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THE MUSIC CORPORATION IS ON THE JOB

Big Stars May Tour Australia And N.Z. Under Contract to Songwriter Jimmy Campbell

ON MAY 30 last the Swedish motor-ship *Mirrabooka* deposited in Sydney a very well-known English song-writer and publisher named Jimmy Campbell. On the same ship was Mrs. Campbell, who may be better known as Betty Balfour, English film and stage star. The Campbells had been considering coming to Australia for some time. Their stay developed into a permanent one, and it was not long before the Australian theatrical world began speculating as to just who and what was behind a new organisation terming itself the Music Corporation of Australia.

MANAGING - DIRECTOR of the Music Corporation, it was soon revealed, was none other than Jimmy Campbell. After a cautious entry into Australian entertainment, the Music Corporation began to branch out, and at the present time, judging by announcements which have been made recently, there is a

local bands, and present the outfits in vaudeville, over the air and in the larger cabarets.

Jay Whidden

FIRST band-leaders he signed up were America's Jay Whidden and England's Roy Fox.

Whidden arrived in Australia several months ago with the nucleus of a band, incorporated Theo Walters (well known to New Zealand dancers) together with Walters's band, and opened to very good business at the big Melbourne Palais de Danse.

He brought with him as vocalist Lawrence Brooks, young American tenor, now in Wellington with the Frank Neil show. Brooks, who had met Jimmy Campbell in America some years previously, is also under the management of the Music Corporation.

When the announcement regarding Roy Fox was made, there was immediate and not a little scepticism. Somebody went to the trouble to point out that Fox was under a contract which brought him £600 a week personal salary, the inference being that he was not likely to leave England while he was earning that amount.

However, Campbell had a radio-phone talk with Fox, arranged all details satisfactorily, secured a business and personal management contract from Fox, and the net result is that by the time this appears, the famous band leader will probably have landed in Australia.

He will recruit his band in Australia, but he has brought a vocalist who he claims is an outstanding discovery. Theo Walters will be his deputy-leader.

Australian Musicians

IT may at first seem a slight perversion of fact to describe a band composed almost entirely of Australians as, say, "Roy Fox and his Band," but what will happen will be that the band will be built up to resemble as closely as possible in composition Roy Fox's original band.

Regarding the talent of Australian dance-band musicians, there can be no question; many have left Australia to fill with credit places in some of the most famous bands in the world.

Other Music Corporation artists at present in Australia include Jack Dale, American radio star, and Sylvia Sefton, Jay Whidden's feature vocalist.

The corporation also controls the radio recitals of Larry Adler, famous mouth-organ virtuoso, who will

probably be coming over to New Zealand in the near future, and Evie Hayes, popular singer with the Frank Neil show now in Wellington.

"HEARD A LOT"

Eddie McDonald Non-Committal

NON-COMMITTAL when approached by the "Record" on the subject of the Music Corporation of Australia was Eddie McDonald, manager of the Frank Neil Company now touring New Zealand. Mr. McDonald, who has toured countless vaudeville companies throughout



EDDIE McDONALD.

New Zealand, knows Australian entertainment intimately. He had certainly heard a lot about the Music Corporation, he remarked.

The big names under contract did not mean very much until they were actually in Australia, though they were certainly very impressive. Most American acts for Frank Neil shows were contacted through Mr. Neil's Los Angeles agent, Sam Cramer, who was very widely experienced, and had the reputation of knowing just about everybody worth knowing in the U.S. show business.

Big Names

IN an advertisement inserted by the corporation in an Australian musical publication, were listed the artists for whom Jimmy Campbell controls Australian and New Zealand rights. Here are some of the better-known:



IN THIS CHEERY GROUP are the three Boswell Sisters and Street Singer Arthur Tracy. Connie Boswell and Tracy are both under contract to the Music Corporation of Australia.

Fats Waller, corpulent negro pianist, noted for his inimitable style of singing; Betty Boop, of "Good Ship Lollypop" fame; the Mills Brothers, originally known as "Four Boys and a Guitar," though one of the combination has died; Joe Penner, American humourist, whose speciality is selling a duck; Elsie Carlisle, much-recorded light vocalist; the Andrews Sisters, a vocal combination; Gene Austin, light tenor whose records were frequently heard over the air in New Zealand a few years ago; Cliff Edwards, better known as Ukulele Ike, who has appeared in several musical films; Judy Garland, brilliant young singer, who was last featured in the film "Love Comes to Andy Hardy"; Maxine Sullivan, torrid coloured lass, who startled the world with her swing versions of old Scottish songs such as "Annie Laurie" and "Banks of Loch Lomond"; and Arthur Tracy, the romantic Street Singer.

Band leaders Jimmy Campbell has under contract are legion. They include Billy Cotton, Mantovani, Maurice Winnick, Ray Ventura, Gus Arnheim, famous coloured trumpeter Louis Armstrong, Emery Deutsch, Jimmy Dorsey, Benny Meroff, Art Shaw, Jimmy Grier, Frankie Trumbauer, Joe Venuti, and Victor Young. He also has that famous swing combination, the Casa Loma Orchestra.

The Mills Brothers will definitely be coming to Australia in the near future (possibly to New Zealand, also). They were scheduled to arrive in December, but the visit has now been postponed until about August.

Louis Levy

LOUIS LEVY, whose Gaumont-British Symphony Orchestra is frequently heard over the air, will also be coming out. Much of the credit for Levy's rise to prominence must be given to Jimmy Campbell, who "put him on the map" in England. According to an Australian publication, Jessie Matthews and Son-

nie Hale are also coming out under the management of the Music Corporation. Mr. Campbell has been Jessie Matthews's manager.

Markets in Australia for all Mr. Campbell's talent consist of vaudeville organisations, such as that controlled by Frank Neil, which is almost the only worthwhile market in this connection, radio, and larger dance "palaces" and cabarets.

It is rumoured, however, that Mr. Campbell has been studying



JESSIE MATTHEWS, who will be visiting Australia soon.

conditions in the Australian theatre very carefully, and that he may branch out in other directions very soon.

Certainly, if he applies as much enthusiasm and energy to the concert and legitimate stage as he has to the initial establishment of the Music Corporation, he will soon be a force to be reckoned with.

LAWRENCE BROOKS, American tenor with the Frank Neil Company, now in New Zealand, is managed by the Music Corporation.

chance that it will soon be playing a big part in general entertainment in Australia and New Zealand.

Mr. Campbell, who is English born and bred, but has the reputation of being a greater hustler and go-getter than any American, was formerly managing-director in England of Cinephonic Music and the Campbell-Connelly Music Publishing Company.

Songs he has written have been whistled all over the world. They include: "Show Me the Way to Go Home," "The More We Are Together," "Good Night, Sweetheart," "Underneath the Arches," "Echo in the Valley," "By the Fireside," and countless others.

Betty Balfour came to Australia to appear in several plays in Melbourne and Sydney, including "Personal Appearance," in the part made famous by Gladys George. When she decided to stay on in Australia she was commissioned by the ABC to play lead in a specially-written radio serial, "Bundles."

Policy of the Music Corporation of Australia, Mr. Campbell announced soon after starting up in business, was to bring to Australia several internationally-famous band leaders, put them in charge of