

LADY OF THE SEAS

12B COVERS ARRIVAL OF THE "EMPRESS"

IN covering the arrival of that royal lady of the seas, the Empress of Britain, station 12B carried out what is claimed to be the biggest outside relay or hook-up yet attempted in the Dominion.

Arrangements entailed almost a week of preparation.

Five outside relay points were used—from a launch which relayed by means of short-wave to Announcer Doug. Laurenson's house on Takapana beach, thence by telephone landline to 12B; from the summit of Mount Rangitoto (960 feet), this relay being by means of the Defence Department's landline, connected with the summit; from Doug. Laurenson's house; from Pan-American Airways' office on the mainland waterfront, and from a staging erected on top of a shed at Prince's Wharf, where the giant liner berthed.

On this staging a large Maori concert party sang songs and hakis of welcome.

Colin Moore was the announcer on the launch and from the Empress of Britain as she came up the harbour. Doug. Laurenson was stationed on the top of Rangitoto, Peter Bathurst was stationed at Doug's house, Peter Hurt was on duty at Pan-American Airways' depot, and John Thompson covered events on Prince's Wharf.

Although the lay-out was intricate and highly technical, the result was a perfect, well-knit broadcast, despite the fact that the ship arrived exactly one hour earlier than was expected.

Each relay-announcer was equipped with earphones, enabling him to pick up the commentary when called upon. Having heard everything previously said, no announcer duplicated any remarks.

when she was invited to partake of some real haggis. This probably accounted for the increased burr in her voice when she next went on the air. The large tin of haggis she brought back to the station with her was the object of much interest. Gran spent quite some time explaining to various inquisitive members of the staff what haggis really was.

Not Forgotten

IT is a few years since the long-haired Percy Grainger toured New Zealand, giving platform and radio pianoforte recitals. He has not been forgotten, perhaps partly because there are so many of his own delightful compositions available for the student. "Music by Percy Grainger" will form the text of the "Masterpieces of Music" session from 4YA next Thursday, at 9.30 p.m. Dr. T. Vernon Griffiths will do the dissecting.

Band's Progress

THOUGH the St. Kilda Band is no longer "cock of the walk," as it unquestionably was a few years ago, it is steadily recovering from the setback it had in 1935, when, following the retirement of Mr. James Dixon, most of the older members gave up

playing, and it is only a matter of time before the present conductor, Mr. L. Francis, puts it back "on the map." Discriminating listeners will be able to decide for themselves whether this band is indeed improving when it broadcasts a popular programme from 4YA next Tuesday night, beginning at 9.5.

"Wave" Said Dora

"WAVE to me, wave to me, wave..."

If those words do not conjure up pleasant memories of radio entertainment a couple of seasons ago, then you are a Scot not worthy of owning a receiving set. The words came from the versatile Scottish comedienne, Dora Lindsay, who toured the Dominion under contract to the NBS, and her radiant personality was such that wherever she appeared on concert platforms she had her audiences waving to, and singing with, her, with greater ease than any other visiting artist has ever attained. Dora was associated with one of the most widely popular entertainment troupes that ever landed in New Zealand, a troupe that included such names as Senia Chostiakoff, Vincent Ryan, and Dave Howard. Dora is back in New Zealand, and will be heard from 4YA next Friday, at 8.32 p.m.; and Saturday, at 8.38. She will also give studio presentations on May 3, 4, 7 and 9.

Enjoyable

LAST Sunday night, between 9 and 10 p.m., 4ZM gave listeners a treat when a selection of Irish recordings was broadcast. A feature of the programme, which included songs, music and humour, was the absence of famous artists, practically every piece being given by lesser-known performers. It was an enjoyable evening's entertainment, and an excellently balanced one. The best of Irish melodies were given in a simple and unaffected fashion.

Unusual

SOMETHING unusual is promised from 4YA at 9.5 p.m. on Thursday next, when Dr. V. E. Galway (Dunedin City organist) and the 4YA Studio Orchestra (conducted by Mr. James Dixon), will give a combined performance. When Handel's Allegro for Concerto in G Minor for organ and orchestra is played, Dr. Galway's orchestral accompaniment will not be on the Town Hall organ. Instead, he will perform on the studio Hammond organ. Dr. Galway will also be heard in solo organ numbers, and one number, Wilfred Davies's "A Solemn Melody," should prove a delectable dish.

Trials

LAST year a well-known Dunedin barrister gave a series of talks from 4YA that were well liked. Styling his series "Famous Trials," he was assured of a wide radio audience every night he was known to be speaking. However old the incidents may be, the majority of people like hearing of sensational crimes, and how the criminal was finally brought to justice. We're all slightly morbid really, and this predilection for the gruesome rather proves that contention. Commencing at 8.40 p.m. next Tuesday, this same barrister will relate the first of a series of four "Historical Trials."

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