

(Continued from page 1.)

These were epoch-marking events and were outstanding feats of which the Broadcasting Company may well be proud. Among topical features handled by the stations the trans-Tasman flights must stand out pre-eminent. The first of these was the ill-fated effort by the New Zealanders Hood and Moncrieff, when the broadcasting stations kept up a service till 2.30 in the morning, in an effort to keep New Zealand supplied with the latest news. On the occasion of the flight of the "Southern Cross" from and back again to Australia, the four stations supplied a wonderful service and listeners-in had a thrilling experience that they will never forget. In fact, as the years pass the privilege of having been able to listen in on those historic occasions, and particularly on the flight back to Australia, will be more and more appreciated.

Marred by Racing Ban.

DURING the year the Racing and Trotting Conferences met and decided that the broadcasting of running descriptions of races was harmful to the interests of the clubs. Broadcasting from the course was therefore banned. Since then the company has continued to supply an excellent service despite the disadvantageous conditions and listeners are very ap-

preciative of the company's efforts in this respect. The ban has resulted in racing losing much valuable publicity and in arousing a feeling of antipathy towards the racing and trotting authorities. This antipathy may or may not be reflected in the totalisator figures of late, the decline in which is a serious matter for the clubs. It is, at any rate, certainly manifest that the ban imposed on broadcasting from the racecourses has not had the result which the racing authorities anticipated. On the contrary, it would seem the clubs have suffered severely from the loss of the broadcast publicity and the goodwill of the public.

Sport Well Catered For.

SPORT generally, including racing, has been well covered by the four stations. Boxing contests figure frequently on the programme for Dunedin, Wellington, Christchurch and Auckland. The Dunedin Boxing Association had a very successful year and forwarded a letter of thanks to the Broadcasting Company. In the other three cities the boxing authorities also gave broadcasting every facility. The first wrestling matches ever described for radio in New Zealand took place last month in Auckland. For the first time, too, last year, international tennis matches were described, the occasions being the visits of the French and British teams. The international Rugby (Australia v. New Zealand) and League (England v. New Zealand) matches were also broadcast, just as were the cricket tests between Australia and New Zealand. Motor cycle races, with all their thrills, were put on the air. Swimming races have been described.

Musical Equipment.

DURING the year the company has been steadily building up its library of music. This is kept in Christchurch, which is the centre of distribution for the artists at the four stations. The regular performers prepare and rehearse special entertainments, for example, popular musical plays, operas and solo items, the music for which is sent from Christchurch. Gramophone records, too, now form a large library at head office. There has been a growing demand for recordings by the world's best artists, electrical reproductions being almost perfect nowadays, so the company has been introducing judiciously a limited number. The Broadcasting Company is advised of and tests the best of the latest releases and from these the cream is taken.

THE gramophone items have been the subject of many appreciative letters from listeners, for their introduction into the programmes has vastly improved the studio entertainments without in any way interfering with the engagement of the best local artists. The way in which records can be used has been demonstrated in the lecture-recitals which have been given at IYA and in such productions as "The Gondoliers" and "The Valkyrie." In both cases, the necessary explanatory matter preceded the records, which were made by some of the world's best artists.

The year's operations have more than ever firmly established the Broadcasting Company's position as the greatest musical organisation in New Zealand.

