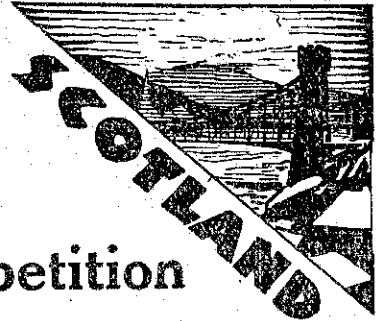


"The Giftie Gie Us.."

Scottish Idea Wins Prize In Second Theme Programme Competition



FOR the second week of the "Radio Record's" Theme Programme Competition, the prize of 10/6 has been awarded to the suggestions for "A Night with Robert Burns and Some of His Friends." The prize-winning entry is not, however, a series of Burns poems and songs. Considerable thought has been given by the winner to adapting a vivid and tuneful scene to satisfactory condition for radio presentation.

THIS week's contributions to the competition were varied in their nature both in the subjects to be treated, and in their method of treatment.

With what we have had broadcast already in New Zealand, listeners have undoubtedly come to expect some sort of narrative either by a story of some

kind or else by description of vivid-scenes and personalities, and it is difficult to find sufficient of either in Nature unadorned to hold an hour's music and narration together.

The best entry we consider to be that of Mr. B. Anderson, Ros-siter Avenue, Lower Hutt. His suggestions are made thus, under the

heading "The Giftie Gie us."

I have in mind a programme of Burns's songs and Scottish music adapted from the novel "Nancy Stair," a story of a beautiful poetess, and an episode in the life of Robert Burns. Nancy is caught in a snowstorm and is compelled to stay with her maid and an old spinster friend at the King's Arms Inn, Mauchline. There she meets Robert Burns, and is fascinated by the bright-eyed ploughman poet, whose name and fame were ringing throughout the Scottish countryside. He and his friend Hamilton are also storm-bound, so they make merry and while away the long hours with rhyming, music, dance and song.

Nancy's gipsy blood is fired and thrilled, and she becomes more and more infatuated with the happy, merry poet.

While the pipers play and the young folk dance, Jean Armour--Burns's light-o'-love sweetheart--appears. There is a dramatic scene between Burns and Jean Armour.

Nancy and her friends leave in disgust, the men have one more drink and then—"Auld Lang Syne."

The records chosen for the programme are: "Scots Wha Ha'e," "Call'er Herrin," "Sing Tae Me the Auld Scotch Songs" (duet), "Ye Banks and Braes," "Duncan Grey," "Two Bonnie Blue E'en," "Will Ye no' Come Back Again?" "Highland Fling," "Bonnie Mary of Argyle," "Flow Gently, Sweet Afton," and "Auld Lang Syne."

The "Theme Programme" Competition will be judged weekly for another two weeks, and a prize of half-a-guinea is to be awarded each week to the contributor of the best effort submitted for the week. Entries should be confined to within 250 words, written on one side of the paper. Entries will not be eligible which are received after Thursday, July 18, for the last week of the competition. Address to:

The Editor,

"N.Z. Radio Record,"

G.P.O. Box 1680,

Wellington.

Mark envelope "Theme Programme."

Frank Perrin At His Best In Negro Items

THIS is the age of specialists. But have you ever thought what that means? The man who trains in one line and sticks to it has to keep going at one thing for a lifetime. The man who can turn on a variety of "special" qualifications has the advantage.

Frank Perrin is one of them. He dropped in to the "Radio Record" office the other day, and was guided into a quiet corner for a few minutes. He was not asked to pour out his soul, but he was asked just what he liked doing. You all know Frank Perrin, of course. Even if you haven't seen him on the stage when he was here with J. C. Williamson some years ago during the Harry Lauder season, you will have heard him from the national studios by now.

Well, Frank said that he had been on the stage since he was 18 years old—and that's thirty years ago. Ever since then he has been a comedian. Not a two-reel "slapstick" artist, either. He understudied the famous George Robey in "The Bing Boys," he has played comedy roles in French in

France (yes, even in the Folies Bergere), and Spanish in Spain. He has been on three long tours of America. And a man doesn't survive thirty years in comedy roles if he isn't a comedian.



FRANK PERRIN, as he appeared with a partner in Australia in "blackface" broadcasts.

But when he was asked what he really liked doing for radio work, he didn't hesitate. He likes "blackface stuff." This was no surprise, though, because we had heard him in a number last week from 2YA, and it was worth hearing again. After a while he admitted that he had made a rattling good success of negro stuff in Australia for more than a year before he came to New Zealand on his present tour. For these turns he had a partner, and they called themselves "Tunein and Hearus." Frank didn't say whether he was Mr. Tunein or Mr. Hearus, but from his recent performances he would have entertained happily as either.

After the series of Moran and Mack and Amos 'n' Andy in recordings there has been a dearth of good nigger humour over the air, so if Frank Perrin can keep on delivering the goods as he did from 2YA—or with a partner—well, Frank, go to it!