

From 2YA

Farewell to New Zealand

THE Hon. T. M. Wilford, High Commissioner for New Zealand, prior to sailing for London on Saturday last, bade farewell to the Dominion from 2YA. His remarks were relayed by 3YA.

Mr. Wilford said he wished to thank the Broadcasting Company for giving him the unique opportunity of saying goodbye to his many friends in New Zealand. He felt it was fitting after his thirty years' connection with Parliamentary life in this country that he should make a few remarks before he left.

"I am delighted to be going, naturally, because I am achieving the ambition of my life," he said, "and no man can ask more than that. On the other hand, I am full of regrets at leaving what I feel to be the most beautiful country in the world." His work in the Hutt constituency had been arduous at times, but it had been a labour of love. In the last year he had been absent from Wellington only 18 days, so that he would welcome the voyage to England.

"In relinquishing my portfolio of Defence I am satisfied that the heads of this department are men of whom this country should be proud," continued Mr. Wilford. "Capable, loyal and experienced, I have received wonderful assistance from them, while the wise counsel I have received from my secretary (Mr. Dixon) has made my task a light one."

In going on to deal with aviation, Mr. Wilford drew attention to the growth in number of leading newspaper articles that were now written on the subject as compared with a few years ago, and said the personal interest he had taken in that important development had in many cases communicated itself to others. "I believe the future will show that the skyways will largely be the highways of this country," he stated.

"I hope any companies that are formed to develop commercial aviation will have as their watchword 'Safety and Service'," he went on. "We have as the material for the making of airmen there are anywhere. The young New Zealander has resource, independence and quick initiative, and these three attributes make for successful pilots."

"Let each one hitch his wagon to a star," said Mr. Wilford, in giving a message to young New Zealand. "By that I mean: have some objective in life. Strive for some achievement, remembering there is always room at the top. Take trouble with little things."

Mr. Wilford returned thanks for all the good wishes that had been given him. He would endeavour to deserve the appreciations and hoped that when he returned to New Zealand there would be "something accomplished, something done."

Mrs. Wilford also spoke briefly. She farewelled her friends and said she would look forward to the time when she would return to the Dominion.

WANTED AND FOR SALE.

For column of casual advertisements see page 32.

Handel's "Messiah" for the Xmas Season

Broadcast Arranged by 1YA, 2YA and 3YA

THE first broadcasts ushering in the Christmas season of 1929 will take place next week, when there will be presentations, in studio and by relay, of Handel's "Messiah." In all, there will be three broadcasts of this noble work.

On Sunday evening, December 15, 2YA is relaying from Lower Hutt the Methodist Church choir's rendition of "Messiah." On Tuesday evening it will be performed by the 1YA Broadcasting Choir under Mr. Len Barnes. On Wednesday evening the Christchurch Royal Musical Society is giving a public performance in the Civic Theatre, and a relay by 3YA will be carried out. In every instance first-class soloists have been engaged, and listeners who appreciate oratorio may look forward to very enjoyable performances.

A VERY interesting story is associated with Handel and "Messiah." "I did think I did see all Heaven before me, and the great God himself!" cried Handel when he had written the last notes of the "Hallelujah" chorus, thus completing the second part of "Messiah." Nearly two centuries after its composition it is generally regarded as Handel's supreme achievement, and one of the greatest musical works in existence.

When Handel set himself in the autumn of 1741, at the age of fifty-six, to compose "Messiah," he was under a cloud of misfortune and bitter disappointment which must have overwhelmed any but the stoutest spirit. His last two operas had failed, largely, so we are told, through the plots of his opponents. In those days music was taken seriously, almost as seriously as football is now, and feeling between rival factions ran high. It is believed that Handel's opponents even engaged hired ruffians to prevent people reaching the theatre where his operas were being given. He was in anything but good health; his eyesight was beginning to fail him, and he was almost penniless. He shut himself in his house (he was living at Brook Street), and, seeing no one, hardly stopped even to touch the food which his faithful man brought to his room, he set himself to the composition of "Messiah" with such wholehearted zeal that the work was completed in little more than three weeks. But he had no prospect of an immediate performance of it, and it was simply laid aside for the time being. In November of the same year, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, the Duke of Devonshire, and the presidents of three big charitable societies, invited him to Dublin to organise concerts of his own music on behalf of the charities they had at heart. One was the provision of food for prisoners. It was at one of these concerts that "Messiah" had its first performance, in April, 1742. The singers also went over from this country. Mrs. Cibber, the actress, being the contralto. The oratorio had a magnificent success, and it was repeated in the following June. So great was the crowd at the first performance that ladies of the audience were asked to come without hoops, and men without swords. When the work was first given in English, in the early part of 1743, at Covent Garden Theatre, it was practically a failure, although "Samson," given at eight performances just before then, had been a triumphant success. Only when it was performed by the Foundling Hospital, in 1750, did it win its way to the hearts of Londoners, and since then it is safe to say it has been the most popular of all oratorios.

