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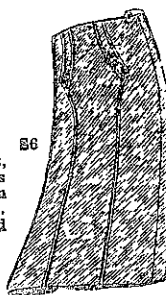
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The Good Old Days

KAIKORAI'S CHALLENGE

(Continued from page 14).

here, of outstanding soloists. Championship honours have been won on every instrument to side drum.

Under Mr. Davie's conductorship the band competed at Ballarat for a second, and though, as a body, it was not successful, it won the septet competition. At Dunedin, in 1920, it tied with Wanganui Garrison for first place, and won the marching contest. On two former occasions, at Palmerston North, 1904, and Christchurch, 1912, the band was piloted to victory in marching by Mr. Davie.

Mr. J. Paterson conducted, following Mr. Davie's retirement in 1922. Several changes of conductor followed. Mr. A. Vallis and Mr. E. Franklyn taking charge until 1929, when Mr. T. J. Kirk-Burnnand wielded the baton.

WITH Mr. Kirk-Burnnand's retirement, the band fell on evil days. Interest seemed to have vanished. Members left and joined other bands. M. de Rose, well-known in New Zealand musical circles, did his bit in those years toward putting the band on a sound basis again, but he could not obtain the necessary co-operation. The old spirit of comradeship was gone. Financial support was lacking. Nobody seemed to care. The spectre of bankruptcy loomed large.

Then Harry Osborne, formerly conductor of the Ashburton Municipal Band, took charge. Shortly after that there was a change in management control. Mr. J. S. Douglas was appointed secretary, and Mr. E. T. Moller, became president. What Dunedin musical circles owe to this latter man is another story. Someday it may well be told.

Mr. Moller and Mr. Douglas arranged a garden fete in the beautiful grounds of Sir John Roberts's home at Littlebourne. That was two or three years ago, and it marked the turning point in the fortunes of the Kaitorai Band.

MR. OSBORNE is quietly determined to restore the Kaitorai Band to its rightful place in the sun. He was very reticent when I called to see him, but he is a retiring man. For all that he could not hide his sincerity, nor his earnest wish that the band shall once again be a force to be reckoned with. He wants the band to again be called "a very good band."

He seems to be the man for the job. He piloted the Ashburton Band to several B grade successes. During the war he conducted the Wellington Regimental Band overseas. He was selected to go to the Kneller Hall in Middlesex to be given special instruction. Not many men have that honour thrust upon them, as those familiar with the history of the Royal Military School of Music will know.

If you have listened to its broadcasts recently from 4YA you must have realised that the band has improved out of sight. For the first time for many years it has a full quota of 30 players. For the first time for many years the band is again to participate in an A grade contest, and is now rehearsing, getting ready for Christchurch next contest.

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