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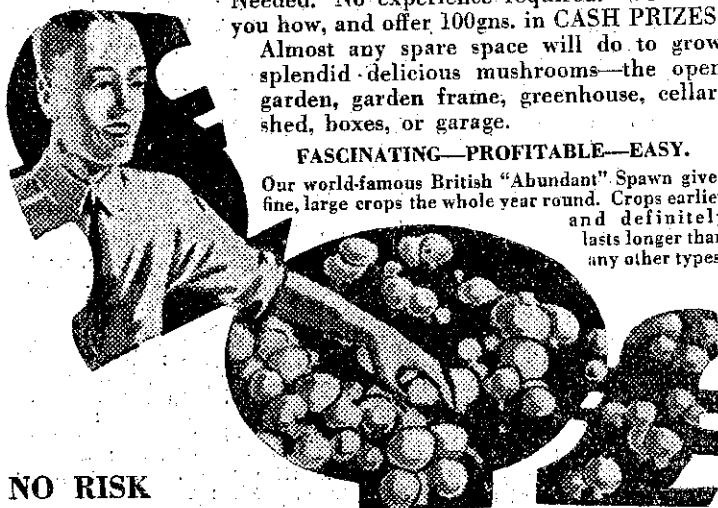
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KNICK KNACKS

HAMILTON DICKSON a few months ago composed his "Country Suite," and offered to play it for 2YA listeners. Everything went well, and the broadcasting authorities liked his music. A month went by, and Hamilton Dickson's name popped up again in the 2YA programmes. This time he turned on his string orchestra and conducted some particularly fine light music—"If I Were King" was outstanding. This week, on Wednesday night, he is to conduct the String Orchestra again, introducing to 2YA listeners a new suite by Frank Tapp.

Several musical people who heard the June 17 performance of Hamilton Dickson's String Orchestra decided that he had a combination of players at least as big as the 2YA Concert Orchestra. He didn't. The awful truth is that he had only twelve in the orchestra, and the effect of numbers was contrived by a nice appreciation for the relative volume value of pianissimo and fortissimo and an ability to get the orchestra to play the numbers according to the conductor's definite interpretive ideas. Furthermore, the young Wellington cellist has sufficient imagination to coax from a dozen string instruments an impression of other instruments, and he balances them well for the microphone.

There are five first violins in the orchestra, two seconds, one viola, two cellos, one bass and one piano. Miss Ava Symons, popular leader of the regular 2YA Orchestra, is also the leader of this smaller combination, and Decima Hughson (wife of Hamilton Dickson) is the pianist.

The first number the String Orchestra will play is "Orpheus in the Underworld." Well known? Yes; but people like it, especially in a light programme, as long as it is well played. The "Knick Knacks" Suite has not been performed before in New Zealand. Indeed, Hamilton Dickson mentioned to the "Radio Record" that as far as he knew his was the only full score in the country. It is a recent composition, copyrighted 1925. The suite is pleasantly tuneful and active, and should find immediate appreciation among those who are fond of light orchestral music—and plenty of others besides.

Strangely enough, Hamilton Dickson doesn't know the first thing about Frank Tapp, the composer of the suite, and doesn't know anyone who does now. Just in case, the "Radio Record" put it to Eileen Joyce casually during a chat, but the Australian pianist didn't know either. Nor did a couple of well-known musical omnibuses who were consulted.

IT would be a blessing if the black-coat workers could be brought within insurance.—Mr. Foot, M.P.

TAXATION should be relieved for those who embark on new enterprises.—Sir A. M. Samuel