

NEWS OF BROADCASTERS, ON AND OFF THE RECORD,

By *Swarf*

I've seen." As well as his voyaging sessions Mr. Ford conducts programmes of light classical music, comperes a motor-cycling session, in which there are penny votes for competitors (the money goes to charities); runs a session called *Junior Information*, a Melbourne counterpart of the New Zealand Quiz Kids; conducts Saturday musical matinees, and gives talks about the Australian wine-growing industry, and so on. New Zealand listeners who would like to hear John Ford's voyaging voice should tune in to 3KZ Melbourne on a Sunday evening at 9.30 (New Zealand time). The frequency is 1180 kilocycles, and the wavelength 254 metres.

THE beaming bagpiper you see here is Pipe-Major J. Allan Macgee, now giving a series of programmes, *Pipes from Southland*, broadcast by 4YZ at 8.40 p.m. on Thursdays.

SOUTHLAND He was taught, from the PIPER age of nine, by Archie Macniell, known as the "Blind Piper," of Glasgow. Mr. Macgee became a leading professional piper and



a member of both juvenile and senior world's champion pipe bands—the 139th Glasgow Company Boys' Brigade, and Clan Macrae and Glasgow Corporation Transport. In 1949 he came to New Zealand and in 1950 took over the Invercargill Caledonian Pipe Band, which won the selection championship at Christchurch in 1951, the New Zealand championship in 1952, and this year the music medals in the quickstep display competitions at Napier. Pipe-Major Macgee has been highly successful in solo piping competitions in New Zealand.

RECENTLY the Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, paid an official visit to the BBC. They saw a special Variety programme in the concert hall, given by men and women from many of the most popular BBC Variety shows, accompanied by THE QUEEN AT THE BBC The rest of the audience was composed of BBC staff, many of them selected for long service and some having travelled from the various BBC regions for the



BBC photograph
TWO OLD FAVOURITES: Here is a new photograph of Ted Kavanagh (right), whose "ITMA" scripts, interpreted by the late Tommy Handley and company, made countless millions happy, with Jack Train (Colonel Chinstrap), whose bibulous "I don't mind if I do, sir," suggested, quite wrongly, a bottle-a-day man. They are seen broadcasting in the BBC's "In Town Tonight"

Royal occasion. After the performance the Queen and her husband met the artists and asked many questions about the technicalities of broadcasting. The Queen was also shown a model of the new premises planned for television at the White City, and a plan of the Coronation route with the commentary points shown on it. A large crowd collected to see the Royal party leave for the studios at Maida Vale, where the Queen and Duke heard Sir Malcolm Sargent and the BBC Symphony Orchestra rehearsing a Rachmaninoff Symphony. After that they saw Lord Samuel, Bertrand Russell and Viscount Hailsham taking part in the series *London Forum*, which is broadcast in the General Overseas Service and also rebroadcast by many stations in North America. The Queen went into the adjoining listening room and watched through the glass panel the speakers at the microphone; she also watched the programme engineer in the listening room working the studio control panel. She heard through a loud-speaker an example of a European News Bulletin. Next came a glimpse of an *English by Radio* programme, by which English is taught to listeners in other countries, and last came ten minutes with producers, record players and announcers in another control cubicle, this time looking through a sound-proof window at a programme being recorded for listeners in South and South-East Asia. This was a meeting of "Asian Club," in which an audience of Asians in London puts questions to well-known people. "Asian Club" is broadcast every Sunday in the BBC's *London Calling Asia* programme. Only sound broadcasting was covered in this Royal visit, but the Queen expressed a wish to see the television studios at a later date.

HOW can native forest be re-established on hill country faster than by just shutting the country up? What is the best method—and the most economic—for regenerating worn-out hill country previously in native grass? To what extent does vegetation on land affect the run-off of water after rain; how does this affect flooding and what can be done to help the position? How does the

contour system of farming fit into established New Zealand practices? These and many other problems are being investigated by the staff of the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Council. Some are well on the way to solution; others are not quite so far advanced. On May 14, D. R. Wilkie, District Soil Conservator at Blenheim, gave a talk from 2XN Nelson on "Practical Soil Conservation in Marlborough and the South." This talk will be broadcast in 3YA's *Country Session* on May 18. Mr. Wilkie's talk, "The Story of the Wither Hills," heard from 2XN recently, will be broadcast by 4YA early in July. Station 4YZ will broadcast both talks in August.

Mr. Wilkie, a native of Dunedin (photograph below), graduated from Otago University and Canterbury Agricultural College. After research work at Lincoln he joined the Department of Agriculture at Timaru as Assistant Instructor in Agriculture. Shortly after the Soil Council was formed he was appointed District Soil Conservator for the Northern half of the South Island. While he was in this job a start was made with the contour system of farming in New Zealand, and experimental farms were established from Nelson to South Canterbury. New soil conservation methods are tried on these farms and the results, if successful, are passed on to farmers.



The WORLD'S BIGGEST SONG HITS

"I WENT TO
YOUR WEDDING"
"BECAUSE YOU'RE MINE"
"TAKE MY HEART"
"BLUE TANGO"
"BLUE TANGO"
"HERE IN MY HEART"
"AUF WIEDERSEH'N
SWEETHEART"
"GENTLY, JOHNNY"
"ROCK OF GIBRALTAR"
"YOURS" "YOURS"
"LOVE'S ROUNDABOUT"
"BLACKSMITH BLUES"
"THE LOVELIEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR"
"I'M YOURS" "HIGH NOON"
"LONELY LITTLE ROBIN"
"MOONLIGHT BAY" "BE MY LOVE"
"JUBILEE RAG" "TELL ME WHY"
"A KISS TO BUILD A DREAM ON"

YOUR FAVOURITE SCOTCH SONGS
HARRY LAUDER'S
SONG ALBUMS,
Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Price 4/- each

ALL MUSIC SELLERS

Or direct from the publishers,
J. ALBERT & SON PTY., LTD.,
2-4 Willis Street :: Wellington

BACKACHE

makes
HOUSEWORK HARD!

No wonder housework is hard... no wonder there seems more to do than one pair of hands can possibly manage... for backache turns the most ordinary tasks into weary toil. But when backache is due to sluggish kidney action, that is a trouble you can soon put right. Yes, soon... because many women get relief simply by relying on De Witt's Pills. This tried and trusted diuretic medicine promptly acts to stimulate sluggish kidneys back to normal activity, so that harmful waste matter is properly expelled from the system. So, if you have this burden of backache, De Witt's Pills come to you with heartfelt recommendations of grateful people all around you.



DeWitt's Pills

For Backache, Rheumatic and Joint Pains, etc. Prices 4/- and 7/- (inc. tax).
A Product of E. C. DeWitt & Co. (N.Z.) Ltd.,
9, Herbert Street, Wellington, New Zealand.