

BIRTHDAY PARTY



The Ratana Entertainers, who played Oriwa's "Reo Iri Rangi," with Mr. S. J. Duff, station director, and Executives of Station 2ZB.

Broadcasting Fund, and the Commercial Service is called upon to repay this capital expenditure, and, furthermore, to pay ordinary standard rates of interest on the money it has borrowed. For its telephone, relay lines, postal, and all other Government services, the Commercial Service is called upon to pay the same rates as any private business concern. It receives no concessions.

"It may interest you to know that this service directly employs a staff of two hundred and eighty, and approximately a further fifty are employed by programme and other agencies. During the year just closed, the Commercial stations paid a wage bill of over £52,000, and spent over £17,000 on programmes. In addition, it is estimated that advertisers themselves spent over £25,000 on other feature programmes.

"I WOULD like to take this opportunity of expressing my congratulations to the Controller of the Commercial Broadcasting Service, Mr. C. G. Scrimgeour, and his staff for their work and enterprise. Mr. Scrimgeour has received many tongue-thrasings, generally when his own tongue and hands are tied, but he has come through it all with the confidence and esteem of those who love fair play, and who are in a position to judge.

"I know that I can promise the listeners even more enjoyable listening hours during the second year of the operation of 2ZB, and I leave to you, too, the decision as to whether the action of the Government in inaugurating this service was one which has given something worth while."

FELICITATIONS to the Station Director, Mr. S. J. Duff, and to his staff was conveyed by the Mayor of Wellington, Mr. T. C. A. Hislop, who also praised the work of Oriwa and the Ratana party.

A photograph of the presentation to the Controller of the NCBS, Mr. C. G. Scrimgeour, appears on page 21.

Later, Mr. Toko Ratana, M.P. Western Maori, conveyed the thanks of the Maoris of New Zealand, and those from Taranaki particularly, to Mr. C. G. Scrimgeour, Controller of the Commercial Broadcasting Service, first for his employment of Maori announcers, and, secondly, for his great interest in the Native race, which, as a direct result, was emerging from a lethargic past to a most promising future.

Mr. Ratana was followed in similar strain by Mr. Paikea, who, as a mark of respect and gratitude in which Mr. Scrimgeour was held by the Maoris, presented him with a valuable Maori mat.

THE play itself was a dramatization by Oriwa of the great Maori migration in the fourteenth century. Practically all the performers had, at one time or another, toured in other lands with well-known companies of Maori entertainers.

It fell naturally into its two main parts, the first dealing with the ancient Maori, and the second with the Maori of modern days.

Much of the scene painting was done by Oriwa, himself an accomplished artist with the brush.

THE work itself was extremely interesting, though it suffered somewhat from being too long drawn out.

The material, however, was there, and the ability to portray it was a significant indication of the cultural renaissance of the Maori race in the last few years.

THAT this renaissance is as welcome to the pakeha as to the Maori was plainly evident from the enthusiasm with which the presentation was received.