

# EVERYONE ENJOYED THE PROMS

AT the end of their first Wellington season, it was obvious that everyone had enjoyed the "Proms," and that what Michael Bowles, conductor of the National Orchestra, had described last year as "a gallant experiment" had proved a popular success. No doubt Wellington's phenomenally calm, summery weather had something to do with it, certainly the informal atmosphere of the concerts helped a lot, and undoubtedly the playing of the Orchestra (which was at the top of its form) was a factor. Attendances were excellent, applause was heartening, the Orchestra benefited from the stimulus, and the Concert Division of the NZBS felt that its efforts had been well rewarded. What impressed the organisers as much as anything—more even than the aggregate of the audiences—was the large proportion of young people who crowded the "Prom" area of the Town Hall every evening. Not that they "prommed" in a literal sense—it was "music while you relax" rather than "music while you walk," for most of them—but the photographs which appear on this page (taken at the final concert) are evidence that whether it was taken standing or sitting the music offered diverted as well as edified.

While no decision has yet been made on the extension of the Prom. concerts to other centres, further seasons in the Capital are almost certain to follow.



N.P.S. photographs

EVIDENCE of the informal holiday atmosphere of the Wellington Prom. season could be found wherever one turned in the Town Hall. These photographs, taken on the night of the final concert, show (at top) a small section of the capacity house and the supper bar at the rear of the hall. When this photograph was taken between 800 and 1000 concertgoers had just been served supper in the space of 15 minutes. At left, Shirley Carter is seen receiving a bouquet and congratulations after her playing of the Saint-Saens Piano Concerto No. 2 in G Minor; at right and below, groups of "promenaders" absorbed in the music and responding enthusiastically to it

