

# MUSSOLINI AS AUNT SALLY IN SIDESHOW

## Italian Consul Protested To Police About Evans Bay Carnival Caricature

ALTHOUGH their political tactics savour very often of thugdom and the "rough-house," dictators are notoriously thin-skinned, sensitive people. Jokes and caricatures which in most countries would merely be laughed at, can be, in totalitarian States, offences punishable by prison or the concentration camp. Result is that this type of humour has been driven underground, to find its expression in whispered, illicit jokes which gain currency and spread with a rapidity which must be extremely galling to these great men.

THERE is, for instance, the story concerning the time Mussolini slipped quietly by himself into a picture theatre in Rome. A national song in honour of Il Duce was played, and everybody promptly stood up. Modestly, Mussolini remained seated.

Whereupon the patron in the next seat (needless to say not knowing who his neighbour was), pulled him by the sleeve and whispered, "You'd better stand up, my friend. Most of us feel the same way, but it isn't safe."

It is not very often in democratic New Zealand that we are afforded the privilege of first-hand experience of the dictator's aversion to critical publicity, although occasionally zealous consuls to protest to newspapers.

Notable occasion, of course, was the Hon. R. Semple's biting reference to "mad dogs," for which an apology was promptly demanded and given.

### Happened Here

IT is probably very seldom that a carnival sideshow has provoked consular action in this connection, but it has happened in New Zealand, and only the other day. The whole incident was rather trivial, more silly and ridiculous than serious.

It was at the Evans Bay carnival. In an endeavour to raise funds, the Maranui Surf Club installed a side-



SIGNOR MUSSOLINI

Hair and beard were added. show stall consisting of two Aunt Sallys.

They were novel Aunt Sallys, consisting of painted caricatures of Hitler and Mussolini. Good sketches they were, and from the point of view of a sideshow attraction there was nothing objectionable about them. Accentuation of Mussolini's high, bald dome, wide mouth and jutting chin was very slight.

In the mouths were electric light bulbs which served as targets and at the same time added grotesque teeth to the faces. Catapults and small projectiles were used; six shots for a shilling; a small prize if you knocked out a tooth.

FIRST murmurs of disapproval came from some Italian residents of Wellington, who gave every indication of being very offended.

Next thing that happened was that the Italian Consul was informed about the "outrage."

He, in turn, complained to the Police Department, and the Police Department informed the Maranui Surf Club that the sideshow would have to be stopped, or at least a different form of Aunt Sally used.

Not wishing to incur further Fascist hate (or the visit of more drastic police action) the club gave way.

Spectacles were added to Herr Hitler; some more hair and a beard to Signor Mussolini, and the keenest students of international affairs would have had difficulty in recognising the dictators.

### Any Precedent?

IT would be interesting to know if the New Zealand Police Department has ever before interfered similarly with a carnival sideshow, and if so, on what grounds.

It will also be interesting to see whether this censorship on behalf of a sensitive dictator will be carried further, and whether it will lead to the Italian Consul setting himself up as an authority and judge regarding what New Zealanders may and may not say or do about Il Duce and his Fascist regime.

As far as can be gathered, incidentally, no action was taken by the German Consul about the representation of Hitler.

It is to be hoped that the consul's Nazi overlords will not consider that he has failed in his consular duties, and insist that he travel round New Zealand seeing that effigies of Hitler are not used as Aunt Sallys in sideshows.

## Musicians Are Going To Ask NBS For More Money

CONFERENCE of musicians will be held in Wellington on Tuesday, January 24, when one of the items on the agenda paper for discussion will be the fees paid to members of the four YA orchestras.

At present the players are paid £2 per week each, this price including the performance and rehearsal.

NBS is to be asked to grant an increase and to pay performers on a weekly basis.



