

Hot Shots

MUSSOLINI'S war is an Ethiopiate for the Italian people.

AMERICAN highway sign: This is God's country. Don't drive like hell.

"ADOWA Retaken" said a poster. Now, who had it yesterday—Italy or Abyssinia?

A NEWSREEL showing Mussolini inspecting his troops was hooted in an Auckland theatre the other evening.

A HASTINGS woman wrote asking if she could enter her little boy in the "Radio Record's" Shirley Temple contest.

GLADYS MONCRIEFF, who has accepted a contract with Amalgamated Theatres, will now remain in New Zealand till the end of March.

THE old drinking fountain on Sumner Road, Christchurch, erected in 1888, is to be put in working order again.

MADGE ELLIOTT and Cyril Ritchard were guests of honour at a business girls' lunch in Auckland this week.

AN enterprising schoolboy sold his case of measles at sixpence a time to other boys so that they could stay away from school.

GOLFING Christchurch flocked to the opening of the golf tournament, played in perfect weather.

AUCKLAND had hoped to catch a glimpse of Madge Elliott's famous wedding gown in the mannequin scene in "Roberta," but it was not forthcoming.

WORK on the new 4YA is well up to time, and there should be no difficulty about opening before Christmas.

THE new telegraph office at Ellerslie racecourse was opened for the first time last Saturday, when the spring meeting was held.

"I AM not a vaudeville artist," said Bishop Hilliard, of Nelson, when he was encored at a Synod meeting in Auckland last week after telling a funny story.

THE "Herald," Auckland, recently lost its Parliamentary reporter to Melbourne. Yet another member of the Press gallery has received an offer from Australia.

Editorial Notes

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A NEW LIBRARY

THE British Broadcasting Corporation has recently added another to its unique collection of libraries—a library in which are collected the records that already possess historical interest, as well as many that will undoubtedly gain that interest in years to come. This library should be of value to the whole Empire, and we hope that the time is not far distant when the New Zealand Broadcasting Board will see fit to add such a library—both recordings of New Zealand events and copies of the B.B.C.'s recordings—to its own services.

Growing steadily and continuously, the B.B.C.'s library is now being built up with a dual purpose; to cater for the immediate needs of special broadcasts, and to preserve records of personalities and events that will form the material for future broadcasts. And it may well be in the first rather than in the second of these categories that posterity will find the really significant memorial of this age. Records of the voices of great men and women, of speeches made on historic occasions, will always have a vivid interest, but they are after all only memorials of things that history will preserve in many other ways. Among the records of ordinary life and activity, however, is being built up a picture that could hardly be presented in any other way. Records of racecourses and fairs, of railwaymen and shipwrights and holiday crowds, are preserving the most intangible things, things that fade from our memories as the pattern of life leaves them imperceptibly behind. It may be that the most important thing the records preserve will be the thing that eludes historians and that no research can lay bare: the authentic accents of the common man.

KING OF ENGLAND

NEXT week IYA presents a programme entitled "Highlights on the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of his Majesty, King George the Fifth." This programme will arouse in New Zealand people an even greater feeling of love and trust in a man who is great, not because he is imbued with any of the ambitions of a Napoleon or a Mussolini, but because he is a characteristic example of the great British middle class. The following are a few extracts from a recent article in "Fortune," the American monthly, entitled "The King of England":

George V is successful because he is the king for whom the British constitution has been waiting from its earliest days. The British constitution requires a king who shall "reign but not govern." Its fundamental principle is that of ministerial responsibility. . . . To place an ambitious man of strong intellectual passions in such a position would obviously be to invite disaster. Either a Napoleon or a Jefferson on the British throne would destroy the throne and himself.

Nothing that has ever been said of him has disturbed him more than the occasional statement that he is a foreigner. During the war one of his Ministers found him throwing a book upon the floor in a sailor's rage. "That's not fair," he said. The Minister picked up the book, Wells's "Mr. Britling Sees It Through," and the King's finger pointed to a statement about England stumbling blindly along under an uninspiring and alien Court. "I know I'm uninspiring," shouted the King, "but I'm everlastingly damned if I'm an alien." And he was right. . . .

He still has a trick of talking at the top of his voice like a man conversing in a high wind, and still has a fondness for language which his biographers unctuously describe as "honest sailor talk" or "innocent oaths of the sea." There is a taste of salt in the testiness of many of his sayings, such as the famous rebuke to Lord Derby, who was so rash as to visit Buckingham Palace in trousers with turned-up cuffs, a tailor's trick detested by his sovereign: "I did not know," barked the King, "that the corridors of my palace were muddy." . . .

George V has never attempted to be a "ruler" and he needs no such attribute. Few monarchs have ever so enjoyed the human love of their people. Even in Canada and Australia the King's illness, and more recently the Silver Jubilee, let loose a flood of sentiment. The basis of that affection is not George's regality as a monarch, but his simplicity as a man. . . .

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A CANNY Dunedin firm is inserting a war clause in all its tenders.

SIGN on a Taranaki farmer's gate: Eggs laid while you wait.

BLACK swans have put in an appearance in Lyttelton harbour.

NEW ZEALAND'S second largest theatre, the Dunedin Empire, has been leased by Fullers.

THE educational session from 4YA last Thursday took precedence over the Wingatui races, one event not being broadcast.

FIELD FISHER, comedian, who played in "Going Up" in 1920, has prominent parts in the J.C.W. productions in Auckland.

LAST week the Broadcasting Board's old IYA studio, in France Street, was demolished.

ASKED what he thought of the two candidates for a certain Auckland seat, a citizen replied, "Well, I'm thankful only one can be elected."

GOVERNMENT House, Wellington, has a busy weekend scheduled—a big ball on Friday, October 25, and a cocktail party given by the aides the next day.

THE Japanese are selling bottled beer in Germany for less than German brewers pay for empty bottles.

POTATOES have disappeared from the counter lunches in many Auckland hotels. "They're 18/10/- a ton now," explained one barmaid.

INTERESTING disclosures are expected when the proprietor of an Auckland cafe, raided by police recently, comes before the court.

AUCKLAND restaurant keeper recently fined £50 for sly-grogging, has obtained a license for a membership club which is now operating successfully.

THE Dunedin Little Theatre Society will next month present "The White Chateau," which should prove that all chateaux are not as black as they're painted.

THE famous American Campbell Soup Company deliberately advertises "21 kinds of soup to choose from," and then lists 22. Each year since 1931 thousands of readers have written to the company pointing out the discrepancy, a fact which pleases the company, as it shows its advertisements are being read.