

Hot Shots

Editorial Notes

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SENIA CHOSTIAKOFF is at present appearing at the Regent Theatre, Christchurch.

A NEW Australian vaudeville company opened at His Majesty's Theatre, Auckland, last week.

THE man who discovered Gladys Monerleff now lives in Wellington. She was originally engaged at £8 a week.

"WHITE HORSE INN," the spectacular musical show now in Melbourne, may be the Christmas attraction at Auckland or Wellington.

SUNDAY'S two-minute silence went by almost unnoticed in the bigger cities. Usually factory whistles are blown, but no such indication was given this year.

DR. W. G. FERN was asked at a meeting in Dunedin if a lawyer could be a Christian. His instant reply caused laughter: "He could be a Christian."

A RECENT singer from 2YA stepped before the microphone when he was suffering severely with flu. The station is still answering queries from listeners who want to know what was the matter.

EVERY seat in the excursion train from Auckland to Rotorua on November 17 was sold out shortly after bookings opened. Another excursion is to be run on the following week-end.

A FINE ballad programme, introducing songs by New Zealand composers which won the prizes at the recent Wellington competitions, was given from 1YA last Friday night.

TAILORS all over New Zealand are already looking on the Duke of Gloucester as a friend. Orders for formal clothes are making them busier than they have been for years.

THE film version of "Chu Chin Chow" is bringing back war-time memories of the original stage production. Alice Regan, manager of the Wellington Regent, has seen the play 30 times in various parts of the world.

WRITING from London to a friend in Dunedin. Mr. L. D. Austin says he is trying hard to persuade Sir Henry Wood to tour Australia and New Zealand. "Nothing has been definitely settled yet," he states, "but I have great hopes."

Wellington, Friday, November 16, 1934.

INTERFERENCE BUGBEAR

THE announcement of the personnel of the Radio Interference Advisory Committee looks as if something definite is under way for the checking of interference. Regulations were adopted early last month dealing with this greatest of all radio nuisances, and listeners will be happy to know that the work of elimination is being pressed forward with all speed. But interference has been tolerated for too long in this country. Listening in for people in some parts of New Zealand has become more of a penance than a pleasure, and the inability to appeal to anything but the offender's sense of fair play has meant that the position has been growing steadily worse. But now, with the law on the side of the listener, steps may be taken against the causes of interference, and "radio without tears" should be possible.

The committee has not been set up a day too soon. With increasing supplies of cheap hydro-electric power available, New Zealand is turning eagerly to electricity—and the causes of interference are being multiplied in proportion. However, the regulations now demand that one's neighbour be considered, and the day is rapidly approaching when interference will be a thing of the past.

REQUIRED: RADIO TICKET

WHEN the steamer Ripple was lost in the vicinity of Cook Strait some eight years ago the question was raised of providing small coastal vessels with wireless equipment for use in case of emergency. The matter was taken up by the Merchant Service Guild, and the outcome was that the Government demanded that a wireless set be part of the equipment of all ships trading on the New Zealand coast. It was not required at the time for any officer to be proficient in transmitting—the sets were to be used only in case of emergency. But the shipowners, having installed expensive wireless equipment, decided that it might as well be put to use in normal times, and they began to use their sets for ordinary ship-to-shore communication. The sets were usually operated by deck officers who were required to pass certain tests in transmitting and receiving at reasonable speeds, but the men were never at the transmitting keys long enough to maintain their speed, and the result was that a certain amount of time was wasted at post and telegraph offices by the necessity for "repeat" messages from coastal vessels. And so, at the instigation of the Post and Telegraph Department, all men wishing to qualify as navigating officers on New Zealand coastal vessels must obtain a third-class radio operator's ticket. And all those officers who are now working the wireless equipment on coastal vessels will be obliged to qualify also.

The new regulations have caused something of a stir in shipping circles, and the following three suggestions have been made:—(1) That use be made of wireless telephones; (2) that a set short wave be used; or (3) that the sets be used, as was first intended, for emergencies only. There are several difficulties in the way of the adoption of the first idea. Most of the smaller vessels have only low power, and the use of wireless telephones would necessitate the establishment of a chain of stations every hundred miles or so along the coast. The second suggestion—the use of a set short wave—seems feasible enough, and why it has not been tried out by the Post and Telegraph Department is something of a mystery. Apparently there is some technical difficulty in the way. The adoption of the third suggestion would be a retrograde step, for ship-to-shore communication has become of major importance in the shipping world, even for small vessels.

The problem bristles with difficulties, but it looks as if, in the meantime, the officers will have to tolerate the bugbear of having to undergo several months' training in the intricacies of wireless technique.

THE first mad rush of Mac West stories is past. Only an occasional story now filters through the populace.

GLORIOUS weather prevailed for Carnival Week in Christchurch, and 3YA's running commentaries on the races were splendid.

A REPRESENTATIVE list of the work of New Zealand artists is included in the Otago Art Society's 58th annual exhibition, now being displayed.

A SMARTLY-DRESSED girl left the heel of her shoe in a Willis Street (Wellington) tram-line the other day. An on-coming tram ground it to powder.

A SEAMAN on an overseas vessel in Wellington last week surprised the crew by "bagging" half a dozen of the city's many stray cats and taking them on board to keep as pets.

BOOKINGS have been pouring in for the past six weeks for the Christmas sailings of the Wellington-Lyttelton steamer express. The boats are almost booked out for several days.

WELLINGTON is determined to play good hosts to the men of the Italian cruiser due this week. Dances, receptions, a State luncheon and a ball are on the programme.

"CAVALCADE" has apparently been seen by everybody. A huge success during its first season, it flopped badly during its second run in Wellington last week.

LADY BLEDISLOE was willing that the National Council of Women's farewell to her in Christchurch should be broadcast last week, but the advice was received too late for 3YA to make the necessary arrangements.

A MEAN thief stole several presentation boxes of chocolates from a car outside His Majesty's Theatre when Philip Hargrave was saying goodbye to children who heard his last Auckland performance.

MANY complimentary references to the progress of the British film industry were made at a luncheon tendered in Auckland last week to the Australian representative of Gaumont-British by the directors of Amalgamated Theatres.