

kid a clout in the ear'ole and shut 'im oop!"

2YA listeners will hear Vivian Foster, "The Vicar of Mirth," in the music, mirth and melody session on Tuesday, August 9.

CAREER OF A RUSSIAN PIANIST Born at Odessa in 1896, Simon Barer commenced piano studies when he was eleven. In 1911 he entered the conservatoire at Petrograd, studying under Madame Essipov, and subsequently Blumenfeld. He completed his studies in 1919, winning the "Rubenstein Prize." He became professor of piano at Kiev Conservatoire, and during that time made a concert tour of Russia, visiting all principal towns. He then set about conquering successive European capitals, cities and towns and finally arrived in England in 1934. Simon Barer's flexibility of touch and astonishing elasticity in staccato passages hold his audience spellbound.

Listeners to 2YC will hear Simon Barer, pianist, on Friday night, August 12.

ROLLS ROYCE FOR THE CANDIDATE One of Mark Hambourg's stories tells of a dinner given by Arthur Croxton, manager of the Coliseum, to meet one of the principal labour leaders of the day. Mark found this "son of the people" excellent company. When the party left the Savoy, and the pianist was picking up his small Buick car, a huge white Rolls-Royce rolled up for the labour man. "Ah! Here is my small car," he remarked. Mark replied: "I see you are not above liking the flesh-pots of life; the best food and the best car are none too good for you." "My constituents presented me with the car," was the answer that gave the pianist furiously to think.

Mark Hambourg, pianist, will be heard by 2YA listeners on Tuesday, August 9.

FUN WITH THE OLD-TIMERS Compere of the popular 2YA old-time dance session, Mr. Fred Barker, called "Mr. Announcer" by the "Drummer Boy" of the outfit, finds amusement in ascertaining the correct procedure of some of the old-time set dances. Even now he is sometimes pulled up by an old-time dance fan on a technical point. He believes in endeavouring to catch the atmosphere and spirit of these dances, to revive tender memories of an older



SIR JOHN REITH.

... Interested in New Zealanders' reaction to BBC accent.

cedure of some of the old-time set dances. Even now he is sometimes pulled up by an old-time dance fan on a technical point. He believes in endeavouring to catch the atmosphere and spirit of these dances, to revive tender memories of an older

Jesters Honoured In Own Land



GRACIE FIELDS.

... Her admirers are countless.

HOW many thousand gramophones in the North of England churn out the humour and pathos of Gracie Fields and Sandy Powell it would be difficult to estimate. Both belong to that happy school of entertainers who have found honour in their own country.

Gracie from Rochdale and Sandy from Rotherham afford a fine example of perfect understanding between Lancashire and Yorkshire. Individually they have enjoyed brilliant successes, but the blending of the white rose and the red is something more impressive still.

2YA listeners will hear Gracie Fields and Sandy Powell in one of their joint records, "At the Coronation," on Wednesday, August 10.

generation. To Mr. Barker, radio is a relaxation and hobby which he has followed from its early days in Auckland in 1927. In 1929 he had a personal interview with Sir John Reith and well remembers Sir John's interest in the New Zealander's viewpoint on the accent of BBC announcers.

The next old-time dance session at 2YA is scheduled for Saturday, August 13.

VIOLINIST AND COMPOSER

Seven-year-old Henri Vieuxtemps, son of a piano-tuner, was one musical prodigy lucky enough to catch the interest of the right master. De Beriot was so struck by the lad's talent that he took him to Brussels and gave him free tuition. By the time Vieuxtemps was 10 years old he had made a successful appearance in Paris, and within another three years he had begun the wandering life of a musician, taking advantage of his presence in various centres to take lessons from the best masters. Each appearance of this gifted boy created a sensation, for his technical dexterity was wonderful. In 1871 Vieuxtemps succeeded De Beriot, who had become blind, in the post of first violin professor at the Brussels Conservatorium. But misfortune quickly overtook him. Within two years he suffered a stroke which prevented him ever playing

again; paralysis of the left side sealed his fate. His earthly pilgrimage ended in Algiers in 1881, when he died at the age of 61. Vieuxtemps's playing of the violin is said to have been remarkable for its broad singing tone, its great poetry in the reading of a work, and so complete a technical equipment that difficulties seemed hardly to exist. His compositions are among the best in modern violin literature.

On Friday, August 12, 3YA listeners will hear Concerto No. 4 in D Minor, Op. 31 (Vieuxtemps), played by Jascha Heifetz (violinist) and the London Symphony Orchestra.

AUSTRALIAN REMADE OLD TUNES

The Australian composer, Percy Grainger, has deftly arranged several light-hearted old tunes from Ireland and England. "Molly on the Shore" was made up from an Irish reel of that name, and another reed tune called "Temple Hill." "Irish Tune from County Derry" (or Londonderry Air) — "lovingly and reverently" dedicated to Edward Grieg—is now one of the best-known Irish tunes in the world. "Country Gardens" is a traditional English Morris dance which has as a sub-title "Handkerchief Dance." "Mock Morris" contains no folk music tune-stuffs: it is Grainger's own conception.

Grainger's four dances will be heard from 1YA on Sunday afternoon, August 7.

WAS AFRAID OF APPRECIATION

Some of England's finest serious musicians have been actually afraid of appreciation. It is recorded that Sir Hubert Parry rewrote the whole of a movement of one of his symphonies because, as he said, "People liked it so much I thought there must be something wrong with it." This theory that the cultured are always right and the populace always wrong is one which has always been keenly upheld by the cultured. But, of course, posterity does not always abide by such a silly rule, as the Gilbert and Sullivan operas, for one, have shown. The decision of the conductor of the Auckland Municipal Band to play selec-



GILBERT AND SULLIVAN.

... Prove the majority is not always wrong.

tions from these gladsome works shows common sense.

1YA listeners will hear a fine Gilbert and Sullivan programme by the Auckland Municipal Band, under Mr. T. J. O'Connor, on Sunday, August 7.

THE trouble with absolute pacifists is that they refuse to study either history or political science.—Sir Alfred Zimmern.