

## A Birthday Party

### "PONTY'S" CELEBRATIONS

#### A MODEL HUMOROUS EVENING

WHAT promises to be an outstanding broadcasting evening, and certainly unique so far as New Zealand programmes are concerned (and probably Australia), will be the special broadcast set down for Thursday, August 2, at 8 p.m.

For some time Mr. R. Leslie Jones, hon. secretary of the Wellington Amateur Radio Society, has expressed a desire that his society should provide a full evening's programme from 2YA. Listeners have been persistent throughout New Zealand in their request for programmes of a light variety with plenty of humour, states Mr. Jones. The hon. secretary of the Wellington Society says he feels it is up to the various listeners' societies throughout New Zealand to assist the Broadcasting Company, and incidentally listeners, to get the best possible enjoyment from radio broadcasting; and with that end in view, Mr. Jones has specially written and arranged a most novel and original programme to be broadcast on August 2.

An actual birthday party will be broadcast. The gentleman, at whose house the party is to take place, shall be known as "Ponty"; and he lives about three miles from 2YA broadcast station. "Ponty" decided to celebrate his 44th birthday; and an arrangement has been made with the Broadcasting Company to broadcast the ceremony—one which should prove decidedly original and true to life.

Not that "Ponty" wished to take advantage of his wife's absence; but as "Ponty's" wife had planned a trip to Auckland just prior to "Ponty's" birthday, the latter decided to hold a party, and has invited many of his closest men friends. "Ponty" expressed a desire that if his birthday party was to be broadcast, the station director at 2YA should allow the whole ceremony to be broadcast, and not break-in with any other items; and that Mr. Jones should have the "freedom of the air" that evening. The party will be true to life in every respect, and there will not be a dull moment during the ceremony.

In order that listeners may appreciate to the full this special broadcast, they are asked to imagine they are guests at "Ponty's" residence attending the birthday party. As the party will be a lengthy one, invited guests have been asked to arrive at "Ponty's" residence not later than 7.50 p.m. on August 2, as the function will commence sharp after the clock has struck 8 p.m. (Copyright)

Amongst the guests invited to "Ponty's" party and from whom it is expected many interesting items will be heard are:—

Count Zermelt, whom "Ponty" met in Paris in 1915.

"Ike," wealthy investor, and speculator in real estate.

Sir Roland Inchcliffe, rich banker from New York.

Jim, member of a touring show and leader of the orchestra.

Ivory Tickle, the human piano.

Bill, the radio engineer.

Snowy, a friend of Bill's.

"Kruschen," an old salt of the sea, the comic man on board the ship "Good Hope."

Mr. Haslam, Teacher of Singing.

"Nosey Parker," Cadger of Cigarettes.

[Synopsis.]

The party takes place at "Ponty's" home, the occasion being "Ponty's" 44th birthday.

"Ponty's" wife went to Auckland by the express the day before "Ponty's" birthday, and in his wife's absence "Ponty" rang his pals to celebrate his birthday.

"Ponty's" wife, unaware that her home was to be the scene of an uproarious party, was enjoying herself in Auckland.

"Ponty's" employer wired "Ponty," wishing him "many happy returns of the day," and told him not to hurry back to work, but to take a week's holiday.

Strange to say, the telegram was sent from Auckland, a fact that made "Ponty" wonder.

"Lizzie," the maid at "Ponty's" home, was trusted by "Ponty's" wife, but being in love with "Nosey Parker," took the opportunity in her mistress's absence of permitting her lover to enter "Ponty's" house during the party, without permission. The rest can be imagined.

During the birthday ceremony there will not be any break nor any dull moments, as the microphone will be left switched on to "Ponty's" drawingroom right through.

The party will be full of humour, and will run with lightning speed; and the whole party will be in keeping with the times, namely, plenty of bright music, catchy patter, latest "stunts," and such as should please the most fastidious listener.

The hon. secretary of the Wellington Amateur Radio Society (Mr. R. Leslie Jones) requests listeners to write him care box 503, G.P.O., Wellington, letting him know the broadcast is received and whether this form of entertainment is appreciated or not.

A considerable amount of time and trouble has been necessary in arrange-

## Visiting Artists

### ATTITUDE TO BROADCASTING

#### STATEMENT BY MOISEWITSCH

##### BARRED BY CONTRACT.

Should world artists visiting New Zealand be engaged to broadcast from New Zealand stations in order to help raise the musical standard of the people of the Dominion?

