

Hot Shots

Editorial Notes

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A MEMBER of the peerage is travelling incog. in New Zealand just now.

IT is understood that a well-known Christchurch night club is closing down after Carnival Week.

THERE'S the true story of the Wellington girl who thought all the Mae West stories were true.

THE thousand tickets for the Royal ball in Wellington on Monday, December 17, are practically all sold.

IT is rumoured that £450 is the England-to-Australia return fare in the Dutch air liner, which came second in the big air race last week.

ON the second day of the air race broadcasts, the 2YA announcer dropped saying AL-LAH-abad and returned to the more usual pronunciation of Alla-habad.

WORK is under way on Christchurch's three new talkie theatres. Beath's new building, too, is nearing completion and will be ready before Christmas.

OF eight men found in the licensee's bedroom when Auckland police raided a hotel recently, three claimed that they were personal friends of the publican's wife.

MANY people are wondering why a Christchurch constable with an Irish name was not called to give evidence at the inquest on Donald Fraser, the Riccarton hotel-keeper, who was murdered in his bed some months ago.

OVER Labour Day week-end, 400 members of the Dunedin Social Sunshine Club made a hasty trip to Queens-town. They left the city by train on the Saturday night and returned by the same means, arriving back at 3 a.m. on Tuesday.

THE daughter-in-law of a well-known late member of the Legislative Council was asked if she would "put the case" to Parliament for the wives and children of the New Brighton (Christchurch) relief workers who have been ordered to camp.

"THE OLD BUS," Sir Charles Kingsford Smith's film, was withdrawn from the Majestic Theatre, Auckland, last week after running for two nights. It was a flop in Wellington and Dunedin also, and only lasted two days at these places.

Wellington, Friday, November 2, 1934.

MESSAGE TO LISTENERS

The following message was specially written for the British Broadcasting number of the "Radio Record" by the general manager of the New Zealand Broadcasting Board (Mr. E. C. Hands):—

IT is with pleasure that I briefly review radio progress since the New Zealand Broadcasting Board assumed control on January 1, 1932. The Board has not indulged in fireworks; every step taken has been carefully considered, the object being to build on a solid foundation. Particular attention was paid from the beginning to the quality of transmission and the apparatus has been brought up to, and maintained at, the highest possible state of efficiency. In pursuance of the recommendations of the experts appointed to consider how adequate coverage could best be given, the Board erected and opened last year the first of the modern transmitters—3YA, Christchurch. The new Auckland one is nearing completion and tenders have been called for one to serve the Dunedin area. The two latter will have 10 kilowatts aerial energy and 3YA, Christchurch, is to be brought up to the same output.

On the programme side, great advances have been made; regular grand opera broadcasts, Gilbert and Sullivan music every week, and the best gramophone recordings that money can buy, recorded programmes from the B.B.C., and special ones from other countries. It is only by scanning a programme broadcast at the beginning of the Board's career that one appreciates properly the improvements effected. No opportunity has been lost in securing the best of the visitor-artists, and listeners have heard many famous ones. In addition, the Board is securing, on contract, many splendid performers from overseas, all with the idea of giving listeners the best entertainment possible.

School broadcasts have been developed, and in this connection, it is worth while mentioning that, although 10,000 booklets, explanatory of the present series of educational broadcasts from 2YA, were printed, the supply is already exhausted. Special lectures to assist candidates for the Matriculation examination were recently broadcast and were the subject of congratulatory messages from all parts of the Dominion.

In conclusion, I would mention the tremendous increase in the hours of transmission. Each main station is giving service for 12½ hours, and the subsidiary stations for four hours per day. The increase since the Board assumed control approaches 120 per cent.

AIR RACE BROADCASTS

A MILLION people in this country listened in last week to the air race bulletins broadcast from station 2YA, Wellington. This constitutes the biggest "audience" that the broadcasting service in the Dominion has ever known, and we understand that the New Zealand Broadcasting Board has since been receiving the plaudits of a well-satisfied community.

The air race broadcasts demonstrated another thing—just how easily radio can steal the thunder of the newspapers in an event of that kind. Every newspaper edition that appeared was a few or two behind the latest wireless bulletin, and New Zealanders were able to judge for themselves the advantage that the spoken word had, on this occasion, over the written word.

The arranging of this special broadcasting service was no simple matter, and the greatest credit is due to the Broadcasting Board for the manner in which it handled the whole affair. Listeners to Australian stations found that they were being equally well served in their own country and, in one or two cases, the bulletins were even ahead of the Australian announcements.

LAST week in the Auckland Police Court a defendant addressed the magistrate as "Your Majesty."

THE personnel at Wigram Aerodrome, Christchurch, is being considerably increased.

IF a Dunedin B station announcer can be believed, a new orchestra has made its appearance—the Royal Opera Orchestra, Covenant Garden.

NEW ZEALAND'S first slum story, the anonymously-written "Children of the Poor," is said to be the work of a well-known M.P.

CADETS from King's College supplied a fine guard of honour for General Sir Alexander Godley when he arrived at Auckland last week.

"COELUM Patet Ibinus Illac," which means "The sky is open: we will go that way," is the motto on the badge adopted by the Canterbury Aero Club.

ELEINE HAMILL, daughter of a Taihape newspaper owner, has been given the leading part in an Australian film. Miss Hamill's photo appeared in the "Radio Record" some months ago.

TWO hours after the opening of the box plan every one of the 1450 seats available for this week's evening community sing at the Civic Theatre, Christchurch, was sold.

THE purveyors of electric power don't quite know what to do with the persons who protest they can't pay their bills and yet have their wireless sets switched on from seven in the morning till 11 at night.

THE slight 'quake one evening last week considerably alarmed a Wellington typist who was working late. She was engaged with a dictaphone worth nearly £300, and it was badly damaged when she knocked it over in her hurry to get out.

THE following appeared in the advertising columns of Auckland's two daily papers last week:

Centenary Air Racers.—So, although you started on Saturday and broke up the Jewish Sabbath, and continued on Sunday, breaking up the Christian Sabbath, most of you got through. Well, God didn't answer my prayer, that's all—as yet.—W. J. Bycroft, Sabbath Day Observer, Runciman.