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Radio Review

CHILD'S-EYE VIEW

[N Gertrude Hutchinson's BBC programme, *The Fabians and I*, we had a glimpse of Beatrice Webb raising her eyes from a monumental work on child labour long enough to discover that the Fabian Research Department was employing a child who couldn't be a day older than seven. She demanded that it be sent home. Her colleagues assured her it was fourteen and pointed out that if it were sent home it would certainly have to get a much less pleasant job. So the Cockney child from Peckham stayed on and the Fabians salved their consciences by sending her to school two afternoons a week and presenting her with a copy of *Alice in Wonderland*, whose characters soon became identified

in Gertrude's mind with several of the leading Fabians. Bernard Shaw was worshipped from a distance, though there was a sharp drop in his prestige when he predicted in the *Sunday Dispatch* that Carpentier would beat Dempsey, and he didn't; younger Fabians wrote comic songs about T-t-t-trotsky and took Gertrude to the ballet. It was all innocence and kindness, and a marvellous escape, one gathered, from her family in Peckham, and especially from her father, after whom even H. G. Wells's tantrums couldn't frighten her. It certainly gave this listener an attractive and surprising new light on the Fabians.

Censor's Views

"POPULAR" film censor Gordon Mirams," a newspaper described him not long ago; and I thought at the time that a neat satire might be made about a country where the film censor is so public and so respected. This was less than fair both to New Zealand and to Mr. Mirams, as I knew at the time and as his talks in the *Sunday National*



New Zealand Ballads

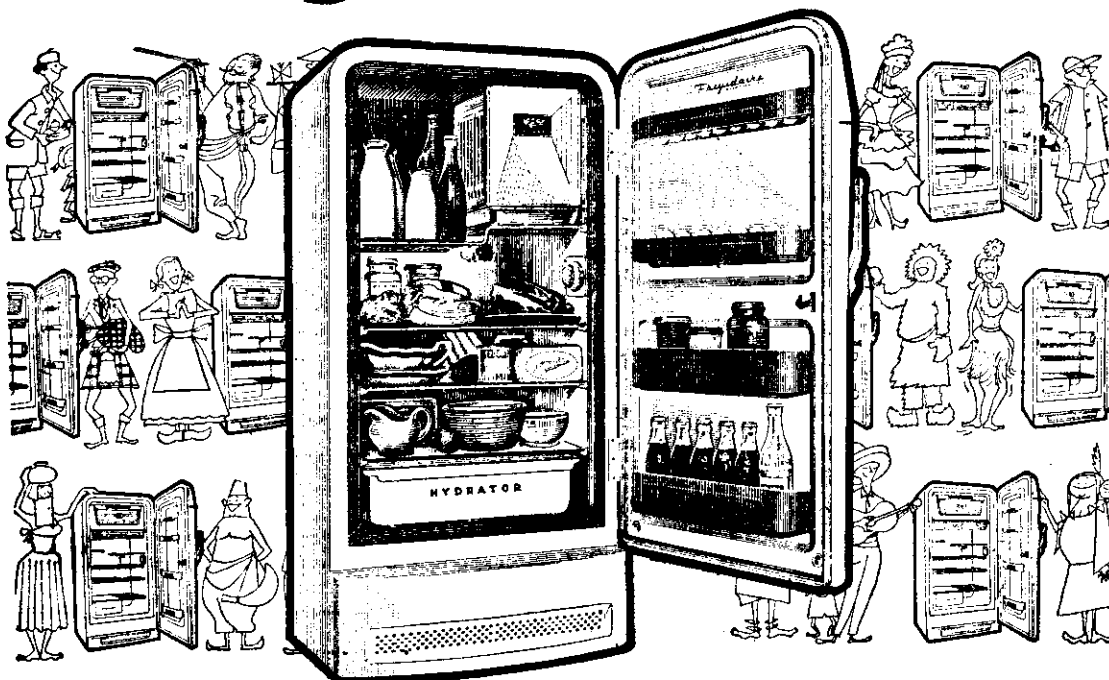
THE simple form of most ballads makes them generally easy to remember and recite, one reason why ballads are the verse-form most popular with the more vocal of men who lived, and those who still live, on the frontiers and the outback. Many a seaman, swag-gar or moonshiner has recited the ballads of Kipling or Robert W. Service, and these ballads found many backwoods equivalents in Australia and New Zealand.

New Zealand ballads by Will Lawson, David Ross and David McKee Wright were broadcast recently in the first of two ballad programmes selected and introduced by A. E. Currie. In the second of these programmes, to be heard at 7.15 p.m., Thursday, March 14, from 2YC, the authors drawn upon are Dora Wilcox, William Satchell, Ernest Eyre, Francis Sinclair, James K. Baxter and Jessie McKay.

The subjects of the ballads range from *The Ballad of Stuttering Jim—Illustrating the Survival of the Fittest*, written by Satchell under the pseudonym of Samuel Cliall White, to *With Franky Drake—In the Year of Grace Fifteen Hundred and Eighty-four*, by Francis Sinclair. The inclusion among the selection of James K. Baxter's *The Debt* is an acknowledgment that the ballad is still considered fruitful by contemporary New Zealand poets. *New Zealand Ballads* will be heard later from other National stations.

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