

Aged One Year.

22B'S BIRTHDAY

(Continued from page 13).

This will be followed by an ancient supplication to the gods for guidance and safety.

SCENE two depicts the preparation for the migration "upon the bosom of Tangaroa" (the ocean), after which the party will rise to set itself in canoe formation ready for the sea voyage, when the farewell song of the voyagers "Poroporoaki" will be sung by the canoeists with appropriate action.

Led by their respective chiefs, the party will here portray the assembling of the canoes of the fleet, one of the action songs for which will be "Nga Waka E Whitu." After further picturesque ceremony, the fleet puts to sea, and the audience will visualise the voyagers on the bosom of the ocean. The scene ends with the landing at Aotea-Roa.

THE third scene opens with the players relaxing on the shore after their long and perilous voyage. They build a pa and a "marae."

Here the full beauty of Maori poetry will be re-expressed in the song "Titiro Mai E Te Whitu," a thanksgiving to the celestial bodies for safe guidance across the ocean, after which the chiefs will sing ancient calls and chants to the responses of the full party. After a patu display, a chieftainess will hurl a challenge to the wahines by placing a piupiu directly in front of them.

Poi dances and rhythmic drills will prelude the challenge to the warriors who will accept it with a rousing haka to which the wahines will reply with the action number "Titi Toreia." Traditional Maori games and pastimes will follow, the climax coming when two warriors will step out to do "Hei Tama Tou Tawa." This is a challenge for the right to claim the hand of the chieftainess, after which two sets of warriors, the home party, and the invading party will battle with taiaha and mere. This is expected to be one of the most spectacular single acts of its type ever presented on a New Zealand stage, and it has been carefully rehearsed for several months.

FINALLY, the invading chief succumbs to his wounds and the priest recites incantations for his recovery. Peace is declared in a brilliant courtyard scene which ends with another grand taiaha display.

The last scene tells of the life of the Maori of recent date, and will be devoted mostly to action songs, quartettes, hakas, pois and other numbers so popular with pakeha audiences.

Other attractions will be the famous Ratana Silver Band, comprising 24 full-blooded Maoris, and a full orchestra under the able direction of Paikaea.

The players have been in active rehearsal with the orchestra and band for more than three months. The entertainment should provide a brilliant conclusion to 22B's first year of broadcasting.

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