

At present there is some consternation among the Abbey authorities about the music for the Coronation, which will be heard by listeners throughout the world. A few months ago the Westminster Abbey organ, which has been on its last legs for some time past, finally collapsed beyond repair. Since then a grand piano has been used to accompany the choir at all the Abbey services. The B.B.C. has already cancelled its regular Home and Empire broadcasts from the Abbey for an indefinite period. Court and church officials are naturally somewhat concerned at the prospect of having only a grand piano to accompany the Coronation service, and at the present time a hurried appeal is being launched for funds to build a new organ in time for this important ceremony.

While I can as yet obtain no authoritative information, it is commonly rumoured in London radio circles that his Majesty the King will deliver a personal message to his subjects throughout the Empire during the course of the week in which the Coronation takes place.

Meanwhile Gerald Cock, the B.B.C. enthusiastic television chief, is busy examining the possibilities of actually televising the Coronation ceremony. Previously the interior of Westminster Abbey has been banned on all ceremonial occasions to movie cameramen, and only a few still photographers have been allowed entry. This ruling was made on the grounds that the noise made by movie cameras would disturb the solemnity of an important ceremony. From what I hear, there appears to be no grounds for thinking that this ban will be raised on the occasion of the Coronation. Gerald Cock will argue on behalf of the B.B.C. with the Abbey authorities, however, that the iconoscope (television's electric eye) will be no more obtrusive than the ordinary sound microphone used on previous occasions, such as the wedding of the Duke of Kent and Princess Marina. The B.B.C. will probably, in any case, transmit a film taken of the procession to the Abbey shortly after the event.

4ZB, Dunedin

Programmes for Week

Sunday, August 23: 10 a.m.: Selected recordings. 10.30: Short religious service. 11.0: Announcements. 11.5: Light musical programme. 12.0: Close down.

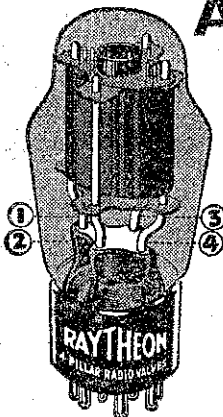
Wednesday, August 26: 6 p.m.: Light musical programme. 6.30: The Smile Family in music, song and verse and the "Music Box" Mouth Organ Band. 7.45: Selected recordings. 8.0: Concert programme: The Berlin State Opera Orchestra, "L'Arlesienne" Suite (Bizet). 8.20: A programme of operatic excerpts. 9.0: Announcements. 9.5: The second of a series of talks on famous criminals by a barrister of the Supreme Court of New Zealand, "Palmer the Poisoner." 9.25: Result of debate held last Wednesday. 9.40: A pianoforte recital. 10.0: Music that pleases. 11.0: Close down.

Thursday, August 27: 6 p.m.: Light dinner music. 7.0: Light vocal and instrumental programme. 8.0: Concert programme: A variety hour. 9.0: Announcements. 9.5: Quentin M. McLean at the organ (in old favourites). 9.20: Ranch favourites and light music. 10.0: Dance music. 11.0: Close down.

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