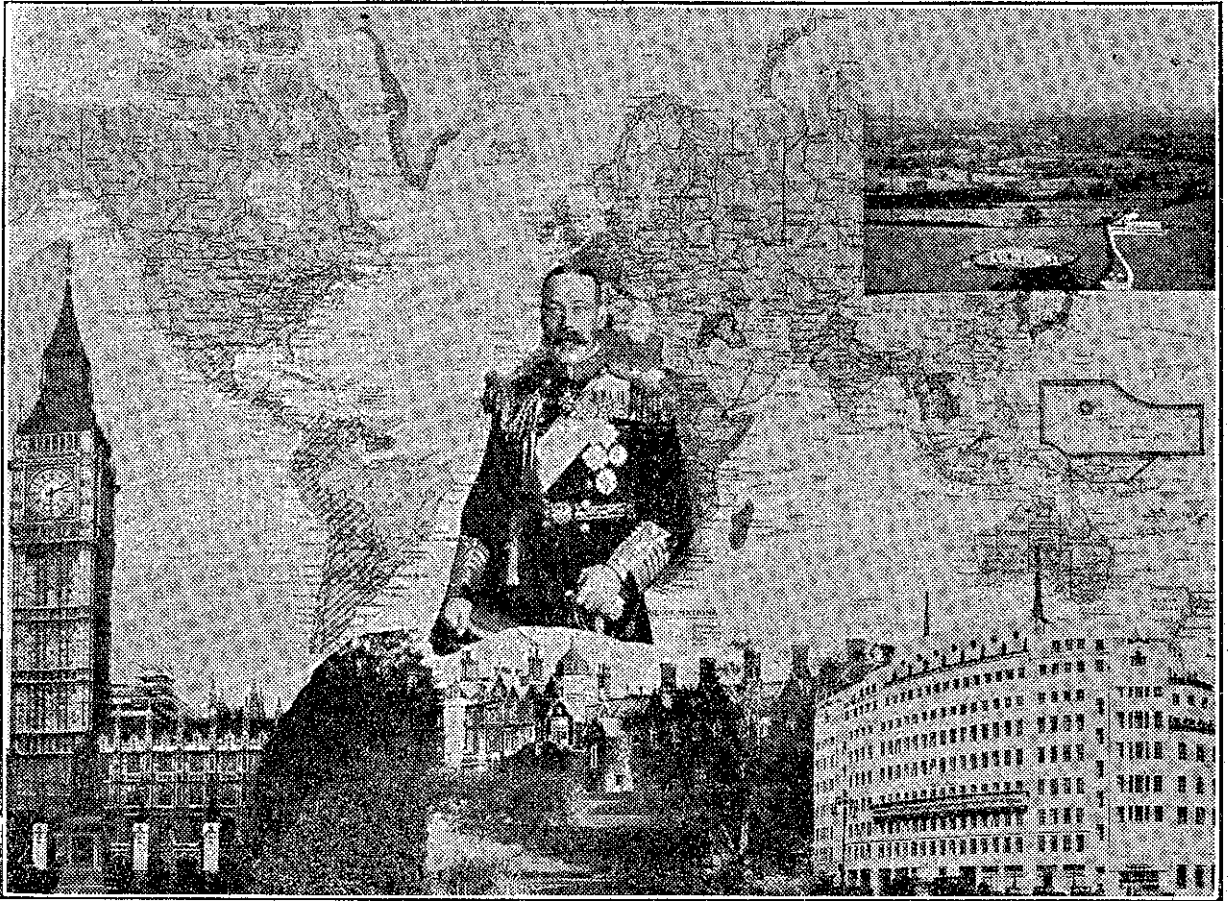




THE MESSAGE THAT GOES ROUND THE WORLD.—There was broadcast this week an Empire Christmas message by his Majesty the King. At the top of the picture is the Empire station at Daventry, from which the message was flashed to millions of British subjects. Reading from left to right at the bottom are the Houses of Parliament at Westminster, with Big Ben, Sandringham, whence the King spoke, and Broadcasting House in London.

MAKING XMAS MERRY AND BRIGHT

Wellington Smith Family Doing a Great Work

(From our Christchurch
Correspondent.)

IT was certainly gratifying to Canterbury readers to learn that our Alan Brown and Bert Goodland had been instrumental in the raising of the large sum of £192/6/6 in one evening in Wellington at the Christmas community sing organised by the Smith Family. That they were only £3/6/6 ahead of the last community sing in Christchurch, held at the end of October, hardly beats that town's record when it is taken into consideration that the Town Hall in Wellington holds 3300, the Civic Theatre in Christchurch seating only 1320, with an additional 130 seats for the night in question. The Smith Family is not so well known to South Islanders. Most of Wellington's prominent men belong to the Smith Family, the Governor-General (Lord Bledisloe), and the Right Hon. G. W. Forbes, being among the number. There is no class distinction among the Smiths, and for three years they have been anonymously helping those less fortunate than themselves. Not only at Christmas time, but all through the year "Good old Smith" is a "friend in need," and this year special effort was needed more than ever with so

many of New Zealand's relief workers who are on "sustenance" rates of pay. The Smith Family also live in Sydney, and the introduction to Wellington was made by two young men in December, 1931, who realised that unless someone "got busy" many hundreds of needy families were going to have a very lean time at Christmas. Backed by Station 2ZW, and the Wellington newspapers which were impressed by the enthusiasm of the first two Smiths, appeals were made to the public with results which exceeded all anticipations.

In February, 1932, the Family came into formal existence at a public meeting, and was duly incorporated under the "Friendly Societies Act." Its funds accordingly became subject to Government audit, ensuring strict control, and giving an assurance that moneys contributed would be applied only to the purposes for which they were donated. Mr. Alan Brown speaks very enthusiastically of the evening sing in Wellington, and with the singing of "Oh, Oh Antonio," the ice was broken, and a two-way broadcast between Australia and New Zealand was arranged by the New Zealand Broadcasting Board, and Christmas greetings were sent to the Australian Smith Families by the Prime Minister of New Zealand (Rt. Hon. G. W. Forbes), and responded to by the president of the Sydney Smith Family.

OUR Gospels really have some characteristics in common with works of fiction.—*Professor J. F. Bethune Baker.*

Public Trustee Reports Increased Business

ESTATES of a value of £544,407 were reported and accepted for administration by the Public Trustee during the month. On March 31, 1934, the total value of the estates under administration by him was £60,760,493, and the new business for the eight months ended November 30, 1934, was £4,164,542, compared with £3,504,792 for the corresponding period last year. Grants of administration made by the court in favour of the Public Trustee numbered 165 for the month. During the month 313 new wills appointing the Public Trustee executor were deposited for safe custody by living testators and 279 existing wills were revised to provide for changes desired by testators. The total number of wills now held in the Public Trust Office is 82,859.

SECRETARIES of the federations of the Italian Fasci di Combattimento have been ordered to arrange receiving apparatus for rural schools, so that political and technical propaganda may be circulated among rural children and the farming population. The Government has pressed manufacturers of apparatus for use in schools, Fascist offices, etc., to sell it at reduced terms.