

AUCKLAND NOTES.

Jean Batten Across the World

Auckland Aviatrix Broadcast From Daventry Picked Up Well in New Zealand — "Uncle Scrim's" Life Story — English Contralto's Tour — Farmers and Breakfast Sessions.

THE special rebroadcast from the Empire short-wave station of a talk by Miss Jean Batten, the young Auckland aviatrix, who concluded a record-breaking return to England from Australia, was easily the most successful ever heard in Auckland. In fact it was much better than the rebroadcast of the recent Royal wedding last year. Miss Batten's speech, lasting seven minutes, was 100 per cent. receivable. In a most graphic manner she described the many storms she encountered on the journey, which unfortunately toward the end was dogged by bad luck and delays owing to engine trouble. Jean sent greetings to her many friends in New Zealand and Australia. Her talk was given without the slightest hesitancy and her words were well chosen. To perform the broadcast, Miss Batten had to be at the B.B.C. studios at 5.30 a.m.

THE publication, "Hello, Everybody," which "Uncle Scrim" instituted as a side line in his operations on the Friendly Road, has within the last few months, grown from a practically

obscure pamphlet into a booklet of an important circulation of five thousand — this mainly on account of "The Life Story of Uncle Scrim," a biography by Harry Bell, which is featured in the form of April, May, June and July issues. Unorthodox the story undoubtedly is, but it settles the controversy on "Scrim's" past life, while at the same time illustrating that after all there is much to commend the school of experience and hard knocks from which he graduated. The publication is being distributed only from the Friendly Road.

A CONTROVERSIAL question in the radio sphere is whether stringed instruments are at all suited to radio broadcast. Before the microphone, the general rule is that a tunelessness is the result, even from what are considered expert exponents. However, the "South Seas Islanders," who broadcast from 1ZB, use two steel guitars, a Spanish guitar and two banjos and have managed to rise above the usual disability. Mr. Les Hart, who coached the other members of the quintet, has made a long study of the broadcasting of stringed instruments and he avers that harmonising is the keynote of suc-

cess. His opinion must be right, judging by the way the studio telephones were shrilling with request numbers after last week's half-hour broadcast. Exclusive artists to this station, the "South Seas Islanders" will be heard again in the near future.

COMMUNITY singing was a very popular feature in Auckland last year, but for some time lately there has been a temporary cessation of these functions. All the more welcome therefore, should be the Friendly Road community sings arranged for May 17 and 24 in the Auckland Town Hall. A choir of 350 Knights and Ladies of the Sponge is assiduously practising for the occasion, and with novelty features such as animal costumes, native boys, etc., a 100 per cent. show is assured. Already reservations are being arranged.

ANOTHER new artist has been booked to sing from 1YA. This is Madame Margaret Mercer, contralto, an English vocalist who is residing at Naples. Her first appearance in the studio will be made on Sunday next at 8.45 p.m., when her numbers will include "Softly Awakes My Heart" and "Ye Power That Dwell" (Lake). On the following Wednesday night, from the same station, Madame Mercer will again be heard in Schubert's "Linden Tree" and "Silent Moon."

FARMERS are complaining that they are not getting full advantage for their radio sets. At a meeting of the Matamata branch of the Farmers' Union last week members said the present breakfast session starting at 7 a.m. was no good whatever to farmers. It was agreed that the Broadcasting Board should be approached to arrange that one station in each island should be kept in action from 8.30 to 10 a.m. every day. One member explained that many farmers' wives who were busy with breakfast and getting the children away to school would appreciate an extension to 10 a.m.

THE departure of "Uncle Scrim" (the Rev. C. G. Scrimgeour), director of the Friendly Road station, 1ZM, for Australia, is to be fittingly featured by the station and its many supporters. By popular demand it has been arranged that the final Sunday evening broadcast by him shall be a public service from the Town Hall on May 12. Listeners have cause to remember the packed Town Hall on the occasion last year when a service there concluded the day's anniversary celebrations at which 20,000 people attended. The Friendly Road choir, considerably augmented, will assist "Uncle Scrim" in what is to be a bumper service, broadcast as a grand finale before he leaves to spend three months in inaugurating the Friendly Road in Australia.

Causes of War

Sir Norman Angell says:

Everybody wants peace, and everybody drifts towards war.

Security for one means automatically insecurity for another.

You can never be sure that you have equated the balance of power.

Whether our armament are adequate or inadequate depends entirely on what they are going to meet. Adequacy depends upon who is with you and who against you.

Every one of those wars in which Britain has been engaged for 1000 years has been fought in someone else's country.

We are putting our might not behind right, as we may sincerely enough have supposed, but behind the denial of right.

We are genuinely convinced that our power could never be used for an injustice in the world.

Germans are no more fit to be the judges of their cause than we are.

Householders were infinitely less secure many years ago when they had their blunderbusses in their rooms. There were then more highwaymen than to-day, when practically no householder has a firearm in the home.

We pay our police rates not only to protect ourselves, but to protect

that blighter Smith next door, whom we loathe.

In international politics we still believe in individual defence. Yet one outstanding lesson of the War was that freedom from commitment did not keep us out.

If Germany had known that she would have 22 nations against her, there would have been no war.

We must make up our minds beforehand what will cause us to fight and what will not.

What is the law we should defend in common? The law that no nation should go to war.

You cannot protect your life and trade merely by protecting your goods.

Material is only wealth if you can get rid of it. The Welsh miner cannot eat his coal.

If the dwindling of trade goes on, there will be only cruisers on their routes.

If you would preserve peace in our time and for your children, I would urge you to study whether the non-commitment of 1914 or the commitment of the Covenant is the better way, and then express faith in the national declaration now being organised.