

A Night with Otago Pioneers

Something Unique at 4YA

ON the night of December 21 4YA, Dunedin, will recapture the atmosphere of the earliest days of pioneer settlement in New Zealand and broadcast it for the entertainment of listeners. The romance of the emigrant sailing ships, the arrival and welcome by the Maoris, the primitive, and astonishingly successful amenities with which the pioneers laid the foundation of social life and culture in New Zealand will all be, as far as is humanly possible, incorporated in this unique programme.

The first section of the programme will deal with the voyage out in the emigrant ships. A number of old diaries in the custody of the Otago Early Settlers' Association have been placed at 4YA's disposal in order to obtain the proper atmosphere. These contain some really good stories, to be used for the first time since they were written long ago by the first emigrant settlers. Mr. Bert Rawlinson, chanty leader of the Otago Master Mariners' Association, with a group of master mariners, at least half a dozen of whom will be retired captains of the sailing ship days, will sing sea chanties as they were really sung in the days of sail ships—capstan chanties, when the fiddler sat on the capstan whilst the men sang as they tramped the circle and weighed the anchor; and hoisting chanties, when the men sang as they pulled up the ropes and pulled to the time of the chanty, will be a feature of this section of the programme.

The second section of the programme will be the arrival of the emigrant ships. There will be a distinctly Maori atmosphere, with haka, plaintive Maori melodies, poi dances, Old Scottish songs as sung by the pioneers will be a feature of this section. Mr. Steele, a member of the Board on Maori Antiquities, will tell a Maori legend of the coming of the pakeha.

The third and last section of the programme will deal with the settlement of Otago. The southern station has been exceedingly fortunate in obtaining the co-operation and assistance of Mr. William Paterson, secretary of the Otago Early Settlers' Association, and a relay line will operate from the very fine museum in Mr. Paterson's charge at Dunedin. Selections will be played on the first piano made in New Zealand; on the first organ imported into Otago—a barrel organ actually used in the first Episcopalian Church, and still wonderfully sweet in tone in spite of its great age; one the first locally-made pipe organ; and on an old oboe used and admired by "Rabbie Burns," Scotland's national bard.

The skirl of the pipes will be heard in this section of the programme, the

pipes in this case being none other than those actually used in the Relief of Lucknow, probably the most famous set of pipes in the world. In spite of their age they are very well preserved, and will give a good account of themselves. It is interesting to recall that the public telephone was used in those early days between Invercargill and the Bluff, a primitive instrument that called with a blare of sound, and in which transmitter and receiver were combined. The sound of this early instrument will be heard from 4YA in this part of the programme.

Not the least delightful and interesting part of this section should be the "Round the Mike" chat between Big



MISS MERLE MILLER

A mezzo-soprano of rare dramatic ability, Miss Miller is also a brilliant pianiste. She is the official accompaniste at 3YA. While at the Sydney Conservatorium, where for three years she studied piano playing and singing, she appeared frequently on the concert platform. The most noteworthy of her public performances was in the Sydney Philharmonic Society's presentation of "Faust." For this, she and Joseph Hislop had been specially engaged. Miss Miller took the part of Siebel. Besides gaining her L.A.B., Miss Miller has the honour of having been awarded the Conservatorium's diploma for singing.

—Stefano Webb, photo.

Brother Bill and some of the remaining pioneers. An effort will be made to have among these Mr. John Bain, almost the last survivor of those who came in the first group of emigrant ships. Mr. Bain is naturally of great age, but his memory of those earliest days is still unimpaired, and his stories well worth hearing. Another of the Pilgrim Fathers is Mr. McKay, chairman of the Taieri Road Board, who will also be heard during the programme.

The entertainment will commence with the striking of the hour on the

Morrinsville Concert

To be Broadcast on December 16

1YA will not observe a silent day on Monday, December 16; but will go on the air at 8 p.m. to broadcast a concert relayed from Morrinsville. This concert is in aid of the school prize fund and has been organised by Mr. E. McGregor. A very enjoyable programme has been arranged, all popular numbers, both vocal and instrumental.