Maori Pronunciation and Lore

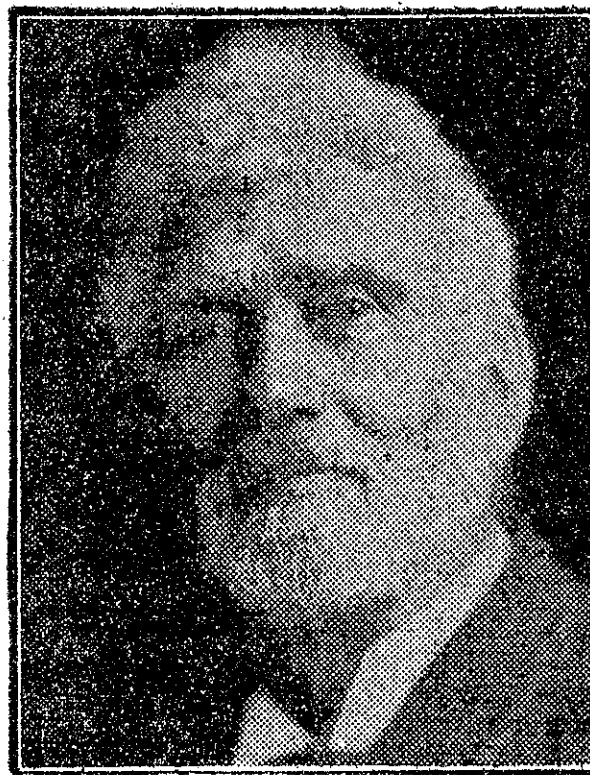
Intensely Interesting Talks Arranged

THE latest to join the numerous band of broadcasters is Mr. Henry M. Stowell, perhaps more widely known as Hare Hongi, the bosom friend of the late Timi Kara (Hon. Sir James Carroll). Hare Hongi has consented to broadcast the correct pronunciation and the meanings of Maori place-names, phrases, etc. His talks will begin on January 7. We append a few particulars of his career.

He was born under a kauri tree (which is still standing) at the head waters of the Waitangi (Treaty of Waitangi) River, Waimate, Russell, North Auckland, on the 4th day of February, 1859. His grandmother, Maumau, belonged to the hereditary

Championship Cup, against the best of Auckland's runners. In doing so he established the peculiar record of winning all three distances; first in the 100 yards, first in the 220 yards, and first in the 440 yards.

As the boy grew up he became convinced that—in many important respects—the Maori language was superior to the English; that opinion he holds to-day. And, by his ardent wooing, the Maori language has been induced to yield up many of its ancient and most secret meanings. Those which were not strictly tapu or ceremonially-restricted, he will broadcast. He assures us that in the course of his long and interesting career, he has known of but one out-and-out qualified interpreter—one of whom it might be said: "He is a master of the Maori language."



H. M. Stowell, Esq.
—Photo, Andrew.

HARE HONGI gained a wide knowledge of Maori lore by sitting at the feet of its aged and best exponents, tohungas. These took as much pride in teaching it to him, as he did in the acquiring of it. For more than fifteen months, at Waitaha (near the Ninety-mile Beach), he lived with Nga Kuku Mumu, whom he regards as being the most capable and efficient master and teacher of that wonderful lore. In the study of that lore, Hare Hongi has twice traversed New Zealand, from end to end, from the North Cape to the Bluff. In 1890 he was specially engaged to collect and set down for record what he could of its modern remains. That embraced such subjects as the Maori belief in the evolution of the world, for that was, in fact, an evolution, and one that is still in progress; Maori teaching on the evolution of man; the religious faith of the Maori; his knowledge of such an abstruse subject as astronomy, the science of genealogy, and so on.

Hare Hongi has published a textbook on the language, entitled the "Maori-English Tutor and Vade Mecum" (Whitcombe and Tombs), which is the standard authority on the subject.

FOR publication in London he has recently forwarded the manuscripts of a life-work, "The Strange Maori." That MS. has been submitted to Sir Robert Stout, and after reading it, in a foreword Sir Robert says: "This is a great book . . . and no book that has yet been published gives such a graphic description of the past Maori life . . . the writer's autobiography is unique. We learn from one part of the book much of Maori learning and of the psychology of Polynesians. It appears that the Maoris had a notable man whom the writer calls, 'The Maori Christ.' The life of Tawhaki . . . is certainly as full of incident as that of any man known to history. His fame has apparently spread to several Pacific island groups . . . The ancient history of the Maori is dealt with and that necessarily includes the much-debated question of the whence of the Maoris."

Sir Robert concludes: "This work can be recommended to anyone desir-

ariki (first) family of the Nga Puhi tribe, "the Loyal Nga Puhi," of which family, too, the notable chiefs, Hongi and Titore, and others, were members. Maumau was married by the Rev. Petit-Jean to Matthew Farley, shipwright, a descendant of the persecuted Huguenots, whose family escaped and settled in Kent, England. There was a family of four, all being daughters. These Farley named after his four sisters, and of these by her marriage with John S. Stowell, Huhana (Susanah) became the mother of Hare Hongi.

LAUNCHED into that purely Maori world, the boy learned his AB's at Singer's School, in Parnell, Auckland. From there he was placed, by Sir George Grey himself, in the Three Kings College, with the advice to learn as much of the English language and history as he could, and impart it to his Maori people. Governor Grey also advised him—quite unnecessarily though—to hold fast to his Maori language.

A well-known figure in the athletic field, he was a first-class rower, wrestler and runner. In 1876 he carried off the Northern Wairoa

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