

Hot Shots

A TROUBLESOME trans-former kept 2YA off the air for some time on Saturday morning.

MR. L. F. MOLLER, leader of the Otago team in the radio debate from 4YA last week, is one of the 1935 Rhodes' scholars.

CHRISTCHURCH experienced the hottest day of the season last Friday, and Greymouth has had the driest November for 17 years.

GENE SARAZEN, demonstrating the English shot at Miramar the other day, sent a ball through the window of a nearby house.

"JUST too dead for words," was the opinion of Wellington expressed by one of the visiting Canadian school-boy athletes.

CLEMENT MAY, of Wellington, who left for Hollywood a fortnight ago, took a letter of introduction from Lord Bledisloe to Charlie Chaplin.

2YA is broadcasting a portion of the musical programme from the ball for the Duke of Gloucester in the Wellington Town Hall on December 17.

AN Auckland listener to the Royal wedding broadcast last week, thought it must be a fake "because Princess Marina did not speak 'a la steak and de' oyst.'"

BEACH inspectors were on the warpath in Wellington last week-end; several women whose costumes were considered too abbreviated were asked to leave the beaches.

THAT Australians can mix cocktails—and Wellingtonians can drink them—were the opinions of guests and stewards when a reception was held on board the P. and O. liner, Strathaird, last week.

SINCE the visit of the Italian warship, "Salute" (pronounced sa-lut-eh) has taken the place of the customary "Cheerio" when glasses are raised at Wellington cocktail parties.

AN Auckland girl arrived home from Wellington last week with portmanteaux full of a well-known hotel's linen. The porter at the Wellington hotel had attached her labels to two portmanteaux which had just been returned from the laundry.

Editorial Notes

Wellington, Friday, December 7, 1934.

BLURBS AND BROADCASTING

"CLEANING UP CANADIAN BROADCASTING," is the heading to an article which we print to-day. It mentions the "de-commercialising" of Canadian radio programmes under the influence of the Canadian Radio Broadcasting Commission, and says, in passing, that the experiment is being watched with no little interest in the United States.

The latest papers to hand from the latter country tell us that Washington has officially recognised the widespread disesteem into which commercial programmes have brought American broadcasting and the "first great official study" is shortly to be made of the country's radio services. America is raising its voice: Why haven't radio managements taken steps to protect not only the public interests but their own by setting up and insisting upon high standards of entertainment and reasonable limitations on sales blurbs?

One or two American advertisers have made a genuine attempt to raise the standard of sponsored programmes, but the majority have abused the air, not only to the detriment of listeners but—in the long run—of the present controllers of broadcasting in the United States. Radio is an instrument of tremendous dangers and possibilities, and the present American system is creating so much dissatisfaction among listeners on the other side of the Pacific that the whole service is heading for a big smash. Washington is insistent that the broadcasting authorities must, in some way, be made to recognise radio's responsibility for public welfare. Newspapers and magazines the world over have had to take a firm stand against the encroachment of undue advertising influence. They have had to protect their editorial and news columns from the dangers of unbridled commercialism. It seems likely that American broadcasting concerns will have to take similar steps in the interests of their listeners.

WHO WON?

SIMULTANEOUSLY with the devoting of a section of the "Radio Record" to British films comes the news that the Legion of Decency, formed some months ago in the United States for the purpose of "cleaning up the talkies," has called off the battle. Whether the battle has ended because the enemy has been well and truly routed or whether a quiet conference or two behind the scenes has made the Legion see differently we are not told. We do suspect however, that Hollywood's method of cleaning up its films is to use a soap factory for the setting of one or two talkies!

The British film industry is on an entirely different footing. In Hollywood the "star's the thing," and film favourites have their pasts, presents and futures mauled about by countless gossip writers whose job it is to see that a million-dollar star is kept before the public—by fair means or foul. In England the vicious star system has not been developed to any great extent, British producers preferring to create a film, not to "glorify" one particular star, but to get the best possible out of the plot, the playwright's lines, the settings, and every member of the cast. Where American stars have been imported and films made on the American idea of boosting the star, there is not one instance of the film having been an outstanding success. Probably the nearest approaches to the starring system are those talkies in which Gracie Fields and Jessie Matthews appear.

The English industry has grown up among the traditions of the English stage and it has, in consequence acquired a dignity and a standing that belies its youth. That New Zealand appreciates British films has been demonstrated by the successful seasons of many English talkies. Capital is not lacking now for the production of films at Home, and the time is not far distant when the making of talking pictures will be one of Britain's greatest industries.

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A REUNION of early settlers was celebrated in Cheviot last week.

MANY women searched for hankies and sobbed gently as they listened-in to last week's Royal wedding.

MADAME ELSA STRALIA is at present appearing at the Theatre Royal, Christchurch.

THE Masonic Hotel, Napier, is having to instal a special private bathroom for the Duke's one-night stay.

AT present the Auckland police are waging open warfare on hotels who trade after hours, and lottery promoters having no licenses.

NEW ZEALAND women are becoming larger, we are told. Quite, possibly—they seem to have outgrown their bathing suits.

DURING last week's heat wave in Auckland, the Pohutukawas came out in bloom. Very early for the Christmas tree.

A NEWSPAPER controversy is raging in Auckland as to whether the Grenadier Guards' Band, now performing there, should give open-air concerts.

A WELL-KNOWN cleric who visited Auckland recently is said to have remarked that Auckland was reputed to be the most immoral city in the Southern Hemisphere.

EVEN those with only a smattering of musical knowledge were astounded to hear the announcement in Dunedin that an item just played was by "Woodforde and Finden."

ONE of the men playing with Gene Sarazen in the exhibition match at Miramar, Wellington, last week, was heard to remark that the crowd was the most disorderly that he had ever played before.

AN amateur company, presenting a play in the concert chamber of the Wellington Town Hall this month, is to have the strenuous opposition of the Grenadier Guards' Band playing in the same building.

A WAIRARAPA lad will probably appear at the Wellington ball for the Duke of Gloucester in an evening suit borrowed from the cook on his father's sheeprun. The cook is an Englishman once well known in London social life.