★ THE "RECORD" AND COLUMBIA PICTURES visited Palmerston North recently to present the prizes awarded in connection with the "Ideal Holiday" competition conducted by Columbia in conjunction with the "Record." The winner of the contest was Mr. A. S. Hely, of 40 Te Awe Awe Street, Palmerston North, who received a fortnight's free holiday at Rotorua, all expenses paid, and several other awards. The presentation was broadcast from 2ZA. From left in the picture above, which was taken in 2ZA's main studio, are John Brown, 2ZA station director; J. Gifford Male, of the "Record," who judged the competition; Mr. Hely, the winner; Bert Vinsen, general manager for Columbia Pictures in New Zealand; and W. Maxwell, manager of the Regent Theatre, Palmerston North. ★

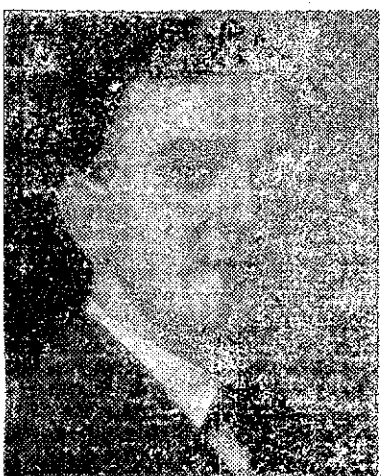
## She Will Sing Her Way To The Top Of The Tree

SOPRANO Julie Werry, formerly of Wanganni, found her Australian experience recently has done her much good.

Before long, if she takes the advice given to her by the famous woman trumpeter, Grace Adams East, she will go to America for further study and experience. Miss East's view is that Julie Werry's Maori songs will have a big appeal in the States.

"I am going to make singing my career, solely with the object of getting to the top of the tree, and I will do all types, from musical comedy to lieder."

After her tour of the national stations, Miss Werry spends a holiday in Wanganni and then goes to Australia again.



★ Frank Blackman (above) broadcast from 2BL Sydney on Sunday. His programme was "A Pilgrimage with the Maestros." Mr Blackman, well known in Wellington, where he was one of the staff of the Bank of New Zealand, has distinguished himself at the piano, and is at present studying in Sydney. ★

## Body-Snatching Play For Dunedin Repertory

DUNEDIN Repertory Society's anticipations of "creating something like a sensation in Dunedin" with its next play, have every possibility of being fulfilled. Play selected is the celebrated James Bridie's "The Anatomist," based on the body-snatching interludes of the infamous Burke and Hare who shocked the world in the early part of last century.

This is entirely different from anything the society has attempted in the past, and really opens a new field. Society has led the way for some years in presenting "something different." Doubtless the venture will be watched with interest by similar societies elsewhere.

Casting is virtually completed, and the play will be presented late in March or early in April. Production will be in the hands of Miss Ngaio Marsh. One imagines a play of this type will be meat and drink to her.

THE Polish Minister of the Interior has issued an order which compels town dwellers to replace their old aerials with those of a uniform variety in cases where ungainly aerials are aesthetically offensive. A similar measure has been adopted in Amsterdam.

## 2ZB Arranges Regular Baseball Broadcasts

INTEREST in baseball continues to grow in New Zealand, and in the Wellington district especially. The rapid rise to popularity of the game is partly due to the interest taken by 2ZB.

Now arrangements have been made for sponsored broadcast commentaries each Saturday afternoon for the next two months.

Further filip to the game was given by a 10-minute talk on a re-



Have you ever heard it happen like this?

cent Sunday morning by W. H. Wilson, executive of the Ford Motor Works, who was one of those responsible for introducing baseball to New Zealand.

The Baseball Association is arranging inter-provincial representative games, and later in the season a team from Los Angeles will probably visit the Dominion.

## Blame The Movies!

(A Poem which needs no Preface.)

IF the kids play wag from school,  
Blame the Movies!  
If a flapper plays the fool,  
Blame the Movies!  
If your neighbour with a knife,  
Seeks to terminate his life,  
Do not blame his wayward wife,  
Blame the Movies!

IF your hubbie comes home tight  
Blame the Movies!  
If he's looking for a fight,  
Blame the Movies!  
If his talk is rather queer,  
If he calls you "Duckie Dear,"  
Don't attribute it to beer—  
Blame the Movies!

IF the ashes England wins,  
Blame the Movies!  
If your wife gives birth to twins,  
Blame the Movies!  
If you back a losing horse,  
Lose a fortune on the course,  
If your wife seeks a divorce—  
Blame the Movies!

FOR the flask that's on the hip,  
Blame the Movies!  
For the flighty flapper's nip,  
Blame the Movies!  
For the crimes that folk appal,  
For mankind's decline and fall,  
Or for anything at all—  
Blame the Movies!