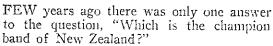
BANDS ON THE AIR

SERIES No. 2 St. Kilda will Come A

Dunedin Band Can Write Extraordinary History Of Competition Success in Palmy Days

Special to the "Record" by

C. H. FORTUNE



to the question, "Which is the champion band of New Zealand?"

St. Kilda, of Dunedin, had for long years a record for shield and medal collecting that other bands can only hope some day to equal. Marching -usually a relatively weak department in a civil band -was always one of St. Kilda's happiest departments. There was a time when the band could turn on a performance that made most military bands look bumblefooted. No other combination in New Zealand band history won so often in the quickstep—wins made up from
highest points scored both in music and in drill.

Contest after contest St. Kilda carried off medals,
shields, and other trophies.

The hand was established in 1991, and putil 1912 are

The band was established in 1901, and until 1912 was known as the Mornington Brass Band. Its foundation conductor was Mr. E. Smith, and under his guidance the men quickly obtained the skill and discipline necessary to put them in the contest class.

FIRST success came at Gore 1904. where Mornington won the B Grade champlonship. In February of the following year at the Exhabition Contest in Christchurch it tied for first place with the Wanganui Garrison, Welling-ton Garrison, and Kaikorai, in the A Grade own selec-tion of Weber's works and was works and was also placed fourth in the aggregate. In such a field the was resuccess markable for band little more four years
The result than old. established Mornington in the A Grade status despite scoffers.



ST. KILDA BAND, 1935. Scooped the pool at Timaru....



CONDUCTOR Y. L. FRANCIS Follows in the footsteps of a great

In 1908, at New Plymouth, the band proved its grading beyond all doubt. It won the A Grade championship.

Then came a break in this list of early successes. In 1909 finances would not permit making the trip to Hastings; that would have meant two North Island trips in successive years, so it stayed out of the contest: In 1910 the band participated in the Dunedin contest, but despite steady performances, it was not successful. In 1912 the St. Kilda Borough Council made an offer to take over the band, and this offer was accepted. The band became known as the St. Kilda Municipal Band, but the personnel remained much the same, and Mr. Smith still conducted.

NDER its new name the band went from success to success. In 1912 it won first place in the two test selections, "Madam Butterfly" and "Meyerbeer"—with them the A Grade championship.

In 1914 the contest was held in conjunction with the Auckland Ex-hibition. The band travelled travelled refrained having from going to Invercargill the previous year because of the intention to or the intention to visit Auckland for the big contest. The trip was worth while—first place in the test selec-tion of Haydn's works.

Europe mad. St. Then went mad. St. Kilda, like many another band, lost its finest members to their service overseas. The band withdrew from the contest field and remained out of the limelight until 1923, when, now conducted by Mr. J. Patterson, it did

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