

Hot Shots

Editorial Notes

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NEW way of ordering black or white coffee: "Will you have Abyssinian or Italian?"

N.Z.'s provincial papers made a much bigger "splash" of the outbreak of war than the metropolitan dailies.

WITH the really hot summer days still some distance away Canterbury farmers are already praying for rain.

THERE are 47 licensed houses in Wellington today; 50 years ago there were 67.

SAID General Smuts the other week: I do not think mankind is in the mood for another world war.

RUMOUR has it that a member of the Governor General's suite will shortly return to England.

A NOTICE in a Wellington chain store read, "Efficiency is our Watchword." But spelling isn't!

MR. MEREDITH'S management of the All Blacks was the subject of a biting article in last week's "Sporting Life."

SEVERAL versions of the shooting affair at Lower Hutt are being recounted in Wellington.

THERE was a pleasing candour about the young man who told his partner at a dance last week that "nobody in Wellington likes me."

"STOWING AWAY" is becoming fashionable. A young woman arrived from London recently in this fashion, and a youth from Sydney.

FINGERNAILS painted scarlet, gold, silver, green and blue were seen among the feminine portion of a recent Wellington dinner party.

THERE is talk of a commercial broadcasting company coming into operation in England. The B.B.C. at present has a monopoly but its charter expires in a few months.

CHERNIAVSKY has been signed up by Station 2UW, Sydney, for two half-hour broadcasts a week for six months.

THE Clydesdale section in the Christchurch Horse Parade drew from the judge the comment, "The best display in 20 years."

DUNEDIN lost its veteran journalist, Mr T. J. Walker, last week. Mr. Walker was for many years a co-worker with Thomas Bracken in a Dunedin printing office.

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VIEWS CHANGE QUICKLY

WITH war raging furiously in Africa the "Causes of War" talks which have been broadcast from the national stations in the last month or two take on a new meaning, and it would be well, when more are broadcast, that the exact circumstances and time of the recording be explained to the listener. For instance Lord Beaverbrook's talk, actually delivered in England about 12 months ago, appears hopelessly out-of-date in view of the present crisis. He is one of the few great English newspaper owners who is against the League of Nations, having preached a doctrine of isolation in his journals. But the events of the past few weeks have caused him to modify his views and his latest pronouncement is that, whatever our personal opinions, we must all stand behind the British Government in whatever it decides to do. His recorded talk, broadcast from the New Zealand stations, gives no hint of this new and more reasonable attitude.

SPOTLIGHT FOR BEECHAM

"SAY what you like about me—but be sure to mention my name," George M. Cohan, the famous American theatrical man, once said to an interviewer. Into the same realm of publicity-seeking comes Sir Thomas Beecham, who seems to be vying with Mussolini, Hitler, Lloyd George and Sir Alexander Herdman for the limelight. Sir Thomas, who was stated to be coming out to New Zealand with his own orchestra some time ago, made England ring recently with his attacks on the B.B.C.. It all began over a broadcast version of "Hansel and Gretel" which Sir Thomas condemned most heartily. He then proceeded to attack the B.B.C. on the grounds that it was killing musical appreciation in England, that it was misleading the listening public—and much more in the same vein. And now his latest stunt. On the last night of the Russian Ballet at Covent Garden Sir Thomas came out of the orchestra well on to the stage and announced, "Ladies and gentlemen, I and the orchestra thought we would play you the following little piece. We thought you would probably like to hear the following little piece. But, as a matter of fact, I don't care whether you like to hear the following little piece or not. **WE ARE GOING TO PLAY IT!**" Which would indicate either that Sir Thomas Beecham's star is waning and that he must keep it gleaming at any cost or that the adulation of a concert-going public has gone to his leonine head.

MACHIAVELLI'S DISCIPLE

THE following are some extracts from a little-known study of Mussolini, written by Sir Charles Petrie, Bart, M.A., foreign editor of "The English Review":

Perhaps Mussolini's most marked personal characteristic, just as his eyes are his most prominent physical one, is his extraordinary ability to dissociate in any question the important from the trivial. . . . If one were asked what was Mussolini's most prominent characteristic, apart from his genius, the answer must be his encyclopaedic knowledge: knowledge of affairs, of books, and, above all, of his own fellow-countrymen. . . .

One is often asked what is the attitude of Mussolini toward the League of Nations, and it is a question that is easily answered. During the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the advent of Fascism to power, he referred to the League as a very sick person whose bedside it was impossible to leave, and Italy has always been ready to collaborate with other nations at Geneva. So long as the League is content to be a mere piece of diplomatic machinery it is assured of the full support of Mussolini, but he will not tolerate for one moment the conception of it as a super-State. National sovereignty is to him, the disciple of Machiavelli, the outward and visible sign of a country's power, and he will not abdicate it. . . .

WELLINGTON'S St. James Theatre now has its entire facade outlined in Neon lights, mostly red.

THE Canterbury Women's Club celebrated its 22nd birthday last week.

SIX couples were married by Uncle Scrim in the studio of station 1ZB the Saturday before last.

PERCY GRAINGER, the latest acquisition to broadcasting in New Zealand, is a self-taught pianist, it is reported.

SONG for somebody with a few thousand in his pocket: "Oh, to be in England Ere the Armament Shares go Boom!"

A FILM showing a parade of Abyssinian troops, screened in Wellington last week, was received with sympathetic applause.

SLIP on announcer's part: "A meeting of the Society for the Prevention of Women and Children was held to-day."

A LARGE Auckland manufacturing concern, manufacturing two factories in the suburbs, is shortly combining both establishments and the head office, removing all three to a new building on the city waterfront.

THE Great South Road Beautifying Society (Auckland) is to erect an old time smithy near Papakura, to commemorate the pioneer blacksmiths of the province.

ONE of the Democrat candidates last week in Auckland gave a big cocktail party in honour of the party leader, Mr. T. C. A. H'slop, who made his first big policy speech there.

PPRIVATE screenings of big movies are all the rage on Sunday evenings in Auckland at present. The invitation cards for the Grace Moore picture stipulated evening dress.

THOSE who went to Sir Alexander Herdman's first Auckland meeting last week hoping there would be "some fun" were greatly disappointed. It was very orderly.

TWO hearty sneezes by some person near the microphone during the theatre relay of Grace Moore, from 2YA last Saturday, came through with perfect clarity.

MR. R. COLLETT NORMAN has been appointed chairman of the B.B.C. in succession to the late Lord Bridge-man for the remaining term of the corporation's present charter.