

ers if any of these programme critics ever get control of the programme organisation of the YA stations.—I am, etc.,

THE VOICE OF THE SOUTH.
Invercargill.

What is Correct Maori Pronunciation?

To the Editor.

Sir,—The list of Maori vowel pronunciations supplied by "A Humble Pakeha" gives, as he says, approximate pronunciations of Maori vowel sounds, but it is unfortunate that one who sets out to enlighten an authority such as Mr. Bird should supply a list that gives only half the vowel sounds. A more complete list is as follows:—

The written form "a" represents two different vowel values, as pronounced in the first (short) and second (long) syllables respectively of the pakeha word "papa." Similarly "e" represents either the vowel sound as in the word "send" or as in "fete." The sound of "i" is either long as in "neat" or "machine," or short as in "hit." The form "o" is pronounced either as in "obey" or as in "pole," and "u" either as in "put," or as in "ruby" or "boot."

"A Humble Pakeha" is thus wrong in thinking that it is incorrect to pronounce Maori "e" as the vowel sound in "hay." It may be quite correct, as in the adjective "pena" (meaning "like that"). On the other hand it would be incorrect to pronounce the "e" of the verb "pena" (take care of, tend) in that way, this "e" being short as in "send" or "pet." No pakeha is likely to pronounce Maori correctly simply because he has been told the correct vowel sounds. It takes more schooling to teach correct English pronunciation to English people and even with much schooling many never attain a really good standard. I should be surprised to find that there was even one competent Maori scholar, whether of Maori or pakeha blood, who did not accept the pronunciations of the Maori vowels as given in "The Dictionary of the Maori Language" (fifth edition, Government Printer, 1921), or in "First Lessons in Maori" (seventh edition, 1923), both edited by Bishop Herbert W. Williams, M.A. A reference to these volumes would have enabled "A Humble Pakeha" to make his message of enlightenment a little more complete and consequently a little less misleading.—I am, etc.,

RALPH H. WARD.

The Prophet in His Own Country

To the Editor.

Sir,—Some time ago a chart was prepared by the Broadcasting Board so the station programmes would not clash. From three stations on Monday evenings we have had wrestling; from two stations on Fridays we are treated to chamber music. To-day every national station reports football news that we had read in the morning paper.

This synchronisation is monotonous to many listeners who desire a variety of programmes. Another matter for criticism is the lack of appreciation of New Zealand talent. It was a pleasure to tune in to the finals of the grand opera section of the Wellington Competitions for a concert by the Wanganui Male Voice Choir.

We do not deprecate the overseas talent of Miss Gladys Moncrieff and other eminent artists, but is the time not ripe for us to hear New Zealand talent more frequently? The level of the comedian that arrives from other parts is not com-

parable with comedians we have heard in Maoriland.

Once again it appears that there is truth in the saying about the prophet in his own country. I remember the late Sir Arthur Sullivan mentioning on one occasion that if he had adopted "Sullivanaki" as his professional surname he would have been acclaimed a great musician by his contemporaries, but we guide our judgment upon the basis of "Can any good come out of Nazareth?"—I am, etc.,

MARCUS JAMES.

Hamilton.

Answers To Correspondents

Christen (Gonville): 2YA does not announce the names of preachers in charge of the devotional services at the special desire of the preachers themselves. The Rev. F. E. Leadley conducted the service on Saturday, September 21.

C. D. Parker (Nelson): The regular announcers from 2YA are: Mr. D. A. C. V. Drummond (chief announcer), Mr. K. Collins and Mr. L. C. Hall.

Music Lovers (Thames): Yeh-hoo-dee Mehn-ouheen; Vahl-kii-reh; Bleh-nah Gairhardt; Bo-em.



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