

BBC MAN GIVES N.Z. A SQUARE DEAL

Broadcast Both Sides, Is The Policy Of Director F. W. Ogilvie

(By airmail from our London Correspondent.)

IF Sir John Reith had still been Director-General of the BBC it is improbable that New Zealand's High Commissioner, Mr. W. J. Jordan, would have had the opportunity of replying in full, over the BBC network, to the recent criticism of the New Zealand Labour Government.

However, since the appointment, last October, of Frederick Wolff Ogilvie, as Director-General, many changes have been made in the BBC's policy, and, in future, both sides of controversial subjects will be given.

INSTANCE of the change in policy is that Sutton Vane's play, "Outward Bound," the theme of which treats with life after death, is to be broadcast after a wait of 16 years.

Until now, the corporation's Religious Department has considered the play unorthodox and dangerous for broadcasting, but, by presenting the theme as a religious one, although unorthodox, Drama Director Val Gielgud has persuaded the Religious Department to raise its ban on the play—and now it is to be presented on a Sunday!

A Dr. Ogilvie, who is also a professor but prefers to be called "Mr.," is largely responsible for the loosening up of BBC censorship regulations, and one of the main effects of his enforcement of a "square deal" policy for controversial subjects such as politics and religion is that Sir Richard Maconachie, BBC Director of Talks has had to reconsider his plans for radio talks in the coming year.

A number of scheduled talks have been dropped because they were sufficiently one-sided to require replies, and there was no room for replies in the programmes.

Emergency

EQUILIBRIUM of BBC engineering chiefs has also been disturbed, and they are busy formulating plans for the protection of transmitters in case of emergency.

The recent bombing outrages made them realise the vulnerability of the main stations and relay stations, but the extent to which the

BBC has gone, and is going, to protect its stations has been kept out of range of Fleet Street correspondents by L. W. Hayes, Engineering Controller, Sir Noel Ashbridge's right-hand man.

Immediately the bombing campaign began, Sir Noel called Hayes, his second-in-command, H Bishop, and civil engineer Tudsbury to consider which transmitters were most vulnerable and how to protect them.

Danger Spots

OPINION that all stations were set in open spaces some distance from roads and were therefore safe was not



DIRECTOR OGILVIE
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ference with which could stop the service, was the chief consideration.

Danger spots were agreed to be Daventry, Brookman's Park,

RICHARD CROOKS HERE IN MAY



It's good news to learn that the famous American tenor, Richard Crooks, is due back in New Zealand in May to give six concerts before embarking on an Australian season. He'll be at the Auckland Town Hall on May 13, 16 and 18, and at the Wellington Town Hall on May 20, 23 and 25. Above is a photo of Crooks with his wife and family taken for the "Record" when he was last in New Zealand.



Snapped by Richard Andrew for the "Record" the other evening were the three personalities above—Michel Fokine, world-famous choreographer with the Covent Garden Russian Ballet, Mrs. Sharman (centre), well-known Auckland socialite and writer, and Madame Fokine. They were seeing Fokine's own spectacular ballet, "Cinderella."

NCBS Stages Novel Relay Of Richard Crooks From U.S. Broadcast Was Well Worth While

MOST spectacular broadcast of last week was the special rebroadcast from America for the NCBS of a recital by Richard Crooks and the Firestone Symphony Orchestra.

The orchestra appropriately played Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance," and Crooks, who will shortly be visiting New Zealand, sang several ballads, including "Killarney" and "Beautiful Dreamer" very pleasantly.

Stations 1ZB and 2ZB made recordings of portion of the broadcast and replayed them the same evening, 2ZB's announcer expressing the pious hope that some day it would be possible to present such broadcasts with as much clarity as if they were from local stations.

An experimental relay, it is understood to be the first time an American programme has been specially directed to this part of the world.

It was announced that the programme was transmitted by landline from New York to San Francisco, broadcast on shortwave from San Francisco to Australia, and, with the co-operation of Amalga-

Let's Build A Programme

IT is probably only natural that the average listener should have a rather hazy idea of the inner workings of a commercial broadcasting station, and it is equally natural that the folk who work behind the scenes should get scant credit from the listening public for the really hard work that goes into arranging the programmes.

If the average listener could inspect the programme department of 4ZB, for instance, he would be surprised at the amount of work entailed in the preparation of a day's programme. 4ZB has a stock of nearly 10,000 standard recordings, as well as about 2,000 wide-range numbers.

These have all to be checked over for copyright, and classified according to artist, title, and type. Every programme compiler must know his library so that a balanced programme can be built, and every record must be stamped and logged each time it is played.

Care must also be exercised to see that the sensibilities of listeners as a whole shall not be shocked by coarse or doubtful records. Certain records may not be really "over the edge," may, in point of fact, be enjoyed by some listeners, yet they may give offence to others.

This balancing of public taste is a very delicate matter, hard sometimes to achieve. A certain record on the doubtful list was introduced into the "Laugh and the World Laughs With You" session one night—and for the remainder of the evening the telephone was kept busy with requests for its rebroadcast.

But on the whole few complaints are received.

IT is clear to me why God made the cactus.—Mr. O. E. M. Joach.

Questionnaire

Help of Wellington Readers Wanted

READERS in the WELLINGTON CITY AREA, receiving their "Records" to-day, will find a questionnaire inserted.

Would they be good enough to fill it in and leave it with their booksellers when buying next week's copy of the "Record"? Or, if they prefer, they may post it direct to: The Editor, "Radio Record," G.P.O. Box 1680, Wellington.

The co-operation of Wellington readers in filling in this question form will be warmly appreciated.

Droitwich, Stagshaw (Newcastle) and Lisnagarvey (Northern Ireland). Full-time guards were posted at these points and at the time of writing, have not been relaxed.

After the disturbance in Northern Ireland, the guard on the Lisnagarvey station was doubled, and an emergency service plan drawn up.

The new Director-General certainly seems to be "the man on the job," and no doubt his influence will soon make itself evident in other BBC departments.

Dr. Frederick Wolff Ogilvie was, before his appointment as Director-General of the BBC, president and vice-chancellor of Queen's University, Belfast, and has had a distinguished academic career, both at Edinburgh University, where, from 1926 to 1934, he was Professor of Political Economy, and, latterly, at Belfast.

NCBS DISCOVERY

Cushla De Lange In Big Show

BEAU SHEIL, NCBS advertising manager, has had word from Australia that Cushla de Lange, the Auckland girl singer whose talents were



first discovered by the 2ZB stations, has been given an important role in "Royal Casino," a new show to be produced at His Majesty's Theatre, Melbourne, by Ernest C. Rolls.

mated Wireless, rebroadcast to the NCBS.

A certain amount of surging and fading was to be expected, therefore, but on the whole the broadcast can be rated a definite success.