

# CORONATION FANFARE

**S**PECIAL programmes produced by the NZBS and the BBC will help to make Coronation year memorable for listeners in New Zealand. The programmes, both spoken and musical, cover a big field, from the age of Elizabeth I to a description of the route the Coronation procession will take. Many will be heard before and others after the Coronation. Here is a general picture of what listeners may look forward to.

Specially written for the NZBS by the New Zealander Hector Bolitho, well-known for his books about Royal persons, is a talk about the Queen and her peoples. This has been recorded in Britain by Mr. Bolitho and will be broadcast as a Sunday evening talk on the Sunday preceding the Coronation.

British character illustrated from literature will be discussed in a major series of spoken programmes arranged by the NZBS. About 10 programmes—part-narration, part-readings, part-dramatised insets—are planned. The aim is to show outstanding aspects of the British character.

Outstanding men who were close to the throne in the reign of Elizabeth I, each of them representative of a type of service, will be the subject of six talks by G. A. Naylor. In a seventh talk Mr. Naylor will say something about the extent to which the success of the reign depended on the work of the country gentry.

Six programmes being written and produced by Professor J. Y. T. Greig, Professor of English at Otago University, describe and illustrate—though not necessarily with poems written for Royal occasions—the works of Poets Laureate since the post became established.

Coronations of the past as recorded by English diarists will be described in another short series of talks; the New Zealand author Neile Scanlan will be heard in two talks on Royal occasions; and Richard Beauchamp will discuss the two Queen Elizabeths in *Two Royal Ladies*.

From the Wellington Production Studios of the NZBS, come three special pre-Coronation productions, all produced by Bernard Beeby.

*Kings To Their Crowning*, by Oliver A. Gillespie, takes listeners back to the first Coronation in Westminster Abbey—that of William the Conqueror—and then forward through some 800 years of changing rulers and changing conditions to the more decorous Coronation of Victoria when England was at the height of her power.

*A Sheaf Of Royal Letters*, also by Mr. Gillespie, is a selection of the wit and wisdom, the crudity and the poetry, that British monarchs have put to paper over the centuries.

The third special pre-Coronation production from the NZBS Studios is Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, which was performed at Court by order of Elizabeth I.

The Commercial Division of the NZBS has planned two special programmes, *Kings and Queens*, a series of talks recorded in London by Margot Campbell, and *Coronation Preview*, the programmes for which were prepared by Margaret Pearson, the London correspondent for the *ZB Women's Programmes*.

Margot Campbell's talks include *This Band of Brothers*, about Westminster Abbey; *Lions Rampant*, in which the Viscountess Tarbat tells about heraldry; *Royal Purple*, a feature about the culture of silkworms which supply silk for the Coronation dresses; *All The Queen's Horses* and *All The Queen's Men*.

Margaret Pearson talks of such matters as the *Court Of Claims*, *All Sorts Of Souvenirs*, and *The Queen's Beasts*—the group of sculptured heraldic animals which will sit at the annexe entrance of Westminster Abbey on Coronation day “wearing expressions of ferocious loyalty on their aristocratic faces.”

Edward German's light opera *Merrie England* will be the most ambitious of a series of NZBS musical programmes—and probably the biggest light opera production ever undertaken by the Service. Based on the stage version, it will include dialogue as well as music. It will be produced in the Auckland Production Studios by Bernard Beeby, with musical direction by Oswald Cheesman.

The Schola Cantorum, conducted by Stanley Oliver, will contribute a programme of Coronation music. This will include a work that is being sung at

this year's Coronation as well as works from previous Coronations. The programme will be introduced by C. Foster Browne, organist at the Christchurch Cathedral, with a short talk on the music of the Coronation service.

Music and poetry of the reign of Elizabeth I will be recalled in a series of NZBS programmes. At least four of these will be part-musical and part-spoken and will present two groups of madrigals and selections of ayres and keyboard music. Three other programmes will present lute songs and instrumental pieces.

Another series of programmes being prepared by the NZBS will give a comprehensive survey of British music. The main subjects will be solo song, choral music, keyboard music, concerted instrumental music and church music. These programmes will have a linking commentary.

Designed especially to mark the Coronation, a 15-minute programme of Maori music, sung by members of the Ngati Poneke Maori Club and introduced by Michael Jones, will be heard not only in New Zealand but overseas. Copies are being sent to broadcasting organisations—in other Commonwealth countries—South Africa, Australia, Canada, Pakistan, India and Ceylon. Contributions have been received from Commonwealth broadcasting organisations to a variety programme which will be broadcast from New Zealand stations.

The NZBS has invited composers to contribute works to make up a programme of New Zealand compositions for the Coronation, but so far the number of replies received has not been encouraging.

