



★ The story of 1953's New Zealand expedition to the Himalayas is being told in "Himalayan Quest," six talks now being broadcast from YA and YZ stations at 9.15 p.m. on Thursdays. On October 8, in the second talk, Graham McCallum will describe the journey into the Ganesh Himal. Members of the expedition shown above breakfasting by the roadside in the Buri Gandaki Valley are (from left) Philip Gardner, Maurice Bishop, Graham McCallum and Athol Roberts. ★

THE RAILWAY KING

GEORGE HUDSON, the English railway financier known as the "railway king," who organised and built half the railways in England in the 1830s and 1840s, had a career as spectacular and tragic as any in the world of 19th Century capitalism. His name flared across the English scene like a rocket, and like a rocket it crashed and fizzled out. A BBC programme called *Railway King*, will be broadcast from 3YA at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday October 7, and from 3YC at 9.30 p.m. on Sunday, October 11. It tells how Hudson, a product of the railway boom started in life as a Yorkshire ploughman, but after grandiose speculations opened the York and North Midland line in 1839, the Newcastle and Darlington line two years later, and with George Stephenson extended the Midland to Newcastle. In five years he was one of the richest and most sought after men in the country; the great Duke of Wellington himself went out of his way to do him a service. He controlled a thousand miles of railway, was three times Lord Mayor of York, and was elected to Parliament for the Conservative Party.

He was ruined overnight by the dis closure of the Eastern Railway frauds. Awkward questions asked at a shareholders' meeting cast grave doubts on his honesty, and he fled the country. He returned years later to stand for Parliament again, at the request of his

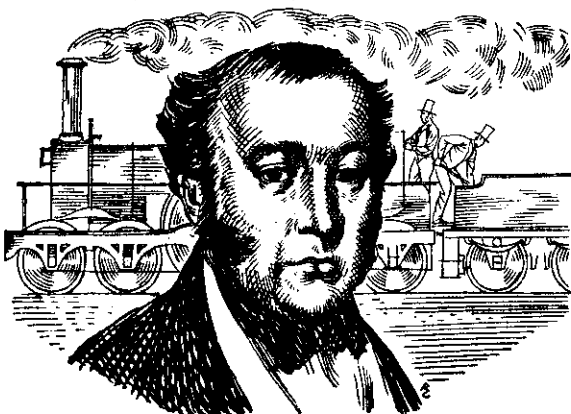
former constituents, but was thrown into prison after being arrested for debt. He died in 1871. In the BBC's programme the part of Hudson is taken by Mark Dignam. An unusual device is the use of contemporary ballads to tell part of the story, and these are sung by Ewan McColl.

BURIED ALIVE

Buried Alive, a BBC programme about a man who became lost in the Alps in a snowstorm, will be broadcast from 4YA at 2.30 p.m. on Sunday, October 11. Listeners to this transcription will hear the story of Alfred Southon, who, with a companion, was separated from a group of Italian partisans and escaped prisoners of war while they were trying to get into France. The two men became lost and took shelter under a rock. Southon's companion died and he was left alone in the silence with the snow piling higher and higher, gradually burying him and the dead man in a natural grave. Southon himself speaks in the programme, which was written by Jerome Willis and produced by Alan Burgess.

MR. PICKWICK

In 4YZ's *Weekend Magazine*, at 1.45 on Sunday, October 11, listeners will be taken behind the scenes of the British film *The Pickwick Papers*, in the latest edition of *Picture Parade* from the BBC Transcription Service. Noel Langley who wrote and directed the film, discusses the problems to be faced in adapting Dickens to the screen from one of his most discursive and exuberant books. Maude Spector, casting director for the film, reveals that physical resemblance to the "Phiz" illustrations largely decided which actors should be invited to play the parts and her most perfect piece of casting. Mr. Pickwick himself as played by James Hayter is also heard in the programme.



N.Z. LISTENER, OCTOBER 2, 1953.



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