

# The Home Forum

## Liked The Band

"Old Bandsman" (Waikato): Congratulations to the NBS for obtaining the services of the Wanganui Garrison Band at 2YA on July 31. They gave a very enjoyable concert. On behalf of brass band lovers I hope we shall hear them again in the near future.

## National Anthem

"One Listener" (Nelson): I for one would be very pleased if the National Anthem, put over every evening from 2YA, was from a record similar to Noel Newson's rendering on the piano at Alexander Kipnis's concerts, instead of the present (to me at any rate) mournfully-drawn-out affair.

## Programme Announcements

"Better Service" (Shingle Creek, Central Otago): May I suggest a national programme service given every evening at 9 o'clock from 2YA Wellington. A brief outline of the other YA stations' next-day programmes would prove a boon to the outback listener who cannot get the "Radio Record" every week. It would also solve the problem of the sudden changes in the printed programmes.

## Kingi Defended

M.S. (Nelson): It appears strange to me that Kingi Tahiwai should be handed a black mark for his sports broadcast of the hockey Test at Wanganui and that anyone who has listened at all consistently to sports broadcasts should place it as probably the worst that has been put across the Dominion stations. Anybody who knows the game of hockey must realise that it is probably the hardest sport of all to broadcast, as in no other game can defence be turned into attack so quickly. As

for the enunciation—well, apparently the writer of the article cannot understand English spoken as it should be and in a way in which we hear far too little of. I would like to congratulate Kingi on the fine job he made of a very difficult subject.

## Short Of Players?

Mrs. K. Roberts (Bennetts): I tried hard to listen to the Dorsetshire labourer's feature recently, but the monotony of the same toneless voice trying hard to take many parts was more than we could bear. Is the NBS short of players? This bad radio voice has spoilt many plays and I think it would be as well if it takes only one part in a play in future. Like George Edwards it tries to overdo things by trying to take more than one man's part and we get tired of it.

## Not Too Often

True Band Lovers (Westmere): Having read a paragraph in your interesting paper under the heading of "Station 1YA had a Dull Week," and noting the criticism of "too frequent" broadcasts of the Auckland Municipal Band, I would like to contribute my point of view as well as that of many others. If there is one treat I and others look forward to it is the fortnightly performances of that excellent band, and surely once in two weeks is not too often to have this broadcast. If the writer of this paragraph and all others who may share his tastes do not appreciate this type of music there are other stations in to which they may tune and get what they want.

## Wants More Symphonies

Music Lover (Auckland): Congratulations to the writer of "In the Wake of the Week's Broadcast."

The truth is that we are getting less and less symphonic music and celebrity singers of operatic and classical song than ever, although we must admit they do allow us occasionally to hear Elizabeth Schumann and Lottie Lehman and Tauber, but why so very seldom do they allow Gigli to be heard? Even with the nightly study of the evening's programmes, we find it difficult to keep the radio going from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Until quite recently here one could always rely on 1YX for an excellent symphonic programme on Tuesday evenings, but this seems now to be interfered with, and 2YO could also be relied on to supply similar concerts once or twice a week, but now that 1YA is more often than not transposed to 2YO that, too, is wiped out. In fact unless more consideration is shown to those of whose tastes do not appreciate jazz or crooners, it looks as if we shall have to get back to our old gramophones to get at least what we are able to appreciate. Twenty-five

shillings per annum for what you don't like is a bit too high.

## Solfa System

N. J. Williams (89 Ponsonby Road, Auckland): In a recent issue of the "Record" you used an article by Mr. V. Peters, of Christchurch. He is reported as saying "Members of big choirs in England are remarkable sight-readers. They have to be or their conductors would be more than displeased." He, however, omitted to state that this is chiefly the result of these people having learned and still using the tonic solfa notation. I cannot understand why in New Zealand this is almost taboo, for those of us who know realise only too well that for singing purposes there is no comparison between the two notations. I understand that solfa is supposed to be taught in the schools, but either it is taught with a great amount of indifference or the teachers are inefficient in the teaching of it, for I think it would be very difficult to find a child who after two years from school could even run up the various scales. I am a holder of a solfa college certificate and should be happy to do anything in the way of making this method more widely known and used.

## Answers To Correspondents

Answers to Correspondents.—R.G. (Te Horo): Thanks for your letter. The other side of the argument was given in next issue. "Pro Patria" (Wellington): Thanks for comments. Unfortunately much too long to publish. N.C. (Takapuna): Thanks for suggestion. Unfortunately it is not at the moment practicable.

THE Empire on which the sun never sets—because God canna trust ye in the dark.—Mr. Andrew MacLaren, M.P.

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