

Heeney-Tunney Fight

SPECIAL EFFORTS OF COMPANY

AS indicated last week, the Broadcasting Company has been actively prosecuting arrangements in connection with the broadcast of a description of the Heeney-Tunney fight, to be fought at the end of this month. The company has been in communication with its New York representative to secure full information as to what short-wave broadcast arrangements have been made in respect of this fight, and has instructed him to cable full particulars of the wave-length, power and time transmission of stations that will be operating. Instructions have also been given to the effect that contact should be made with the stations operating to see that special care be taken in the broadcast matter, to meet the special interest of New Zealanders in their champion, Tom Heeney, on this occasion.

THE company is very keen to make a big feature of this broadcast, and no efforts will be spared at all stations to pick up the short wave transmission, and give New Zealand listeners by relay the opportunity of hearing the progress of the fight. Success, of course, will be dependent on the conditions prevailing for reception, but all that can be done will be done to secure good results.

VALUE OF CO-OPERATION

2YA MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC COMMITTEE

THE monthly meeting of the 2YA Musical and Dramatic Committee was held at the studio on Monday evening, Mr. E. Palliser (chairman) presiding. There were present Messrs. J. Carr (Charley's Aunt Club), Len Barnes (Orpheus Society), G. L. Giesen (Hutt Valley Choral Society), Campbell (Wellington Competitions Society), V. R. Bennett (Harmonic Society), I. Levy ("The Dominion"), A. S. Warwick (Orphans Club), R. Lyon (Savage Club). Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. Harrison Cook (National Repertory Society), and Mr. H. Temple White (Commercial Travellers' Choir).

A letter was received from the Broadcasting Company acknowledging the resolution passed by the committee at its last meeting, and intimating the company's pleasure in adopting the suggestion that a "literary evening" should be scheduled for once a month. Mr. Ball stated that the first two "literary evenings" had already been arranged for, Mrs. R. S. Watson, B.A., having kindly consented to deal with "Kipling and His Work" on July 27, and Miss Clodagh Russell, whose subject had yet to be decided, having similarly undertaken to provide the literary matter for the evening of August 31. Mr. Levy suggested that the literary matter should be supplemented by appropriate vocal items, in the case of the Kipling evening, for instance, by "The Road to Mandalay" and other ballads. Mr. Ball said that this had been arranged for.

Mr. G. L. Giesen said he was pleased that the company had approved his suggestion re broadcasting choral items, as he had intended to propose that the company be approached with a view to ascertaining whether it would be practicable for the Studio Orchestra to take part in the society's next concert, so that the whole programme could be broadcast on relay. After expressing his views as to the mutual advantage of such co-operation, he moved accordingly, Mr. Levy seconding.

Mr. Palliser intimated that if transport was a matter of consideration in connection with the proposed arrangement, his car would be available for the occasion. Mr. Campbell stated that the Competitions Society had not yet considered its attitude in relation to broadcasting, but the matter would be discussed at their next committee meeting.

The chairman said there was a time when he had been unable to see that the broadcasting of their performance

could be advantageous to musical organisations, but he no longer entertained any doubt on the question. He was satisfied that a policy of co-operation would prove mutually beneficial, and that broadcasting—especially of selected items from a final rehearsal, would be a good thing for the societies, who would thereby get valuable publicity. He voiced this opinion confidently, because of his personal knowledge of what had happened in connection with one of the local bands. He believed it would be advantageous for the Competitions Society to have the work of some of the successful competitors broadcast. It might be arranged, say, for certain of the prize-winners during the early stages to broadcast from the studio, prior to a demonstration concert, or, better still, for the "recall items" to be put over the air direct from the Town Hall.

Mr. Len Barnes said the Orpheus Society had been broadcast on two or three occasions. Last December they had given "Maritana" from the studio of 2YA occupying the whole evening. They were now practising for "The Rebel Maid," to be produced on August 4. He did not know if his society would agree to the broadcasting of the whole performance, but he thought they would agree to parts of it being broadcast.

The chairman: I think the broadcasting of some items from the final rehearsal would be a good "boost" for the production.

Mr. Stanley Warwick: Most certainly.

After further discussion it was resolved on the motion of Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Lyon, that the various musical and dramatic societies in Wellington and the Competitions Society be approached with a view to having selected portions of their programmes broadcast either from the actual performance, or from the final rehearsal.

The chairman reported that he was already in communication with the Wellington District Combined Bands' Association, and the Wanganui Band Contest Committee, relative to the possibility of broadcasting on relay to Wellington from Wanganui the championship test pieces at the band contest. At least six bands from Wellington would be competing, and he felt sure that if a successful relay could be assured they would pack the Town Hall. It was, however, a matter of ascertaining the probability of a successful relay being assured, and to that end he moved "that the company be requested to carry out a test between Wanganui and Wellington as a preliminary to arranging for a relay broadcast of the championship band contest to be held in Wanganui in February."

