

WELL DONE, CUTTY SARK!

NOW well into his nineties, Charles Andrews, who served in the Cutty Sark in 1888, said not long ago to Philip Donnellan: "I wish you'd do something on the Cutty Sark. There she is, lying down in London River and not a blessed soul knows or cares much about her." Donnellan went down to where the Cutty Sark, now the property of the training ship Worcester, lies at her bunys, and despite her pathetic appearance, cut down to stump masts, he sensed the atmosphere of past glories that still clings to the old ship. He made the Cutty Sark his study, reading the old logs and talking to anyone he could find who had some personal link with her—in particular the family of the late Captain Richard Woodget, most famous of the Cutty Sark's masters, who lent him many documents and newspaper cuttings. All this (and the fo'sle bell of the old ship, too, which was found in Suffolk) he turned into a radio programme, *A Cloud of Sail*, which was broadcast first by the BBC and is now to be heard from National stations of the NZBS.

The story of the Cutty Sark goes back to 1869, a great year for clipper ships, when Captain John ("White Hat") Willis ordered a ship that would "beat the Yankee Clippers and show the steamships her heels, too." In the end she broke all records in the wool race from



Cutty Sark being shepherded by tugs up the Thames in 1951 for reconditioning and preservation

Australia to England. She fulfilled Captain Willis's other prophecy, too, for in the early hours of July 26, 1889, off the Australian coast, she caught and passed the P. and O. liner Britannia, one of the crack mail steamers on the England-Australia run. *A Cloud of Sail* will be heard first from 4YC at 7.52 p.m. on Tuesday, June 23, and from 4YA at 3.30 p.m. on Sunday, June 28.

Galsworthy's "Strife"

WHEN John Galsworthy's play *Strife* was first produced on the London stage in 1909, trade unions had not yet been accepted in the way they are today, and this dramatic picture of the fight between Capital and Labour excited everyone. The scene is a tin-plate works, and the leading figures, equally sincere in their views, are the chairman

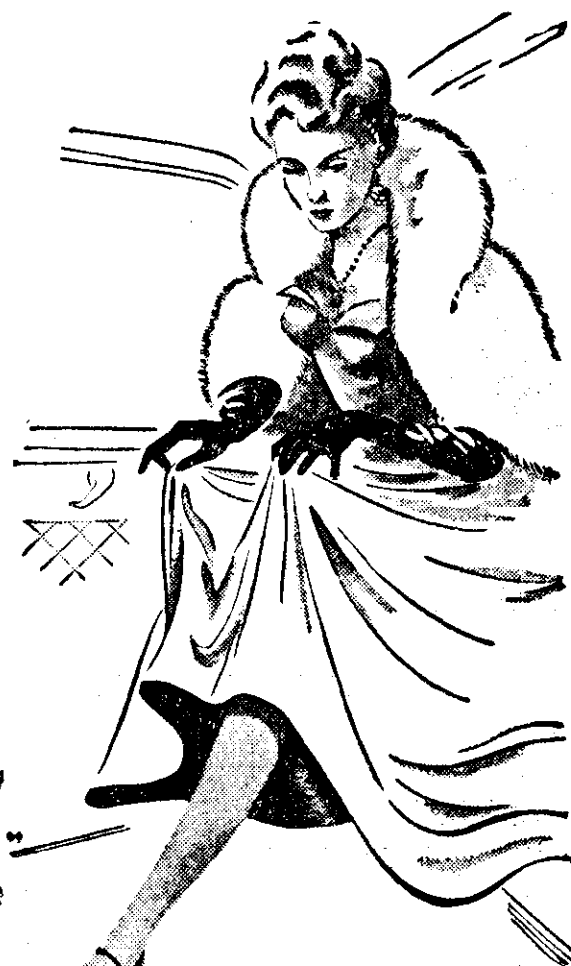
of the works and the spokesmen for the men. Galsworthy, with his deep human feelings and striving after complete fairness, gives every aspect of the dispute, moving from directors' meetings to the labour leader's cottage and to a mass meeting of the men. A new radio version of *Strife*, recorded from a BBC production of the play, is to be heard from National stations during the next few months, starting from 4YZ at 8.0 p.m. on Friday, June 26. In it Ernest Jay plays the part of John Anthony, the chairman of the company, and Deryck Guyler is David Roberts, the men's leader.

The Clock is a play of a rather different kind which will start the rounds of National stations from 3YC at 9.30 p.m. on Saturday, June 27. The author, Elleston Trevor, gives listeners an impression of the feelings of a murderer who leaves his victim dead in an empty flat in London and then arrives at his country home some hours later to be told that the same man has been knocked down and killed by a bus not far away. The clock of the title has an important part in this play—the crime has been planned to an exact schedule, and the clock as narrator records the fortunes and misfortunes of the characters as the story develops. *The Clock*, one of a series specially written for radio, is acted by members of the BBC Drama Repertory Company and produced by Val Gielgud, BBC Head of Drama.



JOHN GALSWORTHY

N.Z. LISTENER, JUNE 19, 1953,



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