THIS question has been raised by a Christchurch paper as the result of a visit by Moiseiwitsch to that city. In a published interview, Mr. Moiseiwitsch said he was quite prepared to broadcast, and he spoke of the desirability of the Broadcasting Company taking advantage of the visit of overseas artists for the purpose of educating the New Zealand public to a higher appreciation of the best music.

Without being aware of the facts, and without having a due appreciation of broadcasting conditions in New Zealand, the Christchurch paper in a leading article on the subject, headed "How to Help Music," said that now that Mr. Moiseiwitsch had expressed his willingness to broadcast, the next move should come from the Broadcasting Company. It was suggested in the article, just as Mr. Moiseiwitsch suggested, that the Broadcasting Company never made any effort to secure the services of these visiting overseas artists.

##### Fee of One Hundred Guineas.

ALMOST without exception visiting world artists have been approached to broadcast, and almost without exception they have expressed their sympathy, but regrettably shaken their heads. They could not broadcast. The terms of their contract prevented them. Station directors and programme organisers have therefore grown weary of interviewing touring artists.

Mr. Moiseiwitsch was one who was not waited on until his interview appeared in print, and his sentiments towards broadcasting were published. Then, in view of the newspaper comment calling upon the Broadcasting Company to rise to the occasion, a representative of the Broadcasting Company waited upon Mr. Moiseiwitsch.

Mr. Moiseiwitsch professed his willingness to broadcast, but of course would only do so for a fee which he knew, he said, would be more than the Broadcasting Company would be prepared to pay. Would he broadcast for forty guineas? "No" was asked. He shook his head emphatically. Would he consider one hundred guineas?

At the mention of that figure Mr. Moiseiwitsch said it was a matter for his manager to decide. The manager was point-blank and decisive. He would not discuss the question at all. It was useless to do so. The terms of Mr. Moiseiwitsch's contract prevented him from broadcasting.

##### No Chance of Broadcasting.

MR. MOISEWITSCH must have known that fact when he was talking to the newspaper men and criticising the broadcasting system of New Zealand, which, he said, did not take advantage of the visit of artists such as he.

In its earlier days, broadcasting was maligned by prominent musicians on the other side of the world, who declared that it meant "death to good music," and that broadcast music was only a caricature of real music. For what Mr. Moiseiwitsch has said and thus helped to kill that idea, broadcasting in New Zealand is indebted to him, but in discussing the subject for publicity purposes, he is not called upon to go further and to criticise the New Zealand service for its alleged failure to engage visiting artists. As mentioned, nearly every artist who lands in New Zealand is approached, but almost without exception their contracts specifically prevent them from broadcasting.

##### Appreciation of Classics.

THE Broadcasting Company would naturally like all great musicians to broadcast, more for the sake of further raising the status of broadcasting in the music world than of attempting to please listeners. The number who would be appreciative would not be great enough to justify the company paying the fee which would be required by the artists. The Broadcasting Company has already endured much criticism because its artists, the trios, for instance, played music that was too good, so that the expense of securing the appearance of Mr. Moiseiwitsch on a programme would not be warranted. Another view to take of the matter, and a very practical one, is that gramophone records, including some of Mr. Moiseiwitsch's playing, can now be so perfectly electrically reproduced and broadcast that it is well nigh impossible to tell which is the artist and which is the record. This, however, by the way. Mr. Moiseiwitsch's remarks in favour of broadcasting have helped the broadcasting service in the eyes of musicians just as much as if he himself had played before the microphone.

ing: is function, and it is hoped that listeners will show their appreciation in the efforts of the Wellington Society in listening-in for certain on August 2, and, further, that reports be forwarded to the hon. secretary promptly after the broadcast.

## League Meeting

### AUCKLAND LISTENERS

#### A SMALL ATTENDANCE.

The annual meeting of the Auckland Listeners' League was held on June 25, Mr. A. C. Jacob presiding over an attendance of about 50.

The annual report stated the membership had been 1540. The year had been an active one. In the course of the year the committee drafted a scheme of co-operation by means of compact Dominion and district committees, representing the Post and Telegraph Department, the company, and the listeners. The financial statement showed a credit balance of £25.

The following officers were elected:—President, Mr. A. C. Jacob; vice-president, Mr. A. A. Hintz; hon. treasurer, Mr. B. T. Drayton; hon. secretary, Mr. G. McB. Salt; committee, Messrs. G. Jones, C. Brandon, H. Tliarks, G. W. Bell, C. Mahony, H. B. Arthur, and H. W. Tidman.

