

First Man to Sing from the New 1YA Studio

Raymond Beatty, Australian Basso-Cantante,
Says He is Going to Like New Zealand

(From Our Auckland Correspondent)

MR. RAYMOND BEATTY, the Australian basso-cantante, considers it an honour to have been one of the vocalists engaged by the New Zealand Broadcasting Board to sing from 1YA on the occasion of the first concert broadcast from the new Auckland station. This tall, well-built Australian, who created such an impression with listeners on Monday night, because of his delightful, deep and clear voice, is a native of Scone, a small town about 200 miles distant from Sydney.

IN conversation with a "Radio Record" representative, the famous Australian singer confided that, in 1922, he was a junior clerk in the office of the Petty Sessions, Justice Department at Scone. Along with other lads of that township he used to give an item or two at local concerts. After much persuasion, he decided to heed the advice given him and try his luck in Sydney at singing. "And so," he said, "I went to Sydney and studied under Roland Foster at the Conservatorium of Music."

Mr. Beatty must have studied hard, for he progressed like a house on fire, and the following year he entered for the scholarship given by Dame Clara Butt and her husband, Kennerley Rumbold. This he won from many entrants. Following the usual run of concert work, Mr. Beatty sang in opera and distinguished himself at Sydney as Figaro in Mozart's beautiful opera, "The Marriage of Figaro." Offers of broadcasting engagements followed, and he toured Australia delighting listeners.

In 1931 he went to England and sang in all the important concert halls there, at one time singing under Sir Dan Godfrey at the London Pavilion. The B.B.C. then engaged him, and it was Mr. Beatty who was one of the

vocalists, who took part before the microphone at the first Empire broadcasts specially produced for the benefit of Dominion listeners. For these broadcasts he had to be ready to sing at 2 a.m., in order to coincide with the hours of reception in Australia and New Zealand.

Mr. Beatty enjoyed a real thrill when he was picked to sing at the Albert Hall, London, when the audience included many famous personages, one of those in front being Prince George, Duke of Kent, who recently married Princess Marina. "In fact, I think because he knew I was coming out here, the Duke cancelled his trip and sent his brother, the Duke of Gloucester," jokingly remarked Mr. Beatty.

"While in England I often thought of calling myself the 'singing cyclist,' or something like that," added Mr. Beatty. "I thrived so well in England that I was two stone too heavy, so I bought a push bicycle and rode from London to Land's End and back, a distance of over 600 miles, in order to get my weight down. The trip took me five and a half days."

Mr. Beatty also had experience of broadcasting in the United States. He was there for two months, during which time he did some concert work. It amused him greatly to have to sing operatic arias and ballads, which were followed up with advertising announcements for corsets and other articles of feminine attire. Last year Mr. Beatty travelled across the Rockies to Vancouver and caught the Aorangi on his return to Sydney. He had an engagement to sing at 1YA while the boat was at Auckland, but it was behind time, and he had to forfeit his engagement. "So this was my first real visit to your delightful country," he said. "Arriving at Wellington last week by the Monowai after a rough trip, I came through to Auckland last Friday. I am pleasantly amazed at your beautiful climate here, and I know I am going to enjoy my tour of the New Zealand national stations."

However, Mr. Beatty was a little disappointed after singing in Auckland on Monday night. Included among his songs was that rollicking number, "Give a Man a Horse He Can Ride." "Whenever I sang that song in Australia, the next morning I usually was offered a horse on which to enjoy myself riding, but so far no one has offered me a steed," he said. But he forgets. Horses are scarce in this country. If he had sung a ditty about a bicycle, then perhaps someone might have obliged!

PORRIDGE WITHOUT MUSIC?

Wairoa B Station Curtails
Breakfast Sessions

(Special to the "Radio Record")

MANY Gisborne listeners are asking whether their radio sets will be able to provide them with breakfast music next year. At present, Gisborne people rely on 2ZP, Wairoa, for their breakfast accompaniment, but Uncle Peter announced the other day that his only breakfast appearance after the end of the year would be on Sundays, and his only other session would be on Tuesday nights.

As 2ZP was the only breakfast session station which hundreds of Gisborne listeners could hear in comfort, the announcement of the curtailment of the station's programme will be greatly regretted. It was also listened to by a wide area in Hawke's Bay as far south as Waipukurau.

Around Gisborne, great hopes are pinned to the new 1YA, and if it proves as good as expected the loss of the 2ZP programmes will be minimised. In test broadcasts from the new transmitter picked up in Gisborne, 1YA has been slightly disappointing. It should become Gisborne's best station for daylight reception, but whether it will be strong enough to overcome the noise levels in all localities can be proved only after a careful check.

If 1YA fails to come in with sufficient volume there will be many in Gisborne who will eat without music at breakfast time. Not only that, the radio in some localities will often remain silent until dark if 1YA is disappointing, or unless the noise level is reduced.

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