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"How Like a Band"

NEW BRIGHTON MUNICIPAL

(Continued from page 15).

son, C. Dunn, F. Fox, F. Haughey and A. G. Heath. But even competent men became disheartened.

It is only since the present conductor, Mr. J. A. Nuttall, was appointed, that the band seems to have made permanent progress. He took over in 1920. He has ability and a personality which commands obedience and respect. For some years past the New Brighton Municipal Band, as it is now known, has supplied the music for all the race meetings of the Canterbury Jockey Club, New Zealand Metropolitan Trotting Club and New Brighton Trotting Club. It has also been engaged by the Christchurch City Council and the New Brighton Borough Council for municipal concerts.

More recently New Brighton has been on the 3YA schedule.

SOMETIMES the bandsmen take their instruments far afield. Not long ago they paid a visit to the West Coast where audiences specially asked for pieces played over the air, including vocal numbers and the specially-popular song with the West Coaster's, "Let the Rest of the World Go By." Conductor Nuttall is the vocalist.

At one period of this band's history, so as to secure a permanency of the organisation, the New Brighton Borough Council paid off a debt of £100 owing for the purchase of instruments and took over the assets of the band. New uniforms were badly needed at this time. The late Mr. C. Israelson and Mr. E. A. M. Leaver, both ex-bandsmen, were borough councillors. A committee was formed to do things about bazaars and the like. A net profit of £200 was the result.

Decked out in a neat blue uniform, trimmed with black braid and yellow tracing, the band marched rapidly ahead.

Then tragedy came. The band was practising in the scout house in Itawhiti Domain, where uniforms and instruments were stored. Fire broke out, and, though an insurance cover enabled new gear to be procured, the band was homeless.

But there existed a joint committee of the council and the band, of which Mr. Leaver was chairman. It occurred to Mr. Leaver that as £150 was being received for insurance on the scout house, and it was not intended to re-erect the house, the sum might be used to buy material for building a band hall, the band to supply the labour.

The proposal was agreed to by the council, and eventually the band took up musical residence in a fine new home.

Mr. A. E. Lawry succeeded Mr. Leaver as chairman of the band committee and assisted in every possible way. Two years ago the band gave further thoughts to sartorial splendour and decided to go in for new and expensive uniforms. Carnivals were held on the beach to raise cash but the response was not sufficient. Mr. Nuttall obtained permission to hold that save-all—an art union.

It was decided to give 25 per cent. of the profits to the borough council for beach improvement and 25 per cent. to the local sub-branch of the R.S.A. The result warranted the conductor's