

"THEY'RE COMING, SURE ENOUGH"

Mr. Dean Confirms Booking Of Famous Stars for New Zealand and Australia

SEVERAL weeks ago Ernest Rolls, co-managing director of Australian and New Zealand Theatres Ltd., passed through Auckland with news of a surprising galaxy of stage and screen stars he intended bringing out from America and England. Names he mentioned included Jeanette MacDonald, Nelson Eddy, Grace Moore, Annabella, Katharine Hepburn. Famous concert artists had also been booked, together with the cream of London and New York stage successes. The news was received with joy by theatre-goers, but unfortunately it was also greeted with a certain amount of scepticism in some quarters, both in Australia and New Zealand.

SURPRISE, however, that there should be any doubt at all concerning the possibility of tours by these artists was expressed by George Dean, Mr. Rolls's co-managing director, who recently returned to Australia by the Mariposa after a combined business and pleasure tour of England and America.

"You have to remember," Mr. Dean told the "Record" at Auckland, "that some of Mr. Rolls's arrangements were made well in advance. You can't persuade an artist like Eddy to undertake a tour at a month's notice. But they will be coming right enough, and to New Zealand as well."

"While I was in America I myself completed arrangements with Lily Pons, and it won't be long before she is in Australia."

It was the definite policy of his firm, Mr. Dean added, to tour New Zealand with every show that could possibly be brought across. With some shows, such as the ballet, which is now doing sensational business in Australia, several difficulties had to be overcome.

The ballet cost £3500 a week to produce, which meant that a lot of money had to be taken before any profit was shown at all. But, in spite of the difficulty of arranging prices which would be within the reach of the average theatre-goer, the ballet would be coming to New Zealand.

Most interesting stage production Mr. Dean saw in America was "Night of Song," musical comedy

life story of Gilbert and Sullivan. It includes excerpts from several famous operas, but, on the whole, said Mr. Dean, it was disappointing. "You can't swing Gilbert and



GEORGE DEAN
Lily Pons is also coming.

Sullivan. It's almost as great a sacrifice as Maxine Sullivan singing 'Loch Lomond.'

Plans are being seriously considered, Mr. Dean told the "Record," for the improvement of his firm's theatres throughout New Zealand.

"It looks as though something will just have to be done about that forest of posts in His Majesty's at Auckland," he said.

Sad Poem Was Set To Music By Composer Brahms

Men Who Live Apart From Humanity

ONE winter Goethe took a trip into the Harz mountains, and George said:

"My dear Brahms,—Yesterday evening saw the first performance of your Rhapsody in America. The concert will be repeated next Sunday. It was just perfect yesterday. Miss How (the contralto) has a lovely voice and gave a magnificent performance. The men's chorus went very well, and when it first resounded—in the perfectly quiet hall with its audience of 2500—the effect was overwhelming. I was trans-

It is difficult to understand why Brahms, whose life was smooth enough, should have joined his sentiments with those of the pessimistic hermit, aloof, and out of sympathy with the world, who is the subject of Goethe's poem.

The object of Goethe's journey to the Harz mountains was a visit to a young author with whom he had been corresponding, and the poem recalls some of their talk together. The young writer was something of a hermit, and the first two portions of the poem which Brahms eventually set to music, for contralto solo, emphasise the sad state of those who live apart from comradeship, taking no share in mankind's tasks.

But the last part of the work is in a happier spirit, finding consolation in a divine thought finely expressed; it concludes with a prayer to the "Father of Love" to open the selfish eyes of the lonely one to all the beauty about him. Brahms succeeds in perfectly adjusting his mood to that of Goethe and Goethe's hermit.

The music is broadly melodious and dramatic, growing in intensity to where, toward the end, a choir of men's voices enters with the impressive appeal to the Almighty to grant to the solitary hermit the joy of hearing an echo of one strain of the music of His Heavenly Kingdom.

The Alto Rhapsody drew from the late Sir George Henschel a simple but touching tribute, following his first introduction of the work in America. Writing from

Station 3ZB Is In The Money

DURING the last two or three weeks, Station 3ZB's advertising figures have leapt ahead to make a new high for business since the station opened. This is considered due chiefly to the class of sponsored programmes presented. It has been noticed lately, too, that the type of advertising coming from the Christchurch microphone is of an interesting nature, that the staff has the business down to a fine art.

ported to heavenly heights. There were many who could not restrain their tears and only after a complete silence the spell-bound public broke forth into applause.

"A thousand, thousand thanks, dear master,

In deepest reverence,
Yours very sincerely,
GEORGE HENSCHEL."

Alto Rhapsody, by Brahms will be heard from 3YA on Wednesday, December 21.

cinematographer, decided to make a talkie version of "Ravi's Last Stand," Miss te Miha was selected for the part of the heroine, and in the film she sings several old Maori chants.

While Lawrence Tibbett was in New Zealand he was very anxious to hear some typically Maori

She Felt Like Snow White In Caves

PAUSING in her NBS tour to step off at Waitomo Caves, American woman trumpeter Grace Adams East was enchanted with them. Said Miss East: "I am so glad I called in. I've seen the famous Carlsbad Caves in America, but they are nothing compared with the Waitomo Caves. In those glowworm caves I felt just like Snow White among the Seven Dwarfs."

music, but much of the music he heard at Rotorua was obviously affected by European influences.

At Auckland, however, he gave an audition to Miss te Miha, and heard her sing several old Maori chants and laments. At the same time Tibbett was delighted with Miss te Miha's voice, and predicted a great future for her, even suggesting that she was a type which Hollywood was looking for.

Miss te Miha went to Australia some months ago for a short stay, but returned to complete some scenes in "Ravi's Last Stand," which will probably be released in the near future.

Maori Girl Wins Contract With ABC

SEVERAL New Zealanders have made names for themselves in Australian radio, and the latest is Miss Ramea te Miha, talented Maori girl, who leaves for Australia early in



RAMEA TE MIHA
Tibbett was delighted.

the new year under contract to the ABC.

Miss te Miha, who comes from a South Island tribe, not only has a fine singing voice, but is a clever black-and-white artist and an actress of no mean ability.

When Frontier Films, Ltd., producer for which is Rudall Hayward, well known Auckland

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