

Hot Shots

Editorial Notes

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EASTER saw the start of a Galsworthy Festival in London. Five plays are being presented.

PROGRESS reports on the municipal elections in Dunedin and suburbs are to be handled on May 8 by 4YA.

LITTLEBOURNE HOUSE, Dunedin, home of the late Sir John Roberts, may be used to house several Otago literary collections.

THE Hongi Club, an association of New Zealanders at Oxford, is becoming a definite force in the life of the university.

WITH the end of Summer Time, Dunedin listeners are beginning to enjoy almost nightly reception of the Australian stations again.

ARRANGEMENTS have been made for a military parade in Dunedin on May 6 as part of the King's jubilee celebrations.

NELSON College old boys are protesting vigorously against the proposal to rebuild the college (wrecked in the Murchison 'quake of 1929) in wood.

TIBES, chocolates, cigarettes and china have all appeared in New Zealand shops bearing the British coat of arms in honour of the King's Jubilee.

AUCKLAND Hospital Board received £262 from the Justice Department for Dr. Walter Gilmour's work in the Bayly case. Dr. Gilmour will get £60.

ONE of Nelson's hoary-headed, but favourite jokes is how the Boulder Bank at the harbour entrance was thrown up by a Scotsman who dropped threepence in the harbour.

IN addition to Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Wilson giving their Takapuna home for the use of crippled children, four other members of the Wilson family have contributed £10,000 to the fund.

SINCE Prohibition ended in America, "Cruises to Nowhere"—being luxury liners taking passengers outside the 12-mile limit for a "good old binge"—have waned in popularity.

AUCKLAND'S Gospel ship, Israel, has been burned, uninsured. In a newspaper advertisement the owner offers to play the steel guitar at concerts to raise funds for rebuilding the ship.

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EXIT THE CONCERTINA

WITH the pushing ahead of New Zealand's many electric power schemes broadcasting is spreading its net in the remotest corners of the Dominion. Where two years ago the organ in the church hall and a few concertinas and wheezy gramophones provided the only music the community knew, to-day the finest orchestras of Europe and America are bringing to country folk a fuller realisation of overseas culture. Wherever one goes in country districts to-day the story is the same: electric light was installed; a radio salesman followed swift on its heels; the farmer, perhaps distrustful of these new-fangled gadgets, and thinking of a dwindling bank balance, protests that he doesn't want the "durned thing on the place"; the salesman talks hard and is finally allowed to leave the set for a week; he comes back at the end of that time and finds more worshippers at the shrine of the Great God Radio.

In England some consternation is being felt at the fact that the spread of broadcasting, with its careful pronunciation and university-trained announcers, is killing the county dialects. New Zealand has no dialects to worry about, although one frequently hears appallingly bad speech in many quarters. If broadcasting can do anything to combat this evil it will be doing the country a very real service.

MANY A TRUE WORD

A SIGNIFICANT remark cropped up during the private screening in Wellington the other evening of the British film, "Radio Parade of 1935." One of the characters was made to remark to the Director-General of a mythical broadcasting station, "The trouble is that you're organising all the entertainment out of radio."

There seems more than a grain of truth in this, applied to-day to broadcasting the whole world over. Ten years ago it was a new toy—it was fun discovering that this combination of instruments sounded better over the air than that; that the singer who lacked a concert-hall face was "pretty hot" in front of the microphone; that this song and that song tickled the fancies of a growing listening public. To-day, broadcasting is a stern business with various departments dealing efficiently and granite-eyed with their many tasks. Someone has said that passing a flippant remark in Broadcasting House would be like introducing Can-Can dancers into Westminster Abbey. Which would suggest that there's something wrong at the microphone end of this broadcasting business.

The broadcasting authorities are in just such a position of responsibility toward the entertainment-loving public as are C. B. Cochran and Samuel Goldwyn and—to come nearer home—J. C. Williamson. These people have taken risks to the tune of hundreds of thousands of pounds. Sometimes, as in the case of Cochran's production of "Mayfair and Montmartre" some years ago, the money has been lost, but most of the risks have been justified and, year after year, the public has been given something a little different. Broadcasting, too, must be willing to take risks if it is to keep its public.

LONDON GOES TOURING

NEXT week London becomes a magic carpet, transporting itself through the broadcasting ether to the remotest corners of the earth. The King's Jubilee is the biggest thing that the British Broadcasting Corporation has attempted and, in bringing the surge and glamour of the metropolis into the homes of a million exiled Englishmen, it is doing yeoman work in forging those "bonds of Empire" about which everyone talks so much and does so little. The New Zealand Broadcasting Board has been in negotiation with Broadcasting House, London, for some time, and it is now able to announce a link-up for the principal events of Jubilee Week. If ingenuity, hard work and perseverance on the part of engineers and programme organisers count for anything, next week should prove the highlight of the radio year.

A NEW mystery film is described in an American paper as "another Whodunit."

"MISERY FARM" is the name of a house in Devonport, Auckland. Its number is 13, too!

EMPIRE WEEK in Christchurch will be marked by a big procession of new cars from British manufacturers.

NOTICE outside a Wellington suburban church last week: "Wedding to-night. Seats free. No collection."

SEEN outside a theatre in the north; "Gary Cooper in 'Lives of a Bengal Dancer.'"

TO have played golf on 20 South Island links during Easter is the boast of a well-known Wellington airman.

HARRY THURSTON had a lot to say last week to the Christchurch newspapers about broadcasting in New Zealand.

FROM a tiny mud-flat settlement, Mapua, Nelson, has developed in a few years into the biggest apple-exporting port in the country.

"LEE FORE BRACE" (Mr. Forbes Eadie), well-known broadcaster of sea stories, is an aspirant for Auckland municipal honours.

AN ex-inspector of police and three members of the Communist Party figure as candidates at the Auckland City Council elections.

MARRIED "over the air" a few weeks ago, an Auckland husband was arrested last week on a charge of burning his wife with an iron.

GENERAL BOOTH had some very nice things to say about Lord Galway in Wellington at the week-end.

THE whole of the Nelson province is divided into camps over the proposal to establish hydro-electric works in the Cobb Valley, near Mount Arthur.

A WELL-KNOWN young Wairarapa station-holder, pensively scratching his back with a carving knife, inflicted a wound that required four stitches!

HOW many know that Mellington, the small settlement beyond Lower Hutt, was named after a foreman in the factory where "Dick" Seddon worked at St. Helens, Lancashire, before coming to New Zealand?