The following letter from the Secretary of the Post and Telegraph Department, Mr. G. McNamara, in reply to an invitation to attend the meeting, was read: "There is nothing that I wish to place before members of your league at present. Apparently, from the frequent reports in the Press of New Zealand, the service given by the Broadcasting Company is satisfactory to listeners, and the steady improvement that has taken place during the past 12 months will no doubt be maintained if circumstances permit."

"Your league will, however, no doubt realise that the drop in the number of listeners who have paid their fees is disturbing, particularly in view of the fact that there has been such a marked improvement in the service. It is somewhat difficult to appreciate why the falling-off should have taken place, or to realise what factors govern the action of listeners. Stability of income must be of grave importance to a broadcasting company, and the very satisfactory position as at March 31 last would have assured a continuance of the very good service then being given. I have been closely watching the gradual increase in the number of licenses since April 1, but up to date the financial position is such as to give the company considerable thought. If your league is aware of any factor which may be responsible, even in part, for the falling-off of interest, it would be rendering a service to broadcasting if it discussed the point at the annual meeting."

Mr. A. A. Hintz moved: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Auckland programmes are not commensurate with the financial support given to the company by listeners in the Auckland Province." He said he listened regularly to the Wellington programmes, which were better and also more capably presented than the Auckland ones. Auckland had always been the company's mainstay, and should have better entertainment.

Mr. H. B. Arthur said good musical items were repeatedly spoiled through wrong placing of the microphone.

Mr. Tidman complained that the programmes had got into the hands of a coterie of artists, who divided the work among them, with monotonous results. He agreed about the transmission.

The motion was carried.

It was also decided to instruct the committee to request the Government to publish the Broadcasting Company's balance-sheet, and to set up an advisory board. A further motion was carried, authorising the committee to request Mr. McNamara to visit Auckland, in order to hear the opinions of listeners at a public meeting called for the purpose.

Another report states the attendance of members was 38, although excellent publicity to the meeting was given over the air from station IYA by the Broadcasting Company. The treasurer's report disclosed that 72 members were financial for the current year. A committee of six was required, but five only could be secured. A feature of the meeting was the arrival of a Mr. Purcell (secretary of a number of Labour unions in Auckland). In a speech he made what political capital he could out of broadcasting, and had a lot to say about "our rotten Government." He declared that the Government should take over the Broadcasting Company—that the Government should fix the price of receiving sets—that the Government should fix the price of spare parts—and that the Government should establish local control. He said the meeting was too small to move the motions he had in mind, and he would reserve them until a larger meeting. He also suggested that each member of the league should pay one shilling per month, and then they would be able to have a permanent staff and do something, especially as this year was election year.

SINCE two people cannot both speak at once over the transatlantic telephone system, the Rugby station and the Rocky Point station, New York, are able to use the same wave-length for this service.

## THE CHURCH AND WIRELESS

### ARCHBISHOP JULIUS SPEAKS

"WHAT is the church for if it is not to broadcast the Gospel of Christ. If people are too lazy to come to church surely we would be doing the right thing in taking the church to the people."

Thus spoke Archbishop Julius at the Christchurch Cathedral one Sunday morning recently, when he extolled the virtues of wireless broadcasting of services. The Archbishop also prophesied that only a short time would pass before services from most churches were put on the air.

"To-day, while this small company is gathered here and the well and strong are out fishing, there are many sick and suffering in Christchurch who would be happy to have the word and comfort of the Church carried to them."

He chose as his text the eighteenth verse of the tenth chapter of St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans: "But I say, have they not heard? Yes, verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world."

"I want you to think for a moment how that word went slowly forth from man to man," said the Archbishop, "and now I have heard how that word is to be broadcast from this church, as is done in many other churches. Broadcasting is at present in its infancy, but it will be a great educating influence in the world of to-morrow—one of the greatest man has ever known."

"The broadcasting of religious services is an innovation," said the Archbishop, "and the Church, with its conservative outlook, always shrinks from new ideas. And yet why should we not broadcast? I greet the changes that are coming, and though I may not be with you to see the results, I am sure that wireless will be one of the greatest influences in the world."

"Of all the institutions in the world the Church should be the first to say, 'Yes, we will broadcast. Why, that is our work. Certainly we will broadcast.' I often think of the time when this 11 o'clock fetich will be abolished; when we will all gather at an earlier hour to partake of the Sacrament."

"It is what we ought to be doing now," continued Archbishop Julius, speaking with vigour. "We ought to be taking the Sacrament out to the sick and the poor; to those who are unable to kneel alongside us in honour of our Maker. Why do we not do it? Because we are afraid."

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