

Hot Shots

Editorial Notes

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AN unusual sight was a herd of cows outside the Wellington Club the other evening.

THE latest story is that Mussolini's an Irishman, Richard Murphy by name. If you're willing to bite, the answer's Dick Tater.

NEW YORK'S Radio City has been opened a year, during which time one and a quarter million people have viewed the studios.

THE "New Zealand Referees" voting competition for and against the relicensing of bookmakers is creating a tremendous amount of interest.

ALTHOUGH on holiday, Dr. James Moffatt, the Biblical authority, was called upon to address four different gatherings in Dunedin in one day.

IT is estimated that at least 30,000 people watched the Grenadier Guards Band march up Queen Street, Auckland, from the Wanganella the other day.

OVERSEAS visitors are invariably amused at the haphazard way New Zealanders cross busy city intersections, paying no attention to the traffic lights.

OTAGO beekeepers report that supplies of honey are being obtained much earlier this year, but heavy rain is needed to freshen the clover before the season proper begins.

THE bunting that has so far been put up in Wellington in honour of the Duke's visit can scarcely be described as magnificent. The general opinion seems to be better none at all than a tawdry display.

A WELL-KNOWN Auckland M.P., asked by the "Radio Record" if he was the author of the anonymous Dunedin slum story, "Children of the Poor," replied: "I'm not saying I am, and I'm not saying I'm not."

A STORY is being told in Auckland that, had a very high personage not interested himself, no civic reception would have been given the Grenadier Guards Band. It is also rumoured that the band would have cancelled its New Zealand tour and returned immediately to England if this civic honour had not been extended.

Wellington, Friday, December 17, 1934.

BAITING THE HOOK

ON Monday next, December 17, the new IYA comes on the air. As we state elsewhere in to-day's issue this is not regarded as an official opening, the period between next week and mid-January being occupied with test transmissions. The Broadcasting Board is anxious to make it quite clear that, should the engineers desire to make any adjustment to the plant during that time, the new station will go off the air and the old IYA will take up the running.

But the excellent unofficial transmissions that have come through in the past week show that there should be little necessity for interrupting the service when it swings over to its full-time job next week. The Auckland station is to be the most powerful in Australia and New Zealand and it will be as clearly received in parts of the Commonwealth as many of that country's own stations. We would make the suggestion that the new station might be used for a little "Come to New Zealand" propaganda—some quiet boosting of the Dominion's attractions, in other words. Two sets of circumstances combine to assist any campaign that IYA might embark upon: the new station is being eagerly awaited in Australia, and summer holidays are now being planned. A special programme for Australian listeners might bring a flock of tourists to the Dominion through the first few months of 1935—and there's no need to stress the benefits that good Australian money would confer on our railways, shops and hotels.

QUESTION: ANSWER

THE Postmaster-General (Hon. Adam Hamilton) dropped a pleasant surprise in listeners' laps at the week-end when he announced that radio license fees would be reduced by 5/- from April 1, 1935. This reduction means that New Zealand radio owners will be provided with a programme—and, with the raising of the power of the national stations, three or four programmes—for approximately five-sixths of a penny a day. Which, considering the hours of transmission, isn't bad value, even in these hard times!

It has been asked why the New Zealand license fee is by far the highest in the world. The answer is that New Zealand has provided immense difficulties in the way of radio coverage. The geographical nature of the country and the scattered population has necessitated the building of powerful and costly stations, for the licensed listener at the back o' beyond has a right to demand as good a service as the listener in Auckland or Christchurch. And the Broadcasting Board has seen that country listeners' interests have been served—the decision to greatly increase the power of the national stations has proved that.

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMMES

THE question has often been raised: Why doesn't the "Radio Record" print the full programmes from the alternative stations? The explanation is a simple one. The programmes for the YA stations are prepared considerably in advance; for instance, the programme for Monday, December 17, published in this issue, was probably prepared in the last week in November.

The programmes from IYX, 2YC, 3YL and 4YO are meant to be of a lighter nature and for this reason many brand-new recordings are given. If these programmes were prepared in full in time for publication in the "Radio Record" it would mean that new recordings arriving, say, to-day in an overseas mail, could not be played for at least three weeks. But by preparing the alternative programmes just a few days in advance of presentation the Broadcasting Board is able to give its listeners the very latest recordings. Readers will notice, however, that where a theme or special programme is given from the alternative stations mention of it is always made in our programme pages.

A LARGE glaciarium for real ice-skating is to be built in Christchurch, and is to be ready about April.

A WELL-KNOWN Auckland store, advertising its Christmas goods last week, converted its name to "Million Choices."

SO much civil business has accumulated in the Auckland Supreme Court that the services of two additional judges had to be utilised this week.

MR.S. SKILLING, wife of the navigator on Ulm's ill-fated Pacific flight, is well known in Gisborne. Her mother left Auckland for Sydney last week to comfort her.

MAJOR GEORGE MILLER, musical director of the Grenadier Guards, didn't like the Auckland hotel he was booked to stay at, and went over to the Northern Club.

I BELIEVE you were beaten this afternoon, Mr. Sarazen," the American champion golfer was told during an interview at 4YA, to which he naively replied: "You're telling me?"

SEEN in the Station Hotel lounge, Auckland, the other night: A girl in a black evening frock, very "cut-away" sandals, and displaying brilliantly scarlet toe and finger nails.

EVERY YA station was besieged with telephone calls last week about Ulm. Upon being told that a report would be put on the air as soon as one arrived, an inquirer asked, "When will that be?"

WHEN she was told that the new IYA transmitting plant was out at Henderson, one dear old soul in Auckland remarked that it would be a long way for the performers to go on wet nights.

SALVATIONISTS gathered at all wayside stations to welcome the new Army leader, Lieut.-Commissioner F. H. Adams, who travelled by the Limited from Auckland to Wellington last Thursday night.

WHEN the finishing touches were being put to a window display of valuable crystal in the D.I.C., Christchurch, the other day, a high shelf fell, smashing almost everything, including the window itself.