Called to Antarctic

Radio Operator Wanted

A LUCKY call has come to one New Zealand radio enthusiast. At short notice, Mr. Orbell, formerly engineer-in-charge of Station 1YA, and now construction engineer of Radio Limited, Auckland, has received an urgent invitation to proceed to the Antarctic to render services to the radio department of Commander Byrd's expedition. Mr. Orbell was one of the pioneers in amateur two-wave communication between New Zealand and England, and was earlier associated with the Radio Broadcasting Company on the technical side. Last summer Mr. Orbell became friendly with the radio technicians of the Byrd Expedition during a holiday he spent in Dunedin, and attributes his present invitation to that factor.

Radio Ads. Condemned

Less advertising over the air is a strong plea being made in America.

This was revealed on questionnaires answered by 4000 San Francisco Bay region and California residents. The survey was conducted by the radio section of the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco. Only 47 per cent. of the answers stated that they were led to buy through radio advertising. More than 53 per cent. admitted that they were "constantly annoyed" by radio advertising, and another 7 per cent. by some kinds of this form of advertising. Cigarette advertising was criticised in hundreds of replies.

ship's bell of the old "Magnet," the first sailing ship to bring emigrants to Otago, in this case the famous Johnny Jones and his Waikouaiti settlers of 1840, and will end with the pipes skirling again "The Campbells are Coming" and "Auld Lang Syne," the same pipes and the same tunes that brought hope to the besieged in the City of Lucknow in Indian Mutiny Days.

In between the beginning and the ending of the programme, listeners will feel again the motions of hope and victory, of courage and endeavour, that belonged to the long ago days when the pioneers emigrated from their native land to carve out another national home, and make cities for themselves and their descendants in the wilderness.

Musical Committee

Meeting at 3YA

A MEETING of 3YA Musical and Dramatic Committee was held at 3YA studio on Wednesday evening last, there being present:—Mr. R. J. Loughnan (in the chair), Mr. E. C. Clements (Operatic Society), Mr. T. W. Dent (Orchestral Society), Mr. Geo. Manning (W.E.A.), Mr. Sydney Williamson (Society of Professional Musicians). Apologies were received from Mr. W. H. Dixon (Royal Musical Society), Mr. A. Brewins (Christchurch Competitions Society) and Mr. M. Richards (Harmonic Society).

A sub-committee which was set up to prepare a "New Zealand" programme, submitted a report containing the following recommendations as to the definition of a New Zealand composer:—(a) Born in New Zealand, and living there continuously for not less than ten years, or (b) not born in New Zealand, but has resided there continuously for ten years, or twelve years, at periods.

These definitions would therefore include: Alfred Hill, Frank Hutchens, Dr. Thomas, Claude Haydon; Arnold Trowell, R. A. Horne, Arthur Lilley, Dorothy Filkins, Mae Burnes Loughnan, Dr. Bradshaw, Victor Booth, Frederick Moore, Arch. Don, Maughan, Barnett, Hugo Anson, Gordon McBeth, Eric Moss, Arthur Alexander, J. T. Sinclair, late R. L. Hutchens, Sydney Francis Hoben, etc.

The sub-committee also submitted the following definition of New Zealand music:—(a) Compositions by any composer in above categories, in any form, or on any subject, or (b) works by any composer—irrespective of composer's birthplace or residential qualification, provided that the sub-committee appointed to adjudicate thereon is satisfied that the composition has a definite relation to the life, customs, scenery, history or legends of New Zealand, native, or otherwise.

With regard to the general manager's scheme for co-operation with amateur musical and dramatic organisations, it was reported that arrangements had been made to broadcast the Royal Musical Society's rendition of Handel's "Messiah" on December 13, and the programme of the Orchestral Society's final concert of the season on December 19.

Mr. Clements reported that the Amateur Operatic Society would be glad to co-operate by presenting either excerpts from operas or full performances.

It was decided that on account of the holidays no meetings should be held in January; the next meeting of the committee would therefore be held on Wednesday, February 5.

THE new B.B.C. frequency monitoring receiving station which is situated in Surrey, was recently completed, and is now busy checking the wavelengths of British and foreign stations. There are ten receivers, five being for short waves, and by this means watch is constantly kept on station frequencies. Should any deviate from their official wavelength, the offending station is at once warned by telephone and thus adjustments can be made.

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