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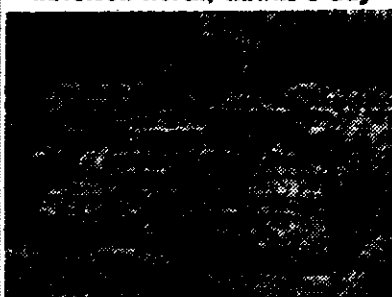
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THE announcement some time ago that the Persian Parliament had demanded nationalisation of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company must have set many people wondering about the background to Britain's interest in Persian oil. The British Government holds a majority of the shares in the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. It has stated that it cannot remain indifferent to the affairs of the company and that it has been advised that under the terms of the agreement between the company and the Persian Government (valid until 1993) the company's operations cannot legally be terminated by unilateral action of the Persian Government. On April 17 the BBC broadcast a "report to the people" on the background to the present situation in the Persian oilfields. In tracing the history of the oilfields, stating the facts in the present controversy and relating them to Britain's security it had the help of Mr. Hamzavi, Press Counsellor at the Iranian Embassy in London, and other experts on Persian affairs, including David Mitchell, Christopher Sykes, R. C. Zachner, Edward Hodgkin, E. Lawson Lomax and Dr. A. K. S. Lambton, all of whom spoke in the programme. Recordings of this report have already been heard by listeners in the Wellington and Auckland districts. Canterbury listeners will hear the programme during the coming week (June 2 to 5), but details had not been announced when we went to press; and it will be heard from 4YC at 9.15 p.m. on Sunday, June 10.

### For the Blind

JUNE and July are the last two months of the national appeal for £300,000 to be used for the training and personal welfare of the blind. Conducted by the New Zealand Institute for the Blind, it began in the northern part of the North Island in February, and in the final two months it will cover most of the South Island. The appeal will open officially in Christchurch this Saturday, June 2, and in Dunedin on Thursday, June 14. There will be a delayed broadcast of the Christchurch opening by 3ZB at 9.0 p.m. on June 2, and by 3YA at 7.30 p.m. on Monday, June 4. The opening in Dunedin will be broadcast by 4YA at 8.30 p.m. on June 14. A recording will be played from 4ZB later, probably the following night! *The Story of the Blind Institute*, an NZBS programme on the Auckland Blind Institute, its people and their training, work and recreation, will be broadcast by 3ZB at 7.0 p.m. on Sunday, June 10, and later from other South Island ZB, YA, YZ and X Stations.

### Thistles in the Rye

WHEN you plant that row of parsnips and they don't all come up you are annoyed, but not nearly as pained as the farmer who lays down a ten-acre paddock in rye-grass and finds he has grown a fine crop of thistles. The purity of the seed he uses is of deep concern to every back-yard gardener and grazier, and if he buys certified seed it is almost certain to have been checked for purity at the Government seed-testing station at Palmerston North. *Seeds by the Million* is the title of an NZBS documentary programme describing

# THINGS TO COME

what goes on in a building in the centre of Palmerston where £50,000 worth of seed tested every month makes possible a seed industry with a turnover of six million pounds sterling a year, and an export trade of three millions. Seeds are tested not only for purity but also for germination and strain, and the pro-



gramme describes in the words of the scientists and laboratory workers themselves the scope and difficulties of this important work. Among the speakers are J. H. Claridge, Superintendent of the New Zealand Seed Industry, and A. V. Lithgow, who is in charge of the testing station. *Seeds by the Million* will be broadcast by 2ZA at 2.0 p.m. on Sunday, June 10.

### Gods on Earth

AN hour of excerpts from the new British opera, *The Olympians*, by Arthur Bliss and J. B. Priestley, will be broadcast by 3YC at 8.30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 5. It was recorded by the BBC in the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, by artists from the original production and the Covent Garden Orchestra conducted by Karl Rankl. The classical gods, Jupiter, Diana, Mars, Bacchus, Mercury and Venus wander on earth disguised as strolling players. They are rewarded once in a long time on Midsummer Night by regaining for a space their ancient divine powers. It is on the eve of such a night that the opera opens, and one sees the effect their recovered powers have on some human beings in a small Provençal town. Priestley has staged his plot on the shores of the Mediterranean, where the gods would probably have felt most at home, and in the days of Louis Philippe. As an opening to the programme listeners will hear an introduction by Priestley himself who, four or five years ago, gave Bliss the idea for the opera.

### The Music Is Personal

CESAR FRANCK lived the life of a saint, but a cheerful saint, as a friend recalls of him, "always crackling with wit and repartee." He rose early, lived simply and set aside a period every day for quiet meditation. His music is very personal in idiom, certain turns of melodic and harmonic expression indelibly stamping it as his. It is romantic in feeling, with a peculiar sort of mystical exaltation. Franck and his younger contemporary Debussy stand as leaders in two very different schools in the 19th Century French musical art—the school of heavy romanticism and the school of light-hearted impressionism.

Yet Debussy, in his capacity of newspaper critic, felt able to write of Franck as "one of the greatest" of the great musicians. Station 3YA's *Classical Hour* on Thursday, June 7, will be given up to recordings of some of César Franck's works.

### For Maori Farmers

BEGINNING on June 7, the session for Bay of Plenty farmers which 1YZ is now broadcasting at 7.15 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month, will include a section for Maori listeners. This will consist of a summary in Maori of news from Matakana Island, off Tauranga, and may eventually be increased in scope to cover Maori farming throughout the Bay of Plenty. On Matakana a transformation is in progress under the guidance of the Department of Agriculture, and the Maori settlers are obtaining good results from intensive grassland dairying. C. Nicholls (headmaster of the Matakana Island School), who paved the way for the formation of the island's Young Farmers' Club, will supply the Matakana news, which will be recorded in Auckland.

### Ursula Bethell's Poetry

URSULA BETHELL'S poetry is among the most clearly original and delicately sensitive that has been written in New Zealand. Born in England in 1874, Ursula Bethell spent part of her early life in an English Cathedral town and gave many years to church and welfare work, especially among young people in London. Much of her work was written in a cottage on Cashmere Hills, Christchurch, where she lived from 1924 to 1934. Her garden looked out over the Canterbury Plains to the Southern Alps, and her poems reflect her thoughts and feelings about the garden and the Canterbury landscape. Written at first without thought of publication, they were circulated in manuscript among friends; but their quality was soon recognised and the first of the three volumes of poems published in her lifetime appeared in 1929. An appreciation of Ursula Bethell by Helen Shaw will be heard from 1YC at 9.38 p.m. on Friday, June 8.

### Couperin-le-Grand

THERE are five generations of musicians in the notable Couperin family. They all practised in Paris; the earliest was born about 1626 and the latest died about 1850. At least nine of them were at different times organists of the Church of St. Gervais. The one whose music is often heard today is François, and to distinguish him from his relations he is called Couperin-le-Grand. His special fame rests on his well-shaped, delicate and ingenious harpsichord music; most of his pieces are miniatures and many of them bear fanciful titles, picturing states of feeling. Eight of Couperin's short works, played by Wanda Landowska (who is credited with the restoration of the harpsichord) will be heard from 3YC at 8.55 p.m. on Friday, June 8.

N.Z. LISTENER, JUNE 1, 1951.