The chairman said he had no doubt the Post and Telegraph Department would render every assistance possible in connection with the test.

A sub-committee, consisting of Messrs. Carr, Barnes, and Davies, with the chairman, was appointed to investigate a matter of interest to listeners in regard to the broadcasting of organ music.

2YA CHURCH COMMITTEE

A MEETING of the 2YA Church Service Committee was held on Tuesday. There were present Rev. Ernest Weeks (chairman), Rev. Clarence Eaton, Rev. F. E. Harry, Rev. R. J. Howie, Pastor F. E. Carpenter, Rev. C. V. Rooke.

The principal business dealt with was the fixing of the rota, and, after discussing the position and reviewing the practice followed in other centres, it was unanimously agreed that the rota as at present in vogue be continued for the present, subject to such minor variation as may be found desirable from time to time. A complaint relative to the subject matter of a recent relay broadcast was discussed at some length, and it was decided to endorse the complaint and refer same to the Broadcasting Company per medium of a formal resolution expressive of the committee's unanimous view of the matter. It was decided to recommend that in cases where such services do not coincide with the broadcast rota, Sunday school anniversary services be broadcast either morning or afternoon, subject to the approval and convenience of the Broadcasting Company, and certain fixtures were tentatively arranged in accordance with the recommendation.

RELIGION BROADCAST

ARCHDEACON TAYLOR'S VIEWS

MAY INCREASE CONGREGATIONS.

THE chief objection that is raised to the broadcasting of religious services is that this practice affords a new temptation leading people to stay at home and listen instead of going to church to take part in the service," says Archdeacon Taylor, in an article in the St. Luke's (Christchurch) "Parish Magazine."

"Personally, I think it will not have this effect. Of course, a certain number of people will give as their reason for stopping away from the church the plea, 'Oh, we have no wireless and we always listen in to the service on Sunday evening.' But would those people go to church in any case? Or is it only just a new excuse, readily welcomed by those who know in their own hearts that all the old excuses are inadequate? If people don't want to go to church they won't go. If they think they ought to go and yet don't want to go, they will deceive themselves and try to deceive others by giving some excuse or other, and the wireless one has a great advantage for his purpose over the Sunday headache, the stuffy church, the poorness of our preaching and all the other well-worn excuses. But if people want to take part in the worship of God, they will not be satisfied with what they get over the wireless for, wonderful as it is, it is not really the same thing. Only in a very few cases can it be anything like the same thing. One such case is that of a sick person listening in to the service in solitude. Such a person may well thank God for this wonderful new invention which enables him to associate himself so closely with his fellow-Christians before the Throne of Grace. Another case might be a group of people in a remote country place gathered together by common consent for the express purpose of joining in the service as broadcast. In his case they will kneel for the prayers, stand for the hymns (and, of course, join in the singing) and sit only for the lessons and the sermon.

"BUT I do not believe that people who could go to church and don't would join in a wireless service in that way. I picture the family group round the fireside. Father is in the big armchair and his pipe is going well. He has the Saturday evening paper at hand in case he finds the service uninteresting. Mother is on the other side of the fire, perhaps thinking that on the whole it would be more restful if she were really at church. Then there are the young people, including the daughter's young man. What do they think about it? The boys, of course, are interested in the new scientific toy. They all like to have a background of music or some other sound and are used to carrying on their conversation to it without any embarrassment. It is quite a pleasant picture. But is it worship? Frankly, I do not believe it. And if at any time some of those people feel a desire for worship, or even for the fellowship of their fellow-Christians, they will give up the wireless and go to church next Sunday.

IN the long run, then, I feel sure that very few people will be kept away from church because of the wireless services. Is it possible to believe that broadcasting will ever tend to increase church attendance? Yes; I think so. Surely sick people who have found comfort in the church's prayers will want to take a fuller part in them when they are well. And even the most listless of listeners will sometimes hear something that will set them thinking about the great realities. There is another point. People who have never been in the habit of going to church regularly do not know what our service is really like. People who haven't been for years have forgotten. Many of these find through the wireless that church services are not so dull or so meaningless as they thought. Others realise that there is something in the church service which they can appreciate now but could not appreciate when they were younger, or more careless, or perhaps more self-willed. Such people find themselves gradually being drawn back to the Heavenly Father and to the Church which He has established among us to be our spiritual Mother, and to His House which is our true spiritual home."

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2YA ORCHESTRA

INTERESTING ANALYSIS

POPULARITY OF PROGRAMMES.

IN the last issue of the "Radio Record" a correspondent, "Wanganui," alleged that there was a preponderance of classical music in the programmes submitted by the orchestra of 2YA. The correspondent specially mentioned the week ending June 30, during which time, he asserted, the orchestra played 94 minutes of classical, 40 minutes of light opera, and 30 minutes of request items. After analysing all the items, he contended that two-thirds of the programme were classical and one-third light opera.

As it seemed evident that our correspondent was wrong in his assumption, we have had the programmes in question analysed, and the result is particularly interesting, being just the reverse of the conclusions our correspondent arrived at.

