

Why They Never Win

AUCKLAND CITY BAND

(Continued from page 12).

ceived special mention for his work from the Auckland City Council at a meeting in September, 1936.

THE Auckland Municipal Band has 35 players—11 clarinets, two flutes, one oboe, one bassoon, three saxophones, four french horns, three trumpets, three trombones, one baritone, one euphonium, three brass bass, one string bass and two drums.

The band broadcasts through 1YA every first and third Sunday of the month throughout the whole year. There are four parades—two rehearsals and two performances a week, and during the summer months the band plays twice every Sunday in the city's various parks.

That his band is popular with listeners is reflected in the tremendous fan-mail the conductor receives. "Listeners are of tremendous assistance to me," said Mr. O'Connor, "for they tell me what pieces they like."

EVERY member of the band is specially selected and the best instrumentalist that can be obtained. The deputy-conductor, Mr. Hal. O. McLennan, who plays the flute and piccolo, is well known to all listeners. To show what class of player the band included, I was reminded of the fact that during the tour of the famous Grenadier Guards' Band to New Zealand, Major Miller, the conductor, took away with him young P. W. Eastoe, of the Municipal Band, whom he said was one of the best clarinets he had heard outside of Great Britain. After hearing Eastoe play for him, Major Miller immediately engaged him, and Eastoe left with the Grenadier Guards. He is still a member of this band, and is doing famously in England.

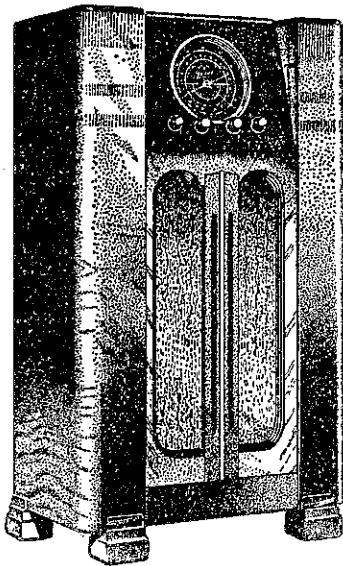
AS I looked at the photograph of the band, Mr. O'Connor pointed to Fred Ewart, the tympanist, wearing the war ribbons. "Fred," he told me, "was the youngest soldier to leave New Zealand with the Expeditionary Force. He went away with the Main Body, was at the landing at Gallipoli, and fought in France, and when he came back at the end of the war he was still too young to go away!"

On leaving the band practice room, I stumbled against an upright piano. "Don't hurt that piano, please!" "Tim" said. "It once belonged to Paderewski. See—the keyboard folds up."

And it did. It was the first piano I had ever seen with a folding keyboard. And one of the smallest pianos. It was specially made for the great Polish pianist, who always took it on his tours with him so that he could practice on it in the seclusion of his cabin on boats or in the room of his hotel.

"No one knows how it got here," added the conductor. "I don't anyway. But because the master pianist played on it we all treasure it very much."

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