

WELLINGTON NOTES

Song About Duke Fails To "Click"

Despite Good Publicity, Song Commemorating Duke's Visit Greeted Coldly by N.Z. Public—Clive Drummond Mentioned in Nelle Scanlan's Last Book—Mr. Leo Du Chateau's Experiences.

THE song of welcome entitled, "The Prince," which was written by Albert H. Light to commemorate the Duke of Gloucester's visit to the Melbourne Centenary, had the verses amended by Frank S. Cooze to be appropriate for the Duke's visit to New Zealand, but the sales were not as good as in Australia. Fred Webber and his orchestra featured this new song at the Majestic Theatre and the Wentworth Cabaret for a week, and the Port Nicholson Band played it at one of their Sunday night open-air concerts at Oriental Bay. Miss Iris Mason also played Frank Crowther's arrangement of it on the organ at the Paramount Theatre. Despite the good publicity, the song has not "caught on" to any extent. This is not a reflection on the merits of the New Zealand composers concerned, or on the patriotism of the New Zealand public. The song of welcome was essentially topical for the Duke's visit, and people apparently did not think it worthwhile buying the music for the occasion. There are few who would feel moved to such patriotism as to sing praises to the Duke around the piano at home or in the bath tub, where the latest hits are so popular.

THERE seems to be some difference in England as to how St. Pontefract's should be pronounced. People who have been to the town by that name say that it is pronounced as "Pomfreys," but it is significant that the B.B.C. announcers in the programme of "The Fifth Form at St. Pontefract's," the burlesque of school life by the Mellish Brothers, pronounce it as it is spelt. This seems to indicate that the B.B.C., as in other instances, are preferring a more reasonable pronunciation. This bright entertainment is to be heard from 2YA again on Tuesday evening.

MR. LEO DU CHATEAU, mentioned in these columns two weeks ago, is the producer of "The Cavendish Affair," by Maurice Chapman, which is to be broadcast from 2YA on Thursday, January 31, at 9.4 p.m. Mr. du Chateau made his debut as the Irish policeman in the Dick Whittington Pantomime at His Majesty's Theatre, Sydney, in the Christmas of 1895. From the boards Mr. du Chateau graduated to management, and for the late E. J. Carroll handled such stars as Kreisler, Florence Austral, Ignaz Friedman, and the Don Cossack Choir. He has travelled through many countries with Mr. Harry Lauder as manager, and has a wealth of anecdotes about the famous little Scotsman. It is said that no more perfect drawing-room mimic than Mr. du Chateau

exists to-day. He positively brings not only the accent but the personality before you of the person he is imitating. Mr. du Chateau's work as a producer, apart from his vast store of technical knowledge, is aided by his extraordinary capacity for teaching, and he is a citizen of Wellington whose contribution to its culture is valuable indeed.

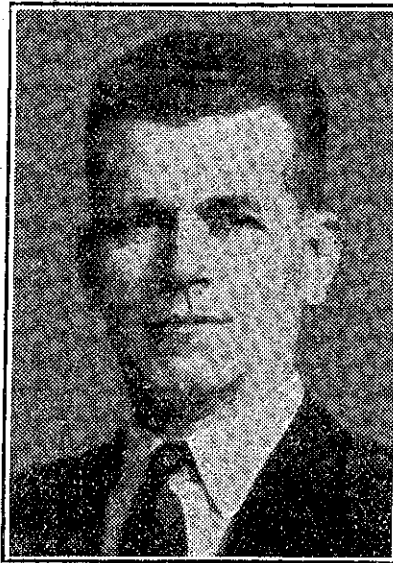
THOSE who have not had the pleasure of reading Nelle M. Scanlan's latest book, "Winds of Heaven," the engrossing New Zealand novel which is written around life in Wellington, will be interested to know that in the story the following reference is made to Mr. Clive Drummond, the well-known 2YA announcer whose voice is known in all parts of the world:—

The music ceased in the middle of a phrase, "Hullo, Clive," she said with pert familiarity, as the announcer's voice broke in, although she had never seen him.

"2YA, Wellington, speaking. A disastrous earthquake has occurred and brief unverified reports filtering through indicate that the towns of Napier and Hastings have been completely wrecked . . . with considerable loss of life."

"Oh, my God!" Kelly said, as he stood transfixed, listening to the unseen voice which spoke quietly, controlling its emotion. . . .

ONE of the delegates to the last Pan-Pacific Conference is to speak from 2YA on Friday evening, February 1. Mrs. N. A. R. Barrer, who lives in Masterton and is a lecturer at the W.E.A. in that town, is taking as the subject for her broadcast talk, "Drama: The Old."



New Programme Organiser Has Been in Radio Since 1926

EVER since September, 1926,

Mr. H. C. Trim has had his heart in the broadcasting game, and now he has been appointed to succeed Mr. Owen Pritchard as programme organiser at 2YA, Wellington. He first got mixed up with studio work when a friend enlisted his help for the running of the old 50-watt station under the original Broadcasting Company, when the

transmitting gear was atop of the old "Dominion" Building in Lambton Quay. Every now and then the vibration of machinery ruined a valve filament, but generally speaking, the crystal-set public was treated to more than three hours' radio broadcast for five days a week. As a special treat on Sundays, the little station used to provide a two-hour concert from the studio after the church broadcast.

In June, 1927, 2YA came into being, and no longer was Mr. Trim one of a staff of four, for his training had fitted him for the job of programme organiser for the national Wellington station. Three years later he was transferred to Auckland in the same capacity, adding the duties of acting-announcer. In May last year he returned to the head office in Wellington, and has been associated with programme work in the office since then.

One of his memories of the earlier days of broadcasting as it is known now was the instance of a friend who showed him a set of valves worth £80. The whole lot could be bought to-day for about £2. Things have changed quickly in wireless, although as far as programmes are concerned it has been a question of gradual evolution. It is indeed a far cry from the old 50-watt days, when the staff comprised an engineer, an announcer, his assistant and a pianist, and the programmes were provided by friends of the staff. Mr. Trim has decidedly more talent to work on now.