



★ Picture gives a line on NCBS celebrities who attended the seventh anniversary gathering of the Friendly Road in Auckland lately. They are: Neddo, Aunt Daisy, Dorothy, Uncle Scrim, Uncle Tom, Thea, John Batten, Marina and Gran. ★

FRIENDLY ROAD SEVEN YEARS OLD

Aucklanders Scramble For Seats At Town Hall Meeting

"FIVE years ago there were more people outside the Town Hall than in it—because there was a fight on. I was more thrilled this year to find that such a huge crowd had found it worthwhile to be present when there wasn't even the shadow of a fight—just because they were interested in the regular work of the Friendly Road," said Controller C. G. Scrimgeour ("Uncle Scrim"), addressing the anniversary gathering of Friendly Road supporters in the Auckland Town Hall on Sunday, December 13.

Aucklanders have become accustomed to having to scramble for seats when the Friendly Road holds an anniversary or a gathering of any kind. Even the reporters had to convince the harassed door-keepers that they didn't want merely to gate-crash. Hundreds packed every entrance and stood about under the loudspeakers.

Singing of the 250 children in Uncle Tom's choirs and reception given to Friendly Road and 12B personalities, was endorsement of

the Controller's contention that the Friendly Road was still progressing and extending.

Said the Controller: "During the last eighteen months, since I have been connected with commercial broadcasting, I have conducted more sessions on the air than over any similar period before that time."

In his address he talked of the importance of a constant ideal and the need to keep up to date with the trends and changes that are taking place all the time. "When we cease to change," he said, "we have become old."

Nearly all his Auckland staff shared the platform with him; Aunt Daisy made a special trip from Wellington to attend. It was the seventh anniversary of the Friendly Road, a gathering that lacked nothing of the enthusiasm of the six that had gone before.

English Cabinet Minister Broadcasts to N.Z.

THE "Record" is advised by his Majesty's Trade Commissioner in New Zealand (Mr. R. Boulter) that a talk on the subject of Empire trade and the forthcoming British Industries Fair by the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs and the Colonies (Rt. Hon. Malcolm MacDonald) will be broadcast to New Zealand at 8 p.m. (New Zealand summer time) this Friday, December 23.

In view of the efforts that have been made during the year to foster trade between the Mother Country and the Dominions and the international strife that has threatened trade in all parts of the world, Mr. MacDonald's broadcast should be listened to with extreme interest.

The National Broadcasting Service advises that this talk will be broadcast from Station 2YA, Wellington, at the same time—8 o'clock on Friday.

We Like Priestley, America Can't Stomach Him

J. B. PRIESTLEY'S plays may be a success in the British Empire, but they leave America cold.

Last year his successful London play, "Time and the Ways," was transferred to the New



J. B. PRIESTLEY

"Plotting against the soul of man."

York stage—and flopped miserably. Caustic critic, George Jean Nathan, described it as a "large piece of heavy Yorkshire pudding without the roast beef."

A few weeks ago another successful Priestley play, "I Have Been Here Before" (most successfully produced by the Wellington Repertory Theatre recently) was staged in America and flopped worse.

Said the great novelist-playwright after this second failure: "I have always felt that there was an inexplicable sense of menace in New York, as if something were plotting against the soul of man."

Priestley's plays are immensely popular with repertory societies in New Zealand. Every play the Yorkshireman has written has been produced by amateurs at some time or another in this country.

Noted Artists For Celestial Fireworks Play Round 2YA's Xmas Programmes 4YA's Radio Mast

NOTABLE artists in 2YA's Christmas programmes are Clement Q. Williams, Australian baritone, and Julie Werry, Wanganui-born soprano. Both are under engagement to the NBS for a tour of the main stations. They will be heard several times during the week beginning December 25. Mr. Williams is to broadcast on Christmas Day, and the following Tuesday and Thursday, and Miss Werry appears at the 2YA Studios on December 27, 29 and 30.

STATION 4YA's 512-foot mast on Otago Peninsula attracts lightning. During the recent unusually severe electrical disturbances in Dunedin, the mast was a playground for the celestial fireworks. That part of the proceedings was right enough, for the mast is protected against such happenings, but lightning which continued for nearly two hours taxed even the resistance of a fully insulated mast, and minor trouble was experienced at the transmitter.



★ Heading one of the best revue companies to visit New Zealand for a long time is Will Mahoney, pictured above. The show, "Why Be Serious?" opens in Auckland on Christmas Eve, plays the principal towns of the North Island, and begins its Wellington season on Saturday, January 14. Do you remember an amusing picture screened here a few months ago, "Said O'Reilly to McNab"? Well, Will Mahoney was one of the stars. Violet Carlson, comedienne of "Balalaika," is in the revue, too. ★

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