

## Auckland Notes

(By "Listener.")

**BOTH** for listeners and for the trade the present month is the slackest of the year. Hot February nights in Auckland are not conducive to listening-in, especially if the listener has to depend upon ear-phones. Consequently there is less interest in programmes, and less business in radio shops just now than at any other period. But this period of lassitude is only temporary. Nights are lengthening and improving, and furthermore, there is the approach of the new radio year—an inevitable period of activity and renewed enthusiasm. Within a few weeks we shall be well out of our "February radio dumps."

**FOR** over a fortnight we have missed that meticulously clear voice of 1YA's regular announcer—the voice that carries so well, far up into the tropics. Mr. Culford Bell is back at the microphone once more, after an enjoyable holiday at the Great Barrier. Even there, however, he could not altogether escape the all-pervading atmosphere of broadcasting, and listeners who made holiday with him in Port Fitzroy know that he has some good fishing experiences concerning which it might be well worth while to tell the microphone.

**MR. JOHN BALL**, of the headquarters staff of the Radio Broadcasting Company, is also in Auckland once again—and the impression is abroad that there is "something doing" in the matter of further advances at 1YA. On his previous visit Mr. Ball explored thoroughly many avenues for programme extension, and there is the feeling among listeners that he is now finalising certain developments which will increase the popularity of 1YA.

**BROADCASTING** station thrives only on enthusiasm in all departments. It is only by the enthusiasm of the many devotees at the transmitting end of radio that it has made itself the present wonder of the world. Of one thing listeners may rest assured. There is no more enthusiastic body devoting time and thought to programme advancement than the Advisory Musical and Dramatic Committee of 1YA. It tackles its job thoroughly, views all suggestions from a very practical standpoint, and sends forward to

## Art to do Honour to Commerce

### Grand Promenade Wireless Concert at Opening of New D.I.C.

**THE** evening of Thursday, February 28, will be an event of more than passing interest to listeners in all parts of New Zealand and the islands beyond. On that occasion Art will do honour to Commerce by celebrating with music and song through the medium of a specially organised grand promenade concert the formal opening of the D.I.C.'s new and mammoth store on Lambton Quay, Wellington. By courtesy of the Radio Broadcasting Company, this very fine concert will be broadcast on relay by Station 2YA, whose officers are gladly co-operating with the management of the D.I.C. in an endeavour to make the occasion one of outstanding and nation-wide interest. Not only will the concert be broadcast to listeners far beyond the boundaries of the Capital City, but by means of an elaborate system of loud-speakers linked up throughout the

headquarters in Christchurch some very valuable recommendations. The committee is at this juncture most earnest in its endeavour to present a Maori night that will outdo even 2YA's fine effort of last year. And it is almost certain to succeed in its objective. There is more scope for recruiting of excellent Maori talent in this province than there is anywhere else, and if the committee is given the chance there will be no doubt about the securing of such talent. In many other ways, too, the Advisory Committee is working silently but effectively in listeners' interests.

**THE** writer must confess that the holiday spirit has also been upon him during the past two weeks, and that his set has had what might be termed a well-earned rest likewise. Though one does not listen in himself for a space, however, he cannot get away from the opinions of others, and it is remarkable how enthusiastic in tone the generality of opinions becomes. From the average set at this time of year only local transmissions are thoroughly enjoyable, for they alone are free from prevalent static and other handicaps. When a person listens to only one station for a period of weeks he is sure to have some kind of grudge about monotony. Yet the writer has heard very few grouches and much commendation. The appearance of new vocalists and quartet parties, the return of old favourites long absent from the microphone, the fine programmes of the Artillery Band—all these are lifting up our standard. There is naturally the demand, "Give us more laughs," to which comes the reply, inevitably, "Where can we find the people who night in and night out will make you laugh?" Real radio humour is a hard thing to procure, but though our quantity of it is small, the quality is good, and none can cavil at the smile-raising contributions of such artists as Messrs. Alan McElwain and Dan Flood, to mention only two of many who do so much to raise the unseen smile and extract the unheard chuckle.

building, the many thousands of people who will throng the great store will be enabled to listen in on every floor.

A few notes about the artists who will be "on the air" on this memorable occasion will be of interest. Madame Amy Woodward is well known throughout the Dominion for during the past few years her fine voice has been displayed in the soprano solos at one or other of the Choral Society concerts of most of the cities and towns of New Zealand. She is probably as well known for her singing of ballads, and on February 28 listeners-in will, through the medium of the wireless, have the opportunity of renewing acquaintance with the voice they have previously heard on the platform.

The rich mellow quality of Mrs. Wilfred Andrews's voice has lingered in the memory of many concert audiences, not only in Wellington, but in many parts of the Dominion, for there are few musical organisations in New Zealand which have not, at one time or another, availed themselves of her vocal assistance as a contralto. She is sure to make many new friends in wireless circles when her voice is transmitted through the air on this occasion.

Mr. G. Austin Blackie and Mr. Roy Hill require no introduction to wireless audiences as their tenor voices have been heard on several occasions from 2YA.

Mr. Dan Foley is one of the most promising of the younger generation of singers in Wellington. Gifted with a fine high baritone voice, he infuses great fervour into the interpretation of his songs, which not only proclaims his

Irish descent and its concomitant temperament, but also rouses his audiences to enthusiasm.

The bass voice of Mr. Harison Cook is now well known throughout the Dominion, for, besides singing for the principal New Zealand choral societies, he was principal bass at the Festival Hall concerts at the Dunedin Exhibition, and was broadcast in the bass roles of "Faust," "Tannhauser" (twice), "Il Trovatore" (thrice), and "Messiah," as well as in a recital of ballads given from the temporary studio in the Exhibition. Before coming to the Dominion he sang in the Denhof Operatic Festivals of 1910-11, 13, and was one of the principal basses at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, London, in the spring season, 1914, and also in the grand season of the same year. After two years as principal bass in the Moody Manners Opera Company, he was for seven years principal bass and stage director of the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company. He has also sung in oratorio and ballad concerts in all the principal towns of Great Britain and Ireland.

M. Leon de Mauny, a pupil of Albert Sammons at the Liege Conservatorium, and one time leading violinist in the principal London orchestras, came to New Zealand about six years ago and has long since won his place in the front rank of the Dominion's instrumentalists. Those who heard the concert given at the opening of 2YA will remember his delightful playing as the solo violinist on that occasion. He has devoted a considerable time to conducting, and for two years was conductor of the Wellington Professional Orchestra, and recently founded the Wellington Symphony Orchestra.

Mr. Claude Tauner was sub-professor in the Royal Academy of Music, London, and was for five years with Sir Henry J. Wood's famous orchestra in London. Besides appearing as a solo cellist in Great Britain, he has displayed his virtuosity in France, Spain, Portugal, Brazil, and in both North and South America.

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### MR. G. R. MCCARTHY

"Mack", late of Mack's Radio Co., Ltd.

76-77 Kent Terrace,  
Wellington

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