

WELLINGTON NOTES

“Broadcast Sets Are Finished—”

All Black Tour Has Sounded the Death-knell on Ordinary Broadcast Band Sets—Interesting Theory About “Mary Celeste”—“Verdict” Series Nearly Perfect—Silly Symphonies.

BBROADCAST sets are finished,” said a leading light in Wellington's radio trade, to a “Radio Record” representative the other day. “Sales of broadcast sets have faded right into the background, in fact, in comparison with other types. Only one is sold to every nine of the dual-wave and all-wave machines. Dual-wave, which only covered from 19 to 50 metres on the shortwave band, began to take the place of broadcast sets and are, in their turn, being overshadowed by machines of the all-wave type. At first dual and all-wave sets were inclined to be very broad in their tuning, but owing to experience gained by earlier mistakes, the modern all-waver does not suffer in the slightest from the lack of selectivity. In fact, the separation of the Los Angeles station KFI and the powerful Auckland station 1YA, formerly considered very difficult to separate owing to padding between shortwave and broadcast circuits has now been mastered. Shortwave in particular will be improved in the future by the adoption of the double type of tuning condenser which has separate sections for each wavelength. The sale of all-wave sets owes a marked percentage of its stimulus to the coming football tour, no doubt because of the anticipation which followers of Rugby show in being able to follow direct the tour of the All Blacks throughout England.”

ON Sunday night “The Mary Celeste” was presented from 3YA Christchurch and rebroadcast by the Wellington and Dunedin YA stations. It was a most interesting entertainment and held listeners in its grip every minute that it was being enacted. Produced by Professor James Shelley and Company this radio presentation was excellent, and full credit is due to all concerned. L. Du Garde Peach wrote the radio play version. It is interesting to note at this point the theory given by an old sea captain to a Wellington citizen on the mystery of the 282 ton half-rig ship Mary Celeste. According to him, it was all a swindle arranged between the captain of the Mary Celeste and another sea captain who had shares in the vessel. The crew were bribed to leave the ship and from then on to keep their mouths tightly closed about the whole incident. This was done to enable the share-owning captain to collect the insurance which was heavy, on the brigantine. The crew, after leaving the ship, perhaps didn't dare to break the silence owing to a threat of a charge of desertion, which was regarded almost as serious as mutiny, being laid against them.

ON Friday last, the last of the present series of the “We Await Your Verdict” broadcasts was presented. These

have been of considerable interest to listeners as they have given a fairly clear conception of court proceedings, as well as proving a very enjoyable entertainment. According to a prominent Wellington solicitor, these trials must have entailed a considerable amount of trouble on the part of Ellis Price, the author. He said that from a legal point of view they were pretty nearly perfect, and that there was probably a staff of lawyers or law students to fathom out or correct the legal points of the cases presented. The “We Await Your Verdict” series aroused considerable interest amongst the listening public. Every household is a jury, and the verdicts sent in to the Broadcasting Board amount to quite a large number after each trial is presented. There have been several requests from listeners asking for the reasons of the verdict to be broadcast, but that has been found impracticable as time and space would not permit it, as nearly every reply contains a slightly different reason for the verdict.

TALKIE-GOERS who stayed away from the pictures last Saturday night and listened into 2YA probably enjoyed the recorded item that was a collection or medley taken from some of Walt Disney's Mickey Mouse and Silly Symphony Cartoons. It is re-

markable how the “Silly Symphony” hits have taken on from time to time, and have proved themselves worth broadcasting occasionally from records. Without their original presentation “dress”—a clever and amusing coloured cartoon—these tunes in themselves would seldom be remembered for even a couple of weeks. Their association with bright entertainment on the screen, however, has popularised the jumpy little ditties, and when one has seen the cartoon with which they were introduced, the repetition of the music is always full of memories of amused grins. So the “Three Little Pigs” tune “Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf” is the most famous of the Silly Symphony “theme songs,” and the latest popular number is perhaps “The Wise Little Hen,” cleverly finished off with neat orchestration and a singer who can cackle while he sings. Silly? Yes. But they're quite good fun.

HOCKEY enthusiasts and all sport lovers were able to hear last Friday night, the eve of the second test, All-India v. New Zealand, Mr. B. Doctor, of the Indian hockey team, give a very entertaining talk on “Sport in India,” and on the Saturday afternoon Norman Jacobsen carried out a good running commentary from Athletic Park for the 2YA broadcast.

“Rugged Individualism—That's Us”

Sir Benjamin Fuller on Stage and Films

“**RUGGED** individualism—that's us,” said Sir Benjamin Fuller, head of the famous theatrical concern, to a “Radio Record” representative in Wellington the other day in reply to the question as to whether the proposed amalgamations between various Australian and New Zealand theatre companies would affect Fullers. “I think the big companies in Australia have enough worries of their own—financial and otherwise—without breaking in on the New Zealand market.”

“Are you seriously considering putting legitimate shows back into your New Zealand theatres?”

“I cannot tell you anything definite on that score, although it is highly improbable that we will run regular shows as we did in the main centres in pre-talkie days. Australia, theatrically speaking, is the dog. New Zealand is the tail—and you can't have the tail wagging the dog. We are keeping a close watch on the Australian market, and this country will experience the reaction, whatever it might be, sooner or later. But old-time vaudeville will not come back. In the whole of New York there isn't a vaudeville theatre to-day, and in London there are about three. There's nothing in the rumour that we are putting flesh-and-blood into the Prince Edward Theatre in Auckland.

“I'm more than satisfied with the way things are shaping in New Zealand. We are making several big forward moves—no, I'm not ready to discuss them yet, but they'll be interesting.”