

# Songs and Stories of Scotland

OBAN, on the west coast of Scotland, a port from which thousands of people leave every year on trips to the storied Western Isles, is also the point of departure for a new series of programmes, *Songs and Stories of Scotland*, to be heard from 2YA at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesdays. The first will be broadcast on June 6. They try to recapture something of the heather-clad hills, the misty moors, the dark lochs, the winding glens and the smoke of peat fires. They should appeal to all with a drop of Scots blood in their veins.

*Songs and Stories of Scotland* takes listeners wandering through Scotland—to the Highlands, the Lowlands, and the many islands; and wherever it takes them the narrator, Gordon McNair, has something to say about the events of the past associated with the countryside. He strikes a topical note almost at the beginning with references to the Stone of Scone, for the stone was once kept in Dunstaffnage Castle, not far from Oban.

But *Songs and Stories of Scotland* is not all history. There is something about the customs of the people, and there are stories of the present age—like the one about Marjorie Kennedy-Fraser, who went to the Hebridean isles in search of folk songs, little thinking that she was "sailing into a world that would hold me in its grip for the rest of my life."

Linking the stories of Scotland together in these programmes are its songs—*Wae's Me for Prince Charlie*, *Flora MacDonald's Lament*, *Eilian Fraoch*, *Farewell to Fuinary*, and others. These are sung by Helen Bennett (soprano) and George Gunn (baritone). No Scots programme would be complete, of course, without bagpipes. These are played by Roy Gunn.

## Farmers in Conference

FOLLOWING broadcasts of bulletins on the sheepfarmers' conference at Lincoln College on May 30 and 31 and June 1, from 3YA, 4YA and 4YZ, the NZBS has arranged to cover the annual Massey College sheepfarmers' and dairyfarmers' meetings. At 7.0 p.m. on June 5, 6 and 7, all YA and YZ stations in the North Island will broadcast a bulletin on the day's proceedings at the sheepfarmers' meeting. In this listeners will hear the voices of some of those who have taken part. Subjects for discussion at the meeting include several aspects of hill-country farming (aerial topdressing among them), the use of the Hunter fence and the business side of farming. A similar bulletin on the dairyfarmers' meeting will be broadcast by the same stations at 7.0 p.m. on June 13, 14 and 15. Among subjects that the meeting will consider are the important phosphatic fertiliser position, pasture establishment, irrigation, animal breeding research and calf-rearing.

## Weekly, Not Fortnightly

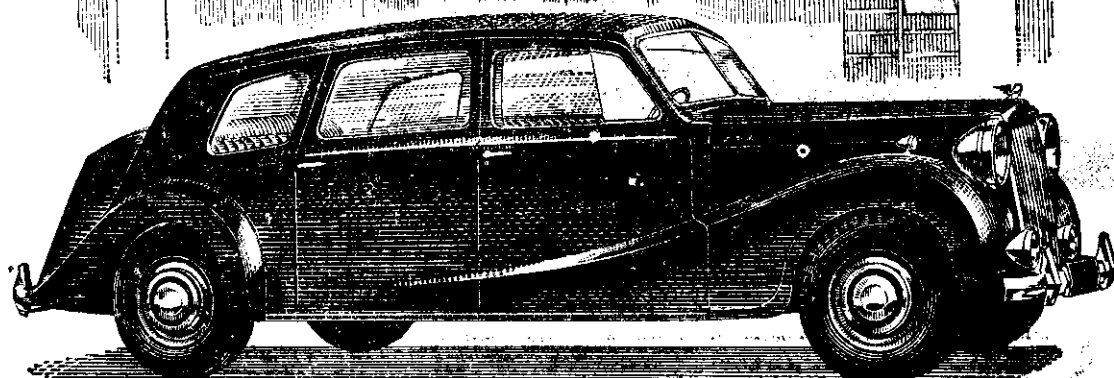
NATURE QUESTION-TIME, the 15-minute natural history session broadcast by 2YA is heard each Wednesday evening, not (as stated in our issue of May 25) on alternate Wednesdays.

N.Z. LISTENER, JUNE 1, 1951.

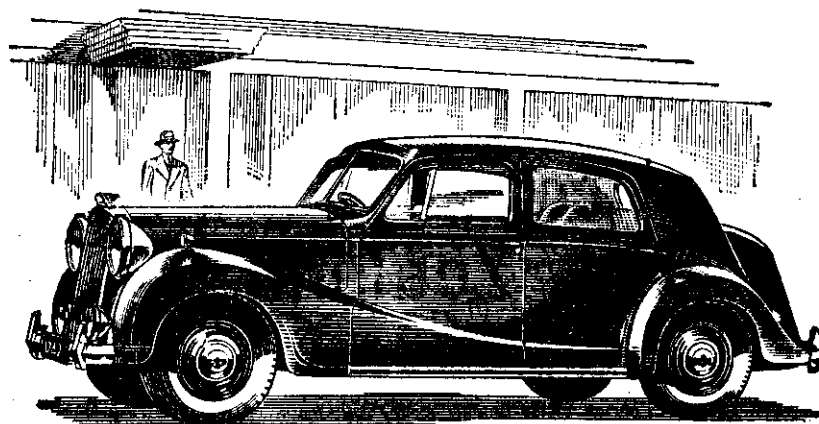
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