

WELLINGTON NOTES.

New Speaker On "World Affairs"

Mr. J. B. Callan Replacing Dr. G. H. Scholefield.—Musings on An English Comedy Turn From 2YA—Something New to Hold the Listeners' Interest.

FOR the last few years Wellington listeners have been able to hear broadcast talks by Dr. Guy H. Scholefield, Parliamentary Librarian, on "World Affairs." But his departure for England on extended leave will deprive us of his knowledge for several months. In his place Mr. J. B. Callan has been appointed to deliver twenty-minute talks each week from 2YA, so the chain of enlightening comment on important current events will not be broken. New Zealanders are reputed to be a people who take a lively and intelligent interest in both local and international politics. Whether that be so or not, they have no lack of opportunity for becoming and remaining conversant with the newest ideas in politics and economics. The Broadcasting Board has made a point of reserving a period regularly for talks on current events, and the large army of listeners has been well supplied with comment, which is in all cases the result of wide knowledge and mature judgment, although perforce free of what may be deemed "controversial." Next Wednesday night Mr. Callan will deliver the first of his series from 2YA, a talk on world affairs which should be the forerunner of many an interesting twenty minutes for the earnest student and the "armchair" critic alike.

JOHN BARTHOLOMEW CALLAN hails from Dunedin, where he practised for more than 20 years as a barrister and solicitor. He was born in that southern city in 1882. By 1906 he had attained his B.A. and LL.B. degrees at the University of Otago, and became a partner in the firm of Callan and Gallaway the following year, when his father retired, and later he became senior partner. He was lecturer in torts and Dean of the Faculty of Law, Otago, a former president of the Otago Law Society and the Otago Athletic Association, and a vice-president of the Dunedin Returned Soldiers' Association. He served during the Great War with the N.Z.E.F. as captain in the 3rd Battalion of the N.Z.R.B. He has long been known as a keen student of national and international affairs, and his appointment for the 2YA talks is worthy of the example left by Dr. Scholefield. Mr. W. S. Wauchop is acting-chief Parliamentary Librarian in Dr. Scholefield's absence.

UNTIL last Saturday night it did not occur to me what a great difference there is between American comedians and English comedians over the air. Lupino Lane, that dumpy, kiss-curl acrobatic funster, inspired the thought. From 2YA came two items by this artist, the first of his to which I had listened in. His singing voice would never be mistaken for Richard Tauber's or Lawrence Tibbett's, but his pieces went with a gaiety and

swing which were irresistible. The two songs, particularly "Shirts," were comic enough in themselves, but those who listened to the Lane numbers must have been struck by the sole English presentation of the humour. I tried to imagine an American comedian putting the same items over the air—and I appreciate American comedians—but there would not have been the same fun in them by a long way. By the way, for the benefit of those who listened to the items, "noogah" is pronounced "noogah."

TWO well-known Dunedin radio personalities visited Wellington last week. They were Mr. R. Walls, owner of 4ZM, and Mr. A. E. Green, president of the listeners' Club connected with that station, both of whom interviewed the Postmaster-General regarding the proposed amendments to the Broadcasting Bill. Mr. Walls left for Hastings, while Mr. Green, after interviewing various persons in Christchurch interested in B. stations, proceeded to Dunedin.

NOW that the rush of national tours by visiting and New Zealand artists has temporarily died down, there is another feature of the national programmes about to start which will probably have as wide a field of listeners as many of the talented performers who have been heard for the last few months. The strange part about the feature is that it is recorded—the "Causes of War" series. Elsewhere in this issue they are introduced to the public by the "radio Record," so brief mention only is called for in these notes. The sequence will be as follows:—Monday from 1YA, Tuesday of the following week from 2YA, Tuesday of the third week from 3YA, and Thursday of the fourth week from 4YA. Each station will have the same talk once, and there are eleven in all. Whether you are pacifist or bellicose, the series is sure to interest you, for in at least one of the talks you will probably find something with which you agree heartily even if you do dub some of the speakers fools according to your own lights—none of them are considered fools in England. These talks on "The Causes of War" will undoubtedly cause a few minor wars of words among listeners.

FEW people have been honoured by such a farewell as was extended to Lord Bledisloe and Lady Bledisloe

on Thursday last week at the Wellington. Everything came through clearly, and the thunder of applause during, before and after the speeches conveyed an unusual thrill to listeners. Then the following morning the station was on the air at nine o'clock for the first time in a long time to describe the arrival of the vice-regal party at the wharf and the actual departure. The microphone was installed in a good position, and listeners could picture the scene without much effort. Next thing will be the arrival of our new Governor-General, Lord Galway, next month.

JERUSALEM the Golden, with milk and honey blessed, is now to be blessed or cursed with a broadcasting station. The aerials will go up about seven miles north of the city. The station will be operated by the Palestine Department of Posts and Telegraphs, and installed by the Marconi Company.

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