

Henry Hall Would Like to Hear from You!

Mr. Henry Hall, whose message to New Zealand listeners is published below, is the leader of the B.B.C. Dance Band, one of the most popular musical combinations in the world. A caricature of Mr. Hall appears on the right.

Te Hongi! Greetings.

Such is the universal character of broadcasting that the B.B.C. Dance Orchestra, which I direct, is fully conscious of the fact that its daily transmissions from Studio BB, in Broadcasting House, London, are now reaching the uttermost ends of the earth. It is giving me pleasure to frame my dance programmes so as to make the greatest appeal to audiences in New Zealand and Australia, India, South Africa, Canada, and all the colonies and dependencies which go to make up this great Empire. In the preparation of B.B.C. dance programmes I give pride of place whenever possible to British tunes, believing that these are most acceptable to listeners overseas no less than to listeners here in Great Britain. I am always glad to have suggestions and would heartily welcome a line from listeners under the Southern Cross to whom Empire broadcasting has become a new and novel entertainment.



B.B.C. Ran A Special Train To Opening of Droitwich

Mr. L. R. C. Macfarlane, Member of Broadcasting Board, Returns from Great Britain

"The British Broadcasting Corporation ran a special train to Droitwich from London for the opening of its new high-power transmitter, and more than 400 pressmen made the journey," said Mr. L. R. C. Macfarlane, the South Island member of the New Zealand Broadcasting Board, to a "Radio Record" representative this week. Mr. Macfarlane returned by the Rangitiki from London last week and had several interesting observations to make on the progress of wireless in England.

"I WAS one of the people who went down to the opening ceremony—Droitwich is in Worcestershire, about 100 miles from London—and we were shown over the station in groups of 12, everything being explained in a very thorough way. The new station is of 150 kilowatts power and is giving a very satisfactory coverage to the British Isles. The transmitting station is a tremendous building and also houses the generators, as the B.B.C. is generating its own power for the station. Broadcasting House, in London, is still used as the studio, the items being conveyed by land line to Droitwich for dissemination to listeners.

"The B.B.C. has a splendid reputation and it is drawing on some of the finest talent in the world for its programmes. Actually, however, New Zealand is giving a longer service—in fact, the national stations in this country are on the air for almost double the number of hours that the English are. The average English listener has a choice of two programmes, whereas some New Zealand listeners have a choice of three or four. The pro-

gramme arrangement in England, however, is wonderful and is admired by broadcasting authorities in every part of the world.

"I found some interest in New Zealand's service at Home, mainly because we are practically the only country that is pursuing the same policy as Britain's. The B.B.C. is giving a lot of attention to its overseas service and its programmes are looked for, not only in the Empire, but in such places as South America and the East, where there are thousands of English residents. Broadcasting House is a most interesting place, and I was able to give it a very close inspection. Colonial visitors with an interest in wireless are very courteously treated there. I was most impressed by the men who have charge of England's broadcasting interests—men of tolerant outlook and actuated by broad and sympathetic motives.

"There is no doubt, too, of the new interest in good music that radio has awakened in the young people. I went one night to a 'prom' concert in the Queen's Hall. The seats had been

taken out of the stalls so that greater numbers could be accommodated and the place was packed—and mostly with men and women under 30. Near me were a couple in 'hiking' shorts and dusty shoes. They had walked in from the country to hear Sir Henry Wood and the B.B.C. orchestra—and the concert was certainly worth it. During the season of the promenade concerts hundreds were turned away every evening.

"Television? Well at the moment the British broadcasting people are working on a new process, but they are very, very guarded in their statements and it is difficult for the average person to discover just how near—or how far away—television really is. Actually the B.B.C. is giving two television programmes a day, and I saw one of them—two girls singing and playing a piano. But the range is limited to 20 miles and the difficulty is that two sets are needed—one for receiving the sound and the other for the picture.

"I went to Radiolympia in London, but there was nothing revolutionary there in the way of wireless equipment. There were lots of refinements for sets—gadgets for this and that—but nothing that was likely to mark a great change in receiving or transmitting. The Post Office had a display dealing with anti-interference devices, showing the ordinary householders how to deal with electrical equipment in their homes that was likely to cause interference. I also saw a portable wireless set that weighed exactly seven ounces!"

BY April this year 1316 Italian schools, attended by 320,122 children, had been equipped to receive broadcast school programmes.

GERMAN stations are to broadcast a series of talks on the spiritual foundations of National Socialism, in which Schiller, Wagner, and Houston Chamberlain are to be displayed as the first Nazis; very much in the style of the American divine, who proclaimed that "God was the first Rotarian."