The analysis discloses the following position:—

| Classical Music. | |
|--|----|
| "Phantasy Trio" (Trio) | 10 |
| "Joseph and His Brethren" (Schmidt) | 12 |
| "Ballade" (violin solo) (Haydn) | 7 |
| "Ascanio" Ballet Music (Saint-Saens) | 10 |
| "Colonial Song" (Trio) | 10 |
| "Wanderer's Ziel" | 10 |
| "Hungarian Rhapsody" (Liszt) | 7 |
| | |
| 66 | |
| Popular Music. | |
| "Stradella" (Flotow) | 10 |
| "Monsieur Beaucaire" (Rosse) | 10 |
| Request | 8 |
| "Rakoczy" (Keler Bela) | 10 |
| Request | 8 |
| "Madame Butterfly" (Puccini) | 10 |
| "Private Ortheris" (Ansell) | 9 |
| "Cleopatra" (Cornet) | 6 |
| Request | 6 |
| "Love's Old Sweet Song" (Molloy) | 6 |
| Request | 8 |
| "No, No, Nanette" (Youmans) | 10 |
| "Blue Mazurka" (Lehar) | 10 |
| "Queen High" (Gensler) | 10 |
| | |
| 121 | |

The foregoing list shows that 121 minutes of popular and 66 minutes of classical music were performed during the week in question. Even amongst the music which is scheduled as "classical," two or three of the numbers are distinctly "popular," particularly "Joseph and His Brethren" Suite.

It is, of course, very difficult to draw a line clearly between "classical" and "popular" music. As a matter of fact, a great deal of classical music is popular, whereas some musical comedies and compositions of that description are not particularly popular. The only way is to differentiate between music which is simple, melodious and easy to listen to, and which one knows by experience is popular with the great majority, and other music which is more complex in form, and which appeals to the minority. A very wide experience is necessary in order to draw this line accurately.

On the four nights for which the orchestra is engaged, it is on the air for 3½ hours. Its performances cannot be given without considerable rehearsal, since each number played is different, and not, as with picture houses, repeated nightly. Rehearsals occupy three or four times the length of the public performance.

The Orchestra at 2YA cannot be compared with the 3LO Synco-Symphonists, who play the type of music which their name indicates. There is no question but that the 2YA Orchestra is much superior to anything heard in Australia.

VARIETY FOR 1YA.

SUGGESTIONS ADOPTED

MEETING OF MUSICAL COMMITTEE.

The third meeting of the 1YA Musical and Dramatic Committee was held at the Auckland Studio of the Radio Broadcasting Company, Francis Street, on Friday the 6th of July, at 8 p.m.

A letter was received from The Radio Broadcasting Company, under date the 28th of June, in which the General Manager pointed out that the Company had instructed their Auckland Station Director to carry out the following suggestions recommended by the Committee.

(1) That two Mystery Programmes be staged, and in the first of these the names of the artists be not announced but left to the listener to suggest by means of coupons, to be published in the "Radio Record," and if required by the Committee, in the local press.

(2) That in the second of these programmes, the names of the items be not announced but left to listeners to guess in a similar manner.

(3) That once every four weeks on Sunday evening after the church service, a one-hour gramophone record programme be broadcast, in place of the usual organ recital.

(4) That short lectures with illustrations on singing, piano-playing and string playing be in the programme, each section to be limited to fifteen minutes.

The company pointed out that the Committee's suggestions were viewed as sound propositions, and were instructing their Station Director to co-operate with the Committee in every possible way and carry out the recommendations as above as early as possible.

Appreciative comment was made by the Committee on receipt of this letter conveying the Company's favourable consideration to the suggestions, and it was decided—

(1) That the first mystery programme be held on the 29th of August next, and the second one on the 26th of September.

(2) That the first broadcast of the one hour gramophone record programme, after the church service, in place of the usual organ recital, be held on the 12th of August, the second on the 9th of September, and the third on the 7th of October, 1928.

(3) That Mr. Strong, of the Auckland Choral Society be asked to conduct the first of these programmes, Mr. Plummer the second and Mr. Lambert the third.

It was suggested that Mr. John Tait be asked to conduct the proposed English programme, which would include a short lecture of not more than 12 minutes, and excerpts from the more prominent English composers.

The Sub-Committee, consisting of Dr. Phillips and Mr. K. Atkinson, which was set up at the last meeting to bring down a report on the proposed holding of competitions, presented its report. This was received and referred for further consideration at the meeting to be held on Friday, the 20th of July.

The Committee then discussed the question of introducing some variety into the present programmes, and it was thought that in certain cases, groups of artists should not be engaged more frequently than once per fortnight. It was pointed out that this would not be a hard and fast rule applicable to all artists.

With regard to the suggestion that more jazz music would increase the license total, it is significant that of the "Radio Record" coupons returned with requests for orchestral numbers less than five per cent. specify jazz.



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