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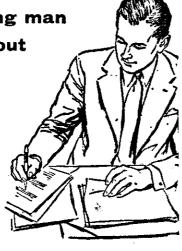
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AROLD BECK, the distinguished New Zealand cellist now touring his homeland (below), was for six years principal cellist of the Halle Orchestra. In 1953 he appeared as soloist in the first performance for many years of the Delius Cello Concerto. The performance took place on a Sunday evenin Manchester's Free Trade Hall. Mr.

Beck described the occa-ON TOUR sion for us: "Our Sunday AT HOME night audiences were used

to popular concerts, so I was anxious as to how Delius would fare. When Barbirolli came and told me there was a full house I was very relieved. Afterwards I was astonished at the reception the composition got. This concerto is now one of Mr. Beck's favourite works, but he does not play it as often as he would like. "All these enterprising concert managements think that people are scared of Delius," he said. "In England it took the efforts of Beecham and Barbirolli to get him into the concert hall at all."

With the Halle Mr. Beck toured the Midlands and used to take part in the festival of modern music held annually at Cheltenham. "Although it doesn't cut

a great dash, it's just as important in its own right as the bigger ones," he

Williams to last year's festival.

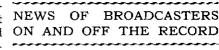
work by a former pupil of his, and during the concert he listened to it

with great concentration. The item fol-

lowing was to be a Brahms Symphony,

and when this started Vaughan Williams unplugged his hearing aid, sat back and

appeared to go to sleep."



UNASSUMING

THE celebrated Spanish soprano Victoria de los Angeles, who is now touring Australia, and will come to New Zealand at the end of Sep-

tember, is apparently a very unassuming person. Word comes to us from Australia that she has an aversion to spotlights, is not over-fond of public receptions or the Press, and likes to quietly, taking plenty of rest. In the



intervals of her concerts she refreshes herself with a plain cup of tea-no milk, lemon

Mr. Beck has now left the Halle and for the last six months has been principal cello of the London Symphonya completely different type of orchestra. It has no permanent conductor of its own, stays in London a good deal, and the Festivals it usually attends are the

Bath and the Choirs. "The beauty of the London Symphony is that when we are playing classical works we may have Josef Krips to conduct us, and modern works there is Igor Markevitch, who is equally accomplished in this field," Mr. Beck said. "It's very good for an orchestra to have the best conductors for both modern and classical works.

Very happy to be back in New Zealand, Mr. Beck told us: "I've wanted to come back for a long time, and I did hope to see the country, go to Mount Cook, and so on, but now I find it will be nothing but rehearse and play." After the New Zealand tour Mr. Beck and his wife go to Australia, Mrs. Beck's home, where he will be giving concerts. They then fly to Johannesburg to re-join the L.S.O., which will be playing Krips. there

New Zealanders will not be hearing the Delius Concerto, but they will hear cello concertos by Elgar and Dvorak.

said. "Each year many new modern works are performed. The composers Studio broadcasts by Harold Beck next come along every day-the critics come, week will be broadcast from all YC too, and they can attend the rehearsals. stations at 9.30 p.m. on August 14, 8.0 All round there is a very convivial p.m. on August 17, and 8.55 p.m. on atmosphere. It's an intimate kind of August 17. festival that really makes history." Mrs. Beck, who is with her husband in New TRUTH is none the less Truth be-Zealand, described the visit of Vaughan cause she wears a nose like George had come especially to hear a new

Robey and Charlie Chaplin's pants," says the New Zealand-born cartoonist David Low—"the most famous cartoonist in the world"—whose radio portrait, drawn by a well-known British journalist, Frank Owen, will be heard from 1YA on August 19. In this portrait Mr. Owen speaks of the personality and pri-

N.Z. LISTENER, AUGUST 10, 1956.