For a long time it was believed that the text for the oratorio had been arranged from Scripture for Handel by Charles Jennens, who was responsible for the libretti of a number of the other works, both sacred and secular. From recent researches by Mr. Newman Flower, however, it appears that the work was actually done by an assistant of Jennens, of the name of Poole. It is certainly done with taste and discrimination, and is no doubt partly responsible for the fact that "Messiah" is more shapely and consistent in design than any of Handel's other big sacred works. The different parts of it lead one to another, with something of that inevitable significance which belongs to good drama, and the chorus takes its place in building up the effect in a logical way that does a good deal to enhance the power and meaning of the story.

The Holiday Season

Talks on Motoring

VERY interesting talks of great value to motorists who will be frequenting the roads during the holiday season are now being given by Mr.

R. E. Champtaloup, touring manager of the Auckland Automobile Association. Mr. Champtaloup speaks from 1YA and the text of his lectures is also read from 2YA. He has already broadcast talks on new motor routes in out-of-the-way places in the North Island and on Thursday, December 19, he will describe "Road Conditions for Christmas Touring." The information broadcast will be right up to the minute.

Talks to Farmers

4YA's Splendid Service

THE newly-appointed 4YA Primary Productions Committee has prepared a comprehensive schedule of talks over a period of four months. Some of these lectures have already been given. The complete list of talks is as follows:—

1929.

November 27: "The Development of Agriculture in the South."—Mr. R. B. Tennent, Field Superintendent, Department of Agriculture.

December 4: "Review of Principal Articles in 'Journal of Agriculture'."—Mr. L. W. McCaskill, Dunedin Training College.

December 11: "Hogget Mortality."—Mr. D. Marshall, Waihiwa.

December 18: "The Farm Garden."—Mr. F. Hollingsworth, c/o Secretary, Hospital and Charitable Aid Board, Dunedin.

1930.

January 8: "Review of Principal Articles in 'Journal of Agriculture'."—Mr. L. W. McCaskill, Dunedin Training College.

January 15: "Frost Control in Orchards."—Mr. W. K. Dallas, Fruit Instructor, Department of Agriculture.

January 22: "The Management of the Corriedale."—Mr. J. A. Johnstone, c/o Wright Stephenson and Co., Ltd., Dunedin.

January 29: "Distemper in Dogs."—Mr. C. V. Dayus, District Superintendent, Department of Agriculture, Dunedin.

February 5: "Review of Principal Articles in 'Journal of Agriculture'."—Mr. L. W. McCaskill, Dunedin Training College.

February 12: "The Principles of Rotational Grazing."—Mr. R. B. Tennent, Field Superintendent, Department of Agriculture.

February 19: "Farmers' Organisations and Their Work."—Mr. S. P. Cameron, Secretary, Otago Provincial Branch New Zealand Farmers' Union.

February 26: "Management of Sheep on Hill Country."—Mr. Jas. Begg, Chairman Board of Agriculture.

March 5: "Review of Principal Articles in 'Journal of Agriculture'."—Mr. L. W. McCaskill, Dunedin Training College.

March 12: "Trees for Shelter."—Mr. D. Tannock, Reserves Superintendent, Dunedin.

March 19: "The Marketing Conditions of the Farm."—Dr. A. G. B. Fisher, Professor in Economics, Otago University.

March 26: "Hydatid Disease."—Dr. C. E. Hercus, Otago Medical School.

April 2: "Review of Principal Articles in 'Journal of Agriculture'."—Mr. L. W. McCaskill, Dunedin Training College.

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