

Over £600 Raised for Mayor's Unemployment Fund

Dunedin Is Proud of Total Achieved At This Year's Community Sings

Special to the "Radio Record."

Dunedin is very proud of the amount raised for charity by the Community Sings this year, the sum of £660 having been given—nearly double the total achieved last year. Under the energetic leadership of Mr. H. P. Desmoulin and Mr. J. F. Himburg, with Mr. Alf. Pettit at the piano, the sings have proved extremely popular. The final sing for the season was held in the Dunedin Town Hall on Monday, November 12.

DURING the season 24 sings were held, and the enthusiasm shown throughout showed a marked improvement on the previous year with an increase in revenue. This year the sings were held in the Strand Theatre by courtesy of Fuller-Hayward Theatres. Big Brother Bill conducted two big sings during the children's vacation, these being held in the Town Hall, and at each session the place was packed, it being estimated that at least 9000 attended. Mr. W. R. Sinclair also conducted sings in the Strand Theatre and these, too, were very successful. The final sing was held in the big Town Hall, which has a seating accommodation of 3000, and this was taxed to the utmost. People were also standing at the back of the screen, and the total attendance must have been about 4000, while hundreds were unable to gain admission. This was a wonderful climax to the season; a splendid

programme was arranged in addition to the community numbers. The joint leaders for the evening were Messrs. H. P. Desmoulin and J. F. Himburg, who managed a wonderful night's work, everyone being wound up to the community feeling.

Mr. Desmoulin has been leading most of the sings during the season, and he received a flattering reception from the audience. It is very gratifying to know that £660 was collected this year; out of this £37 was collected for one of the sings for the Children's Christmas Cheer Fund, the balance to go to the Mayor's Unemployment Fund. This shows a big increase on the total for last year, which was £397. Community singing has certainly taken on immensely in Dunedin this year. One thing of which Dunedin is proud is that the money thus raised was all given voluntarily as no raffles of any description were carried out, and this speaks

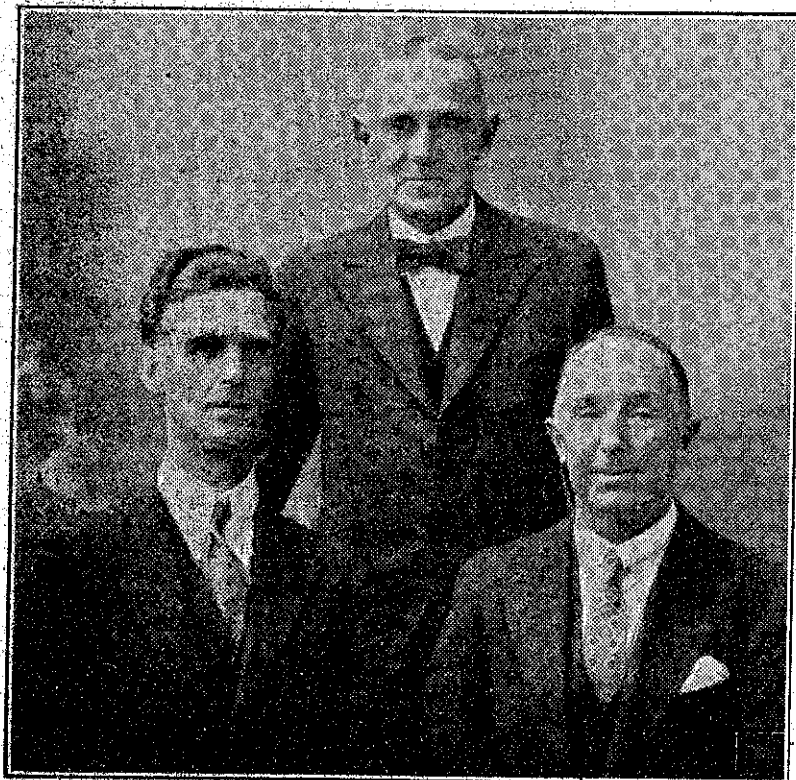
volumes for the public appreciation of the singing. During the season the staff of the Waipori Power Station sent regularly a contribution of 8/- each week, and besides these regular contributions sums of £1 and £5 were received from a number of listeners-in.

The organising of these sings takes a good deal of time and work, and this was ably carried out by the secretary, Mr. J. F. Himburg, who has, by his enthusiasm, made the sings such a great success as they have been this year. Mr. Alf. Pettit always received a good reception, as he so willingly acted as pianist throughout the season, and on Monday night he was given an ovation at his appearance on the stage. By special request from several of his admirers, he played in conjunction with the song, the Musical Box to "The Old Spinning Wheel," and also his own arrangement of the bells in "The Bells of St. Mary's."

Mr. Arthur MacDonald never failed to please every section of the audience

Health Stamps on Sale Again This Year

As usual, the Post and Telegraph Department has issued this year a health postage stamp, for those who wish to make a contribution to the work being done in caring for under-nourished children in health camps this summer. An exceptionally attractive design has been selected this year, and it is hoped that sales will reach record figures during the season. Full details regarding the sale of the stamps may be found in an advertisement on page 20 of this week's paper.



Above are the three men who have been responsible for the fine total collected at the Dunedin community sings this year. From left to right: Mr. A. Pettit (pianist); Mr. H. P. Desmoulin (song-leader); Mr. J. F. Himburg (hon. sec. and organiser).

with his singing of "Good-bye" from "The White Horse Inn," and of "The Legion of the Lost"; he was given a wonderful reception on Monday. Misses Gwendoline Smith, Flora Bain, and Ethel Todd, members of the Lily Stevens Dancing Class, gave a splendid illustration of "The Little Dutch Mill." The two versatile Phillips sisters gave a delightful rendering on the cornet and piano, and received a merited reception. Mr. A. Turnbull, who is 66 years of age, gave an original clog dance. The Huimai Maori party of 24 members gave some well-known and tuneful Maori songs, in addition to hakas, and received a grand reception. One of the gems of the evening was a song, "One Kiss" from the "Blue Moon," sung by Mrs. C. Searle, with full orchestral accompaniment. Miss Bessie Gallien gave a very fine rendering of "The Old Spinning Wheel." Throughout the year the committee have been very fortunate in having the assistance of good artists.

Begg's Orchestra, under the conductorship of Mr. J. F. Himburg, played at the final sing from 7.30 to 8 p.m., and also accompanied the singers and the community numbers. Owing to the length of the programme quite a number of the acknowledgments of donations had to be omitted, but this was unavoidable. They were, however, acknowledged through the paper, and also on the following evening Mr. Desmoulin acknowledged them over the air.