

'Scrim' is 'Scrim' and Broadcasting Wouldn't be the Same Without Him

'Record' Interview with Prime Minister

THERE'S no one in the country who can do Mr. Scrimgeour's job as he is doing it." So said the Prime Minister (Rt. Hon M. J. Savage) in a personal interview with the "Record" this week.

"Don't ask me for reasons—I couldn't give them. All I know is that 'Scrim' is 'Scrim,' and the Commercial Broadcasting Service in this country wouldn't be the same without him. I don't know another man in the length and breadth of New Zealand who could as capably handle this important and intricate service.

"'Scrim' has a radio personality and an appeal to the great bulk of the public that is unique in the Dominion."

London hotel. But, you see, ladies and gentlemen, Paul Robeson has a dark skin. . . Good-night, everybody!" Give me 20 minutes of this sort of thing and you can have a whole six months of the dull and studied perfection of too many New Zealand radio speakers!



Well-publicised serial, "Beau Geste," latest plum for the New Zealand Commercials, appear to be creating a good deal of interest among listeners, and from the evidence of the early

"BEAU GESTE" episodes it bids fair to be as popular as **IS** "The Dark Invader" **WORTH TRIAL** was. Personally, as

one who was enthusiastic over the cunning "surprise technique" in P. C. Wren's book, I was disappointed that this element has been almost destroyed in the radio version. Still, you can't have everything, and there is no doubt that the novel has been cleverly adapted. Too early yet to judge the real worth of the feature, it is not too late to advise listeners to give it a trial.



Another serial likely to please a large block of listeners is the Nationals' "Grand Hotel," which started a couple of weeks ago at 2YD and is now coming over also from 1YA Auckland.

Whereas "Beau Geste" has been liberally, and probably wisely, adapted for radio, the

Vicki Baum story is adapted no more than a raw egg is prepared by hot water for a picnic. It is condensed, but in essence unaltered. The result is a lack of continuity that will probably make it difficult for listeners who have not first read the book to follow the sequence—in the earlier episodes anyway. However, those who do keep up acquaintance with "best-sellers" may, for that very reason, enjoy the radio version all the more. And everyone, I think, will have to admit that the NBS have done here a fine job of acting. They have cunningly gone to the "Grand Hotel" film for a lead, so

that you almost believe you hear the Barrymores speaking and the intonation of Garbo. The woman who takes the role of Grushinska, by the way, is giving a really memorable performance, however imitative of the great Swede. Secretary Flammchen is another who is outstanding. All in all, this is a serial worth following. A Warning: Like "Coronets of England," it has the fault of over-loud incidental music, so it's a good idea to pull your armchair close to the set and be ready to switch down. And a Tip: Sound effects men, you have here just what you want for the sound of a machine-gun—hear the typewriter battering in episode 3, if I remember aright!



A fisherman myself, I tuned in eagerly to 4YA the other Friday night to hear what Murray Fastier thought about the "Ocean Fishing Off the Otago Coast." He had interesting things to

GOOD BAIT say, and showed clearly that trawling or line-fishing **FOR** is not the holiday picnic that landlubbers sometimes imagine. On Mr. Fastier's expedition, they had some trouble with sharks, one nuge proper losing his body to a sea-pirate even while he was still fighting on the fisherman's line. Ordinarily, catches are so bad when sharks are about that the boats move on to a new ground. Mr. Fastier's talk was good bait for radio fishers, even though he made the mistake of speaking too fast.



Last week was rather poor in now features for radio listeners—one of those barren periods that happen every now and then for no apparent reason, like an epidemic of measles.

TIBBETT THE PRIZE OF THE WEEK Most interesting broadcast was probably the Lawrence Tibbett welcome relayed by

2ZB on Tuesday night. Unfortunately, Wellington weather was not so polite as Wellington people, and

in the worst storm for years the commercials' national hook-up broke down. Only Auckland and Wellington heard the welcome, and were grateful for unusually straight speeches. Tibbett himself impressed listeners by his clear-spoken and intelligent remarks—he sounded a man of ease and much honesty.



Whether "Sally" of 3ZB was too near or too far from the "mike" one recent Thursday night, I cannot say. All I know was it was impossible to hear what she was talking about so merrily.

WHAT WAS WRONG WITH "SALLY"? This announcer has a crisp and hearty style which is easy to hear, but occasionally she seems to let her subject run away with her. A trifle less speed and a trifle more coherence would improve her broadcasts.



And now it is quite time I voiced the feeling of hundreds of Wellington listeners in pleading for the publication of 2YD programmes. This friendly and moderate little station puts over

WELLINGTON'S LUCKY PACKET STATION excellent recorded material, and often takes National serials before the main stations. I

know its programmes are to a large extent impromptu, but surely we could be told about its serial features and the few others that are fixed beforehand. Last week I went to great trouble and static getting "Singapore Spy" from 3YA Christchurch, only to discover a little later that 2YD had started the spy drama some weeks before. This sort of experience gives one the same feeling as buying an exclusive tie somewhere and then the next day seeing it in a job lot at a chain store window at quarter the price! I really cannot see why 2YD should be such a lucky packet station. After all, 12M's secrets have been laid bare—the Wellington baby carries much better material.