

Hot Shots

SNEAK THIEVES were active among the many motorists who were in camp at Mission Bay, Auckland, last week.

IN Christchurch last week an intoxicated motorist was fined £25, his license suspended for five years, and a prohibition order was also issued against him.

LAWRENCE BRAVIS, of Silverdale, Auckland, by advertisement, announces that he has successfully launched his "Gospel Ship," and that he wants funds to complete it.

TWENTY-TWO thousand Dunedinites turned out to two of the Grenadier Guards band open-air concerts, which fact proves that the community does appreciate good band music.

THE beautifully warm summer evenings in Wellington at present make evening drives a delight, and every night a long line of car lights can be seen along Mount Victoria, above the city.

ALTHOUGH Monday, January 7, was the hottest day in Christchurch for two years, the following day's nor'-wester rendered the water at the local beaches the coldest since the commencement of the season.

SOME southern pressmen accompanying the Duke's party last week on the West Coast had some privileges curtailed. Two had to telegraph their offices, who immediately protested, before the privileges were restored.

SO that onlookers could understand the significance of the drill, the Takapuna Surf Life-Saving Club last week broadcast explanations of the various movements on Takapuna beach through loud-speakers.

THE H.M.A.S. Australia was en fete last Thursday in Lyttelton, when many guests were invited aboard for afternoon tea; in the evening nearly 500 representative people in Canterbury were the Captain's guests at a very enjoyable dance.

FEW centres are without public tennis courts, but Dunedin is one. It has fourteen magnificent courts at Logan Park, but one has to be a member of some club before being allowed to play there. However, the erection of courts at the St. Kilda beach should satisfy a demand.

Editorial Notes

Wellington, Friday, January 18, 1935.

REMEMBERING HANDEL

THE 250th anniversary of the birth of Handel, which falls next month, promises to be an event of unusual interest. The British Broadcasting Corporation is preparing a series of festivals, while in America and on the Continent music lovers are poring over Handel manuscripts for presentation during the celebrations. The New Zealand Broadcasting Board is already drawing up special programmes for the occasion—an occasion which will not only mark an anniversary but a spirited revival in interest in the great composer's works. In the past few months the interest in Handel has grown to such a remarkable extent—a growth of interest that is shared, too, by Bach—that the Broadcasting Board has considerably augmented the stocks of recordings of the master's works, and the YA stations are, therefore, in a good position to do justice to the anniversary. In other parts of the world a determined effort is to be made to approach certain of the works of Handel in a new way which may lead to the fullest rediscovery of the great composer.

This searching is typical of the contemporary attitude toward classical works of art. We have seen Shakespeare presented in almost every possible form—the latest example being a Russian amalgam of "Anthony and Cleopatra." Shaw's "Caesar and Cleopatra" and Pushkin's "Egyptian Nights." We saw tradition tossed aside to a minor degree when the last Gilbert and Sullivan company toured New Zealand. Ivan Menzies' handling of the roles of the Duke of Plaza Toro and Ko-Ko may have scandalised the nineteenth century Savoyards, but it gave Gilbert and Sullivan life and vigour for those "youngsters" who had come to regard the operas as back numbers.

It will be generally admitted that Handel is a peculiarly suitable subject for such experiments. His dramatic oratorios (not the "Messiah") were really written for an ideal theatre whose practical realization was denied him. The dramatic presentation which he himself was unable to get, the London Handel Society proposes to give him. Experiments in Cambridge and Munster have indicated that this method of approach leads to rich cultural rewards, and the Handel Society's proceedings will be watched with interest by musicians all over the world.

CAPTURED!

THE recording of special programmes has become a permanent feature of the B.B.C.'s activities, and New Zealand has, for the past two years, been reaping the benefit of the Corporation's industry. Mention of a "B.B.C. recorded programme" from the YA stations is a fairly certain guarantee of a good evening's entertainment, and the fact that this service is likely to be extended is pleasant news. Commenting on recorded programmes, the "Radio Times" (London), says:

When first broadcasting began to gain in stature, to grow from being a toy for the mechanically-minded into the position of a new medium for entertainment and instruction, broadcasters sometimes repined at the impermanence of their achievement. So much imagination, so much research, so much concerted effort spread over weeks or months, and the result launched into the ether to become no more than a memory. Many an author and producer, many a radio actor, has felt that sense of regret when the red light ceased to glow. If that were an inevitable handicap, it would be one that broadcasting shared with older arts. A production in the theatre may run for years, but once it has finished it is gone. Duse and Bernhardt are memories with Mrs. Siddons and Edmund Kean.

Broadcasting, however, has conquered impermanence. It is now possible to reproduce a whole programme as it was broadcast, and this fact leads to interesting possibilities. Recently the members of the Historical Association assembled at Broadcasting House to hear a record of the "Twenty Years Ago" programme that was broadcast on August 4. This programme had unmistakable claims to permanence, and it will have an increasing number of successors. It is fortunate that they should not have to vanish into thin air.

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MANY sailors from H.M.A.S. Australia aboard bicycles were a bright feature in the streets of Christchurch last week.

CHESSE was broadcast for the first time in the Dominion from Christchurch last week, when the final of the New Zealand championship was being played.

SIR HENRY FOWLER, the distinguished English engineer, who was in Wellington last week, said that the streets of the capital city were far too noisy.

RECENT hot weather in Dunedin has caused many restrictions to be placed on water consumption. Each day sees the loss of almost a million gallons from the reservoirs.

SITUATED in the building of a prominent firm of bacon curers, one of the Dunedin B stations always opens and closes its sessions with a "theme" melody—"This Little Piggy Went to Market."

WELLINGTON'S beaches have never been as popular as they are proving this year. The exceptional summer weather brings crowds of adults, as well as children, to them every day of the week.

THE Canterbury Rugby Union's management committee has nominated Mr. T. A. Fletcher, of Wellington, for the position of manager of the New Zealand Rugby team to visit England this year.

FOLLOWING strong criticism of their action in removing the Duke's wreath from the Cenotaph after the ceremony, the Auckland Returned Soldiers' Association placed it on view in a shop window.

MOTHER was holding her tiny daughter shoulder-high so that the little one might get a good view of the Duke. Said mother: "That's the Duke with the red cap." Little dear (amidst loud laughter): "Does he wear red socks, too, mummy?"

A VISITOR to Wellington, who must be chuckling in his sleeve by now, recently wrote to the daily paper criticising the methods of hairdressers in the city, and the correspondence columns of the paper have been filled ever since by infuriated barbers, who have risen unanimously to the bait.