

AROUND THE STUDIOS.

TOUR OF N.Z. PRIMA DONNA

*Madame Zelanda Arrives This Month—Broadcast Arranged
For All Black Test At Brisbane—2ZB Speaks To Pitcairn
—Romance Of Former Christchurch Singer*

ENGAGED by the NBS for a six weeks' tour of the National stations, Madame Margherita Zelanda, coloratura soprano, gives the first of her broadcasts from 2YA on Tuesday, August 9. Born in the Dominion, Madame Zelanda received her first training at St. Philomena's College Convent of Mercy, Dunedin.

She later attended the New South Wales Conservatorium of Music, and from Sydney journeyed to Italy where for two years her progress was guided by the famous Professor Benedetto Morasca of Palermo Conservatorium in Sicily. Here she graduated as a prima donna before going to Milan to become a pupil of the late Maestro Manlio Bavagnoli, who visited Australia some years ago for the Imperial Grand Opera Season, and who has brought before the operatic public of Italy a number of famous prima donnas.

Besides gaining high honours in her course, Madame Zelanda was acclaimed by professors of music throughout Italy as having one of the finest English voices ever to visit the country.

Following her initial broadcast from 2YA Madame Zelanda will be heard from 2YA on Thursday, August 11, when she will give a recital of ballads. Later she will be heard at the other National stations.

THE NBS announces that it has been able to complete arrangements for a broadcast of the Second Rugby Test, New Zealand versus Australia, played at Brisbane on Saturday, August 6. This broadcast begins at 4.30 p.m.

JUST over 2,900 miles from New Zealand lies Pitcairn Island, whose 200 inhabitants recently heard a programme broadcast specially for their benefit by 2ZB. At the microphone was Mr. E. Lawrence, of the station's technical staff, and formerly radio officer for the New Zealand Shipping Company. In that capacity he was a not infrequent caller at the island, which has recently become possessed of a good

receiving set. There are about 30 Pitcairn Islanders now resident in New Zealand. One of them, Miss M. Young, a descendant of Midshipman Young, one of the original



ENGLISH JOURNEY.

"Aunt Daisy" (right) with her daughter, Miss Barbara Basham, on board the "Queen Mary" just before they left New York for London and Glasgow. After their English journey, they will tour the countries of Europe. In New York City, "Aunt Daisy" visited the studios of the NBC and Columbia Broadcasting Companies.

Bounty mutineers, gave Mr. Lawrence good assistance in the broadcastings of greetings.

Singer's Romance

ONLY a few years ago Miss Merle Miller, Christchurch, was studio pianist at 3YA. She decided, on the advice of Hubert Carter, another Christchurch musician, to take a look at the world of music overseas, and she has no reason for regrets, for she has had engagements in many of the big centres, not as a pianist but as a singer. News was received in Christchurch last week that Miss Miller had become engaged to Mr.

Norman Walker, the well-known basso. Mr. Walker belongs to Manchester, where, at the Royal College of Music, he won several scholarships for singing and the gold medal for the Guildhall School of Music. Sir Thomas Beecham heard him sing and signed him up for grand opera. At present Miss Miller, so the social writers say, is dividing her musical time with a search for a suitable house in London.

School Choirs

JUVENILE choirs raise the moral as well as musical tone and character of a school, so the members of the Canterbury Education Board believe. They expressed this view the other day, when Mr. G. M. Martin, formerly of the Woolston school, and now music specialist and assistant master at the St. Albans school, wrote appealing for the board's support of a proposal that choirs and music groups be formed in all schools; that a supervisor be appointed to organise the work and train children to take part in festivals such as are held in England and America.

AUNT DAISY

RADIO INTERVIEWERS STAGGERED

AMERICAN radio interviewers got something of a shock at New York's station WEAJ when they began to question New Zealand radio traveller "Aunt Daisy." The "New York Post" put it like this:

"Wally Butterworth and Parks Johnson are old hands at conducting impromptu interviews here and there around our fair city for WEAJ, but every once in a while they catch a problem child in their drag-net."

"Last night, putting their regular Vox Pop programme through its paces in the lobby of the New Yorker Hotel, they had Aunt Daisy to deal with. That's Aunt Daisy of New Zealand, radio sensation of kangaroo land and one of the longest-winded ladies heard in these parts of late. She almost took the whole programme away from Wally and Parks. How they ever got it back remains a mystery to us."

"All of which is not intended as a reproach. Aunt Dai helped out the proceedings considerably and could probably have showed the boys some tricks if they had let her."