

Savage speaking on the value of the Coronation pageant as a unifying bond of Empire.

Children's Features

NEW features promised for 4ZB's children's sessions will be put into force almost at once. Two cameo presentations will be given by Stuart Johnson and James Dixon on separate nights not yet fixed. Mr. Johnson is to entertain children with stories from Greek mythology, while Mr. Dixon will delve into Maori folk-lore. Starting this week will be Alex McDowell, under pseudonym of "The Answer Man," to spend 7½ minutes of Monday's sessions in answering general knowledge questions sent in by children.

National Days

AMERICAN citizens who were the guests of Mrs. W. E. Barnard at Parliament House on July 4, Independence Day, had a musical novelty in the programme broadcast for them by 2ZB. Mr. L. E. Strachan, programme organiser of 2ZB, prepared a special continuity programme, introducing highlights of American history and echoes of the stage covering a lengthy period of years. Incidentally, 2ZB provides an appropriate programme on each national day, recent programmes of this nature including one for Canada on July 1, one for Venezuela on July 5, and one for Argentina on July 9. Forthcoming national day programmes include Belgium, July 21, Peru July 28, and Germany August 11.

Juniors

STATION 2ZB sprang a surprise on listeners last Sunday with its broadcast by the recently formed 2ZB Juvenile Orchestra. When the station called for young players to form an orchestra, some 45 applications were received. Some of the applicants were elementary and some had never played an instrument, but from the 45 twenty players were selected, and began rehearsals under the guidance of Mr. B. L. H. de Rose, national musical conductor to the commercial service. Considering the youth of the players, Sunday's concert was notable, and indicates that with further training and experience the 2ZB juvenile orchestra may become an important factor in the musical activities of Wellington. As a "feeder" to the Wellington Symphony Orchestra, the 2ZB juvenile orchestra is well worth encouraging, apart altogether from the valuable instruction which its members receive from Mr. de Rose, one of New Zealand's most able conductors. There are still vacancies for all string players of intermediate and advanced grades, also for flute, clarinet, horn and trombone. Application for enrolment in the orchestra should be made to 2ZB.

For Film Fans

HOLLYWOOD session, as conducted by 3ZB, is interesting in many ways. It brings listeners all the latest news of films, producers, players, etcetera. New Zealanders who have tried to "crash" the film capital and have returned home wiser but just as happy, have told us their experiences in newspaper interviews. We know Hollywood is not all bright stars and "bubble." But in the 3ZB session, put over by "Prop Man," all the glamour is there, treated with a commendable re-

POLITICS IN HIS MUSIC

CZECH COMPOSER USED NATIVE MELODIES TO ROUSE HIS COUNTRYMEN

THAT unspeakable musical wall-eyedness for which the nineteenth century was notorious may take the whole of the twentieth century to disappear. Friedrich Smetana, a Czech composer, produced "The Bartered Bride" in Prague on May 30, 1866, yet it did not reach New Zealand until the late 1930's, and then only through gramophone records.

If "The Bartered Bride" were an ordinary kind of work, such a thing would be understandable, but this opera is a masterpiece. It is pure comedy, of course, which fact may account in part for its tardy recognition.

Smetana was essentially a nationalist, and it may be that was his undoing in other countries. His eight operas are of the very soil of Bohemia, and the collective title of his six symphonic poems is "My Fatherland."

Yet all his music, despite its Bohemian origin and melodic bias, is as international as is Mozart's or Cimarosa's, with both of whom he is rightly held to have affinity.

"The Bartered Bride," a pastoral opera, had at the time of writing a political as well as musical significance. The revival of native melody and sentiment in music was part of the resistance of the Nationalist party to Austrian domination of Bohemia. Dvorak and Smetana were the leaders of this musical blockade. The opera simply electrified Prague.

The plot of Smetana's work hinges on the activities of the "marriage broker," a social middleman who still exists in certain parts of the world. The music is interwoven with many jolly Bohemian folk and dance tunes.

On Sunday, July 17, at 4YA, Smetana's comic opera, "The Bartered Bride," will be presented in a recorded version which was made in the Czech National Opera House, Prague.

straint that forbids Christchurch youth from believing they are stars in the making.

Women's Work

INTERESTING talk to women will be given from 3YA at 9.5 p.m. on July 17. Miss Elsie Andrews is the speaker, and her subject, "New Zealand's First International Women's Conference." Miss Andrews is doing organisation work for the fifth conference of the Pan-Pacific Women's Association to be held in New Zealand in 1940. She was a delegate to the second and third conferences at Honolulu in 1930 and 1934, leading the New Zealand delegation at the latter, and again at the fourth conference in Vancouver in 1937. The centennial conference will be the first international women's conference to be held in New Zealand.

2ZB Staff

IMPORTANT changes at 2ZB are indicated by the appointment of Mr. M. S. Bullivant as acting Station Director. The success of 3ZB has been due in no small measure to the initiative and organising ability of Mr. Bullivant, who has an able lieutenant in 2ZB's new production supervisor, Mr. Ian Mackay. Several important changes in programme policy are in contemplation, including a further brightening of the Sunday programme.

"Aeolians"

CONDUCTED by Maxwell Fernie, with accompanist John Randall and flautist J. Rodgers, the "Aeolians," a Wellington choral group, will broadcast from the 2YA studios on July 21. Their programme consists of Scotch and Irish folk songs, glee songs, and madrigals, while on this occasion Sir Edward Elgar is represented with two

songs from the collection "From the Bavarian Highlands" and three part-songs translated from the Greek Anthology.

Three Talks

SCHEDULED by 3YA for the near future are three talks which should be out of the way. The first, on July 19, is by Mr. S. K. Ratcliffe, distinguished English journalist, and BBO announcer, whose recorded subject will be "Changing England." Mr. Leicester Webb, a Christchurch journalist, will continue his chats on "World Affairs" on July 21 and Mrs. Ida Benson will have something to say about out-of-the-way Jewish communities on July 22.

Contest

KEEN interest is being shown in the 2ZB harmonica contest, not only by the contestants but also by the listening public. The preliminary performances are broadcast each evening at 6.30. From these competitors twenty finalists will be selected. It is anticipated that the contest will reach its most interesting stage next week, when judging of the finalists will begin. A substantial cash prize and a theatre engagement await the winner.

Pianist

WELLINGTON pianist, Dorothy La Roche, will present a recital from 2YA at 8.28 p.m. on Monday, July 18. She will perform Bach's "Organ Fugue in G Minor No. 7," "Intermezzo in C Major, Op. 119," by Brahms; and the Chopin "Impromptu in F Sharp Major, Op. 36."

Light Operas

LOVERS of Gilbert and Sullivan operas have reason to thank the inventors of the gramophone record and the wonder of radio for the opportunity of frequently hearing these works. Visits to New Zealand by Gil-