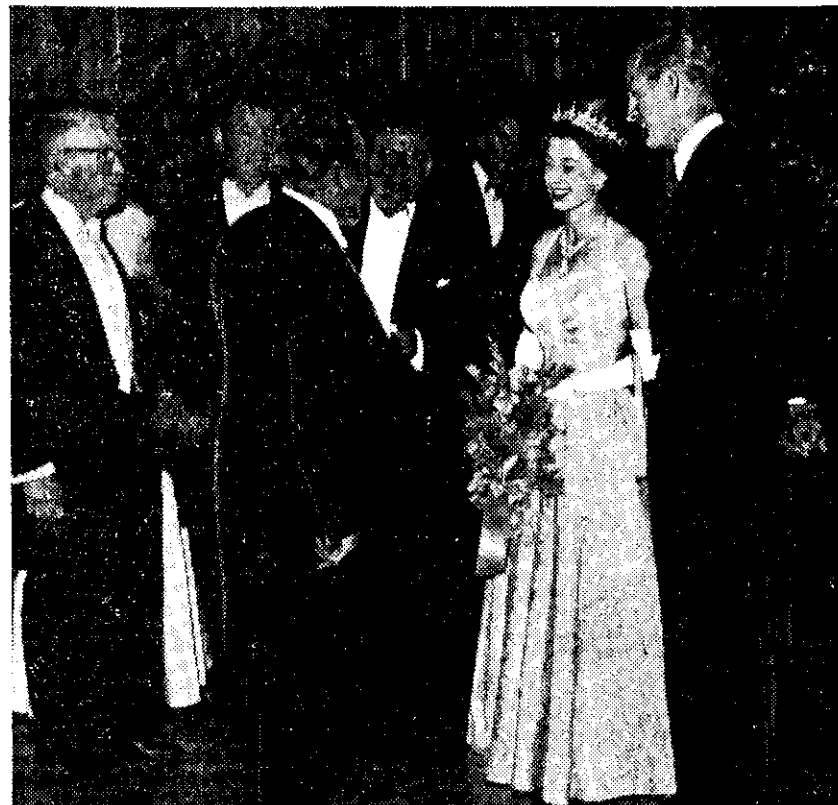
Many towns besides the main cities saw the Orchestra in the course of the year. By train, bus, plane and ship they travelled thousands of miles, visiting Whangarei, Hamilton, New Plymouth, Wanganui, Gisborne, Hastings, Palmerston North, Blenheim, Nelson, Greymouth, Timaru and Invercargill. And everywhere the players went, instruments, music and seating for the Orchestra had to be sent also—and newspaper and poster (continued on next page)



GOOSSENS

SOLOMON

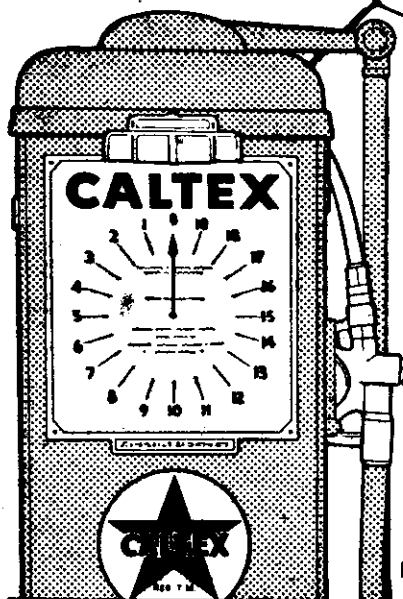
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