

Hot Shots

Editorial Notes

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SNOW fell on Canterbury back country last week, but the week-end saw a return to summer conditions.

A DUNEDIN B station has inaugurated a series of talks on "Radio," "Gardening" and "Mothercraft."

THE Christchurch property market is lively at the moment. A hotel changed hands at £25,000, another property at £15,000, with several other sales pending.

THE membership having fallen from 270 to 50, the Pacific Club, a teetotal organisation, closed its doors in Auckland last week after an existence of 23 years.

A WELL-KNOWN radio personality is said to have been caught in the big raid on the "Calcutta" game at Te Aroha recently.

"HE taught my brother and I French and German," said a 2YA speaker recently. Wouldn't it have been better if he had first taught him English?

A GIRLS' mouth organ band, under the conductorship of A. S. Broadribb (who used to play the mouth organ from 1YA) is being featured from 12B. There are 15 players in the band.

"IN the interests of the public a man who plays a Wurlitzer organ deserves to go to gaol," said Mr. F. K. Hunt, S.M., facetiously last Friday when an organ mechanic was before him for theft.

*The curfew tolls the knell of parting day,
A line of cars winds slowly o'er the lea;
A pedestrian plods his absent-minded way
And leaves the world quite unexpectedly.*

IN a 1YA talk on Shakespeare last week a speaker said that "one of the queens of England 'had the wind up.'" In answering a complaint from a listener a 1YA official remarked that had Shakespeare himself thought of the expression he would probably have gladly used it.

ACCORDING to an Auckland newspaper, Clem Dawe "cleaned up" about £3000 during his Christchurch vaudeville season.

IT is a year ago this week since the 'quake which did considerable damage to Pahiatua and Masterton.

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NO TRAFFIC COPS?

UNCLE SCRIM wants no traffic cops on the Friendly Road. To that end he has been campaigning throughout North Island centres and last week addressed an audience of 800 in the Wellington Town Hall on the subject. He complained that the Friendly Road could not reach Wellington over the air because the naughty Government would not let them increase the power of their Radio Station. Sixteen times in sixteen months had he visited Wellington and argued with the Government but for no reason at all the Government would not allow an increase in power.

We have a great admiration for Uncle Scrim's ability and the good he has done by his masterly talent. Through his own capacity and skill he has created a service which is supported by the regular weekly contributions of many loyal people. These sums have been expended with economy and humility in extending his service. Appreciative as we are, however, of his merit and aims we are afraid that his demand to be free of "traffic cops," aerial or otherwise, may not succeed. Every road, to pursue his own analogy, is subject to restrictions and control. A road itself is evidence of control. It is simply a defined track between points to prevent pedestrians and traffic wandering at will over surrounding fields, fertile or otherwise. On the road, we are all subject to restrictions. There is always a "traffic cop" (quite a friendly chap, too, as a rule) to see that we don't go too fast, do not travel on the wrong side, do not endanger others. He is there for the common good and to extend fair play to all.

Uncle Scrim, in the unbounded goodness of his heart, has endeared himself to many thousands. He has done a great work, but his very success emphasises the need for the traffic cop even in the friendly sky-ways administering "God's gift to mankind." The religious organisations with their thousands of enthusiastic adherents and devotees naturally seek to serve their own adherents and to win others from the gilded by-paths of life back to serious foot-slogging on the main highway. They want stations on the air too. If it is good for Uncle Scrim to expand cheerily along his Friendly Road it must be good for the Anglican, Roman Catholic and the Presbyterian to give the same service. That is the real problem. It seems to us there must be a traffic cop of some sort (whether the Government itself or the expanded Broadcasting Board) to extend fair play even on the "friendly road of life."

RESPONSIBILITY AND POWER

PLAINLY the Government intends to establish one strong and definite authority to control all phases of public broadcasting and to place upon that body responsibility for the satisfactory administration of the service. That objective is commendable and indeed desirable, and we think the measure will command the solid support of all who are concerned with the proper development of broadcasting. It is desirable that broadcasting shall be as free as possible of political control. But never can it be wholly divorced from Government supervision, simply because of the necessities inherent in the position from warfare or national disaster; but its normal administration should be on cultural and business lines only. It is to be noted that the bill as drafted, while placing responsibility upon it, does not give the Board full power to enforce its own rulings. It is still required to "report to the Minister" in the event of any disobedience by any particular station. Stronger phraseology might be employed here. Divided authority is rarely wholly successful. It might be better to state that certain disciplinary action "shall be taken" unless adequate excuses or satisfactory reasons can be given to the Minister for specific failure to observe instructions.

IT is a curious fact that those people who "never listen to 4YA" are continually pointing out the station's faults.

WELL-KNOWN beauty specialist in Wellington this week has not washed her face for eight years, she says. Special creams do the job.

OLD Girls from all over New Zealand are in Christchurch just now for the St. Margaret's College jubilee celebrations.

THE first reading of the Broadcasting Bill in the House was, contrary to expectations, barely commented on in Dunedin.

THE difficulty of transportation during the warm weather caused the disappearance of oysters from the Christchurch market for two weeks.

ABOUT 800 people attended Uncle Scrim's meeting in the Wellington Town Hall, compared with 15,000 who attended his "six-band rally" at Carlaw Park, Auckland. So one prophet hath honour in his own town.

WHILE Uncle Scrim battles for longer hours for the "Friendly Road" station, churchmen of various denominations are asking for their own radio stations. Will this mean an ether-eal conflict?

ABOUT £14,000 of contemporary British art was displayed at the opening of Mrs. Murray Fuller's exhibition in Wellington last week. An etching was sold in the first 10 minutes.

IF present-day problems were put into the hands of a child there would be no problem," says 12R's Uncle Scrim. The birth-rate battle between Hitler and Mussolini is understood to be an effort to find the right child.

BUT for the fact that the Christchurch Boys' High School was holding its picnic there, the settlement at Diamond Harbour, Lyttelton, would have been wiped out by fire last week. The boys and masters put up a winning fight.

MR. J. A. C. ALLUM, chairman of the Transport Licensing Authority, welcomed visiting oarsmen to Auckland last week, saying that rowing was the only form of transport he hadn't opportunity to license. "I feel I'm among friends here," he added.