

criptive matter written by Dr. Schmidt, Swiss Consul for New Zealand, told of how, in 1291, three mountain farmers swore allegiance to a confederation of the countries of Uri, Schwyz and Unterwald, thus bringing the country now known as Switzerland into being. The story of William Tell, though it might not be factually accurate, was a significant and definite reflection of the political Swiss of that period. Altogether a worth-while broadcast.

First Ship

ONE of the younger school of historical researchers in New Zealand, Mr. M. S. Nestor, of the Lands and Survey Department, formerly of Wellington and now of Christchurch, has given several striking talks on West Coast exploration and the extraordinary experiment in early settlement at Jackson's Bay, South Westland. He is going to give a series of talks at 3YA entitled Cross Roads of History, in which he will deal with some of the lesser known aspects of New Zealand's past. The first talk on August 15, is about the Providence, which lay for many years at the bottom of one of the Otago Sounds and for all one knows may be there still. The Providence was built by sealers well over a century ago and was the first ship built in New Zealand.

Sparkling

YOUNGER listeners may not have realised when John Gordon interviewed Stan Lawson, producer of the Auckland Amateur Operatic Society's show "The Vagabond King" before 1ZB's mike one night last week, that Stan, in his immediate pre-war days, was a female impersonator No. 1, and later with the original Diggers Revue. Mr. Lawson took his microphone like the old campaigner he was, gave Mr. Gordon as good as that really experienced microphone artist could give, and the listeners a sparkling bit of entertainment. Listeners liked this interview, decidedly crisp.

Topical Again

RECORDED talk, "Day With a District Officer in Palestine," that Captain W. J. Miller made from the NBS some time ago, seems to acquire added topical interest as the months pass and the situation in Palestine does not improve, to say the least of it.



This talk, to be heard at 4YA on August 12, describes the varied duties that face an administrative officer in the mandated territory of Palestine. The day ends up with a fight between villages which the officer has to settle and after he has fined both sides, the defendants entertain him at a feast, honour and everything else being then fully satisfied.

TELEGRAM TO COMPOSER

WHEN STRAVINSKY WROTE "THE FIREBIRD" FOR THE RUSSIAN BALLET

AT the end of the summer of 1909, a telegraph messenger arrived at Igor Stravinsky's house in St. Petersburg. The telegram was from Diaghileff, the greatest ballet producer of modern times, who had just arrived at the capital, asking Stravinsky to write the music for "L'Oiseau de Feu" (The Fire Bird) for the Russian ballet season at the Paris Opera House in the spring of 1910.

Although alarmed by the fact that this was a commission for a fixed date, and afraid lest he should fail to complete the work on time, Stravinsky accepted the order.

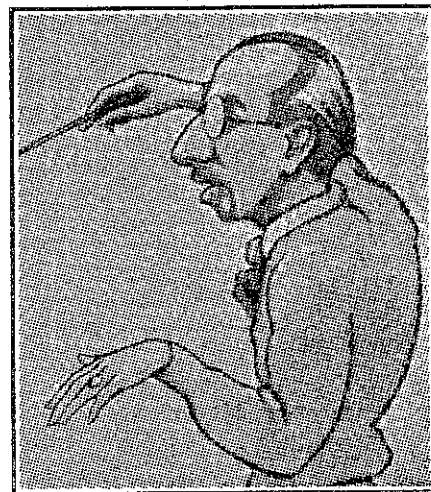
Stravinsky considered the commission most flattering to a rising composer of 28, especially since he was chosen from among the musicians of his generation. To collaborate in so important an enterprise, side by side with personages recognised as masters in their own spheres, made a deep impression upon him.

The music of the ballet is captivating. As it has since been arranged as a symphonic suite and recorded, listeners now have a favourable opportunity of hearing and rehearsing it. The fairy tale on which it is based is one of those in which good and wicked fairies are in conflict, the good, as almost goes without saying, triumphing in the end.

As a ballet, the stage picture discloses an enchanted garden, mysteriously lighted. After the mutterings in the strings at the opening, the Fire Bird enters. She is a glorious creature of flaming feathers.

A young prince hidden in the garden captures her, but she obtains her release by giving him one of her magic jewelled feathers.

Kastchei, the evil spirit of the place,



IGOR STRAVINSKY

... Was given the order by telegram.

appears with his grotesque retinue. The feather proves a charm which saves the young prince's life, and the Fire Bird appears and makes the crowd break into a frenzied dance. The demon is finally destroyed.

Listeners to 4YA will hear Stravinsky's "Fire Bird" Suite, played by the Philadelphia Orchestra under Leopold Stokowski, on Sunday afternoon, August 14.

Wedding Bells

LAST week two of the announcing members of 3ZB staff were off duty, on annual leave. One was Bob Speirs, whose hospital session was being handled by David Combridge, and the other was Teddy Grundy, having a well-earned spell. A third man, Bob Pollard, was busier than anybody else in the studios, attending to his job and trying not to look excited over his marriage to Miss Pamela Gollop, arranged for last Saturday in a Christchurch church.

"Double Event"

ANNOUNCEMENT of interest to sportsmen is that the National Commercial Broadcasting Service has secured the exclusive New Zealand broadcasting rights of "The Double Event," one of the late Nat Gould's best racing stories. Mr. Gould, many years turf writer on a Brisbane daily, won enormous popularity in New Zealand some years ago with his novels of racing life. "The Double Event" has been dramatised for radio in serial form, by a band of Australian players, and, according to advance reports, has proved a first-class vehicle for exciting radio entertainment. The new feature began at 1ZB and 2ZB on Tuesday last, and will be heard regu-

larly on that day at 9 p.m. It is scheduled to begin at 3ZB on October 4 and at 4ZB on October 18.

She Was Real

HAPPY thought by "Marina" of 1ZB was to present the story of Her Majesty the Queen on her birthday last Thursday, not just as Queen Elizabeth, but as one of the two Elizabeths of England. In a clever piece of contrast between the history-book Elizabeth of the sixteenth century, and the Elizabeth who, as the first lady in the Empire, must needs be the touchstone of her age—"Marina" contrived to present the Queen not merely as a celebrity, but as a very real woman.

Human Interest

CURIOSITY is such a powerful element in the human make-up that there's nothing unusual in Mrs. Smith, of, say, Foxton, being interested in the type of music favoured by Mrs. Jones, of, for instance, Methven. That is undoubtedly one reason for the popularity of the country request sessions as they are handled by 3ZB. Already this session has been on the air several months and the number of requests becomes larger every Sunday. Naturally time is limited and it is impossible for the station to deal with re-