

covered a colourful page in New Zealand history, with a talk on tramps, many of whom were so widely known as to become "characters" in a national sense. A flood of letters from all parts of the Dominion compelled a second session. It is not improbable that a book, with a wide human interest appeal, will result.

Recognition

INDICATION of the interest aroused by 4ZB's weekly band session may be gauged from the fact that a recent conference of the South Island Bands' Association resolved to keep the station posted with information regarding Otago and Southland happenings. Bernie McConnell is at present conducting this Sunday morning session.

3ZB Appointment

RADIO appointment of interest to the Dunedin business community is that of Mr. Edgar J. Thomson, as advertising manager to station 3ZB, Christchurch. Educated at the John McGlashan College, Dunedin, which he represented at Rugby and boxing, Mr. Thomson continued his studies at the Otago University. There he qualified



EDGAR J. THOMSON.

in accountancy, was also president of the Commerce Faculty Debating Society, making a triple appearance for the university in debating contests. His commercial life began with four years and a half service with an advertising agency, followed by three years and a half as a member of the advertising executive of the "Otago Daily Times." He holds a captaincy in the Otago Regiment.

Musical Tours

TEDDY GRUNDY of 3ZB has made musical travelogues a feature peculiarly his own. He has been in practically every country in the world, and given his material from first-hand information. His last was a vivid portrayal of bull-fighting in all its branches, with a description of methods used in this curious way of transforming stock into beef, and of the reactions of the Spanish crowds. Appropriate Spanish music made a fine background.

Tchekoff Play

THREE of the finest amateur exponents of the drama in Canterbury—Miss Marjorie Bassett, Mr. Roy Twynham, and Professor L. G. Pocock—are due to present Anton Tchekoff's "The Proposal" from 3YA on August 18.

MOZART IN THE VINEYARD

HOW HE SET THE LEGEND OF THE WORLD'S LOVER TO MUSIC

WHEN Mozart's opera, "The Marriage of Figaro," was produced in Prague, the Bohemians took Figaro to their hearts, crowding the theatre for weeks on end. The authorities at once demanded another opera.

"Don Giovanni" was the chosen work and Mozart composed the music in Prague itself within little more than a month. Much of it was written in the vineyard of an old friend, and they still show you there a little stone table at which Mozart sat writing, often while talk was going on round him or even while skittles was being played in the open air.

The famous legend of Don Juan thus received its immortal musical setting. Sitting out in the garden of his friend Franz Duschek, with a view of the old town lying below in the quiet autumn sunshine, Mozart had the opera ready for rehearsal by the middle of October, and the 29th of that month was fixed for the first performance.

On October 28 the overture had not even been begun. Mozart finished it during the night with the assistance of his wife, whose job it was to keep him

awake by telling him fairy tales. These kept him awake, but punch induced drowsiness, and the night passed in alternating periods of sleep and feverish activity.

By 7 o'clock next morning his M.S. was handed out for copying, and the overture was played that evening without rehearsal. It bears no trace of hasty work, full of Mozart's inimitable brightness and grace, it has always held a place of honour among the great masterpieces.

The performance of the opera was a brilliant success for all concerned, and it was repeated three times in the same week. The production of the opera at a later date in Vienna failed to please the public. Mozart said the opera was written a little for Prague, not at all for Vienna, and most of all for himself. The whole world has learnt to love it since then.

"Don Giovanni" is sometimes quite mistakenly described as comic opera. Mozart's music is not the sort that "merely tickles the ear and leaves the heart hungry."

A complete musical presentation of Mozart's "Don Giovanni" will be broadcast by 2YA on Sunday, August 14.

Each member of the small cast has a reputation for faithful presentation of many and widely-differing parts, from sacred work to bright comedy of 1938. Lovers of the spoken line over the radio may diary this date with benefit.

After The Fire

GRADUALLY the interiors of the block of buildings destroyed by the fire when 3ZB had its big blaze, are taking on new shape, and it will not be long before the station staff leaves its temporary quarters in Cathedral Square, for an even more up-to-date set of studios and offices than the old ones. The old site in Colombo Street, is being used again, but so far the opening date is not yet fixed.

Juniors

INNOVATION in 4ZB's children's session is the formation of a troupe of juvenile radio players, a combination of juvenile actors who will appear in the session every Saturday evening in plays specially adapted by Jill and Peter. The first presentation to be given will be an adaption from Shakespeare's "King John," built around the life and death of Prince Arthur. A comedy, written by Jill and Peter, is in preparation.

First Night

STATION 1ZB definitely "went Hollywood" on the night of Friday, August 5, when the Auckland Amateur Operatic Society opened its annual production, "The Vagabond

King," at His Majesty's Theatre. There was nearly enough ermine, and so many celebrities that it might almost seem that they were there by arrangement. 1ZB, however, skimmed the cream right off the milk and gave everyone who wasn't able to go an extremely vivacious running commentary on arrivals, and afterward took the microphone behind the scenes to broadcast a words' eyevue of the cast.

Mixed Vintage

THOUGH the term "mixed vintage" may be applied to the Christchurch Harmonic Society's concert on August 17, to be relayed by 3YA, it is not meant to infer that any of the works chosen are less palatable than others. This fine choir now has its conductor, Mr. Victor C. Peters, back from overseas, and it is probable that the influence of his visits to this great musical centre will be noticed already. The accompanist will be Miss Gwen McLeod and the soloist the Rev. Lawrence A. North.

Rare Appearance

TWICE a year at the most, Bloy's Banjo Band, Christchurch, appears on the air. The reason is simply that Mr. Louis Bloy has between 40 and 50 players in the combination, and he will never allow the band to approach the microphone until it is perfect. Station 3YA will present the band on August 15. Louis Bloy, whose experience of the banjo is vast, and who has appeared on many a stage, is rightly known as the "Wizard of the Banjo" in New Zealand, and the fact that there is a constant stream of

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