

LAND OF THE FIRST DAYLIGHT

X-STATION TOUR

TMES change. Journalists and favour seekers must remember this durable truth. A journalist telling a story about a favour seeker trying to insinuate himself into the presence of the Great Duke of Wellington would be pretty safe to report a terse message sent out by a footman: "The Duke does not care to see Mr. So and So." But a sincere story about a schmo's efforts to contact personally one of the autocratic powers of Hollywood would cast an enamelled secretary in the speaking part, and her lines would be: "I'm real sorry, Mr. So and So, but Mr. Schmaltz is all tied up in conference."

A journalist, telling a story about Station 2XG Gisborne, might, if he were acceptable and present on a Tuesday morning, sit as an observer at a weekly staff conference, a meeting of reality rather than a polite fiction to discourage undesirables. It is held in the office of the Station Manager, Leo Fowler. Everyone smokes but Mr. Fowler, who recently gave up smoking. At a rough count, this raises to two the number of NZBS officers all over the country who do not smoke. The other is a very senior officer in Wellington who is so busy that if he stopped to pick up a cigarette he'd miss a phone call. To continue briefly this statistical diversion, another low figure seems to be announcers who bet on horses. If you could find an honest lawyer to hold the stakes it would be worth taking a

small bet that more ministers of religion than radio announcers play the races.

Mr. Fowler's office is a pleasant, sunny room; well kept but not impeccable to the point of sterility. That morning the main matter under discussion was a shift in premises. Mr. Fowler, who likes his present office, pointed out softly that the previous tenants of the new premises, who were ladies, had been chased out, although not in any brutal fashion, and it was therefore necessary for 2XG to justify this action by occupying the place. How soon? he asked; What plans had the senior officers made to fit their departments into the new living space?

Those questions were sufficient to start claims for territory from all imperialists present. Copy department could not function in a room sixteen feet square. A big room was needed. The Senior Technician must have an office, said

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THE Boy Scouts' Association is one of the many organisations taking part regularly in 2XG's Children's Session. Here Andrew Slessor, who conducts the session, talks with Gisborne Wolf Cubs. AT TOP OF PAGE: The noble sweep of Wainui Beach, near Gisborne.