*Throne and People*, a series of six half-hour features, heads an impressive list of Coronation programmes transcribed by the BBC for listeners outside Britain. This series illustrates the changes, constitutional and personal, in the relationships between the Throne and the people of Britain and the Commonwealth since 1837. The first four programmes, written by Lord Kinross, Christopher Sykes, Sir Compton Mackenzie and John Connell, describe outstanding events in the lives of British monarchs from Queen Victoria to George VI and recall the personal and human reactions of the occupants of the Throne to many of these events. To complete the series John Pudney, with Professor Vincent Harlow, Beit Professor of the History of the British Empire at Oxford as adviser, has prepared programmes on the Empire and the Commonwealth, which give special attention to the relationship, since the accession of Queen Victoria, between the monarchs and their peoples overseas.

*Ceremonial Way* and *Westminster Abbey* are two features more closely related to the Coronation. Each plays for an hour. In *Ceremonial Way* Colin Wills takes listeners for a walk through streets and avenues that are steeped in history—the route from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey along which Elizabeth II will pass to her Crowning. *Westminster Abbey* is an evocation in sound of the historic shrine in which the Crowning will take place. Other features are *Royal Occasion*, a biographical programme about the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, and *The Crown Jewels*, in which Richard Dimbleby discusses the Jewels with officials of the Tower of London. It is also hoped



ST. EDWARD'S CROWN, copied in the time of Charles II from the ancient Crown worn by Edward the Confessor

to have a short programme about Buckingham Palace.

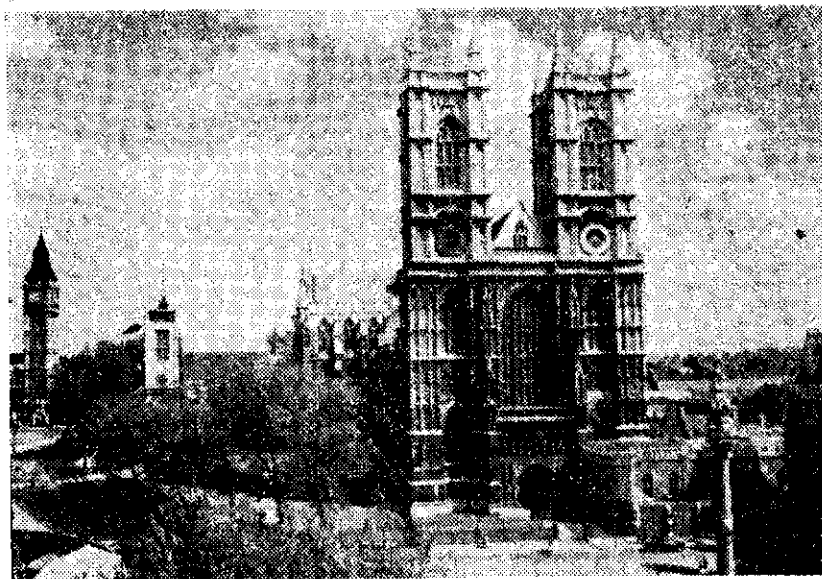
Six spoken programmes will deal with Coronation figures—the Heralds, the Yeoman of the Guard, Her Majesty's other bodyguards, The Sovereign's Escort, Guards of Honour and Coronation Officers; and there will be a short talk by Lawrence E. Tanner, Keeper of the Muniments and Library of Westminster Abbey, on the Abbey and the Coronation ceremony. This is designed primarily for older children, but is suitable also for adults.

A special Service of Dedication on board H.M.S. Victory at Portsmouth has been recorded, and this is likely to be broadcast on the Sunday before the Coronation. The service will be conducted from Nelson's cabin, and hymns will be sung by a choir from H.M.S. Collingwood, accompanied by a Band of the Royal Marines.

*God Save the Queen* is a feature programme about the National Anthem. It tells how the tune has been incorporated in major works by European composers and takes listeners in imagination to Westminster Abbey to hear some of the Coronation ceremonial music, culminating in the Elgar version of the National Anthem.

Coronation programmes of orchestral music will bring listeners the BBC Symphony Orchestra, with chorus, conducted by Sir Adrian Boult in a festival concert of music connected either with past Coronations or with London, and the New Symphony Orchestra in a concert of popular music associated with pageantry. Coronations of bygone days are linked with that of Elizabeth II in an organ recital from Westminster Abbey, recorded by Dr. William McKie, Director of Music for the Coronation. In *BBC Coronation Bandstand* the Brighouse and Rastrick Band and the Huddersfield Choral Society join forces for a half-hour programme.

In addition to the talk on the Abbey and the Coronation ceremony, other programmes specially for children are being recorded by the BBC. These include six short talks on various aspects of the Coronation; *Jennifer in London*, a series of 13 feature programmes describing the experiences of a young overseas visitor in London; and *Sovereign Ladies*—six programmes, each on the life of a Queen of England.



WESTMINSTER ABBEY, showing the West Gate through which all Royalty enter on ceremonial occasions