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TELEVISION BROADCASTS WILL BE HIGHLIGHT OF N.Z.'S CENTENNIAL

Minister Is Evasive, But Sydney Report Says Wellington Will House "World's Most Modern Equipment"

- Ahead of the world in many respects, New Zealand promises to earn fresh fame, along with the United States, Britain, and certain Continental countries, as a pioneer in television.
- Only a few months hence, if plans go right, New Zealanders—or Wellingtonians, at least—will be able to enjoy the thrill of "television."
- For television is coming to the Dominion . . . if no hitches occur. It is likely to be exhibit No. 1 at the Centennial Exhibition. Plans are yet to be finalised, but if they come to fruition, the Capital City will possess equipment second to none in the television world, capable of operation not only in the exhibition area, but in various parts of the city.

MOST New Zealanders who have followed the slow development of television in other countries are pessimistic about the chances of inaugurating a television service in this country within the next decade.

Some months ago there were rumours that the NBS intended installing television at the Centennial Exhibition but they were pooh-poohed by Mr. E. C. Hands, business manager of the NBS.

However, this article, the result of independent investigation and inquiry, seems to suggest that there may have been something in the rumours after all.

We understand, as we go to press, that arrangements have been finalised for setting up television equipment at the Centennial, and that the English company concerned will be sending experts out to New Zealand in the next few days.

The Sydney writer, who appeared to be well informed, declared that the present plan is for the equipment, described as one of the world's most modern television units, to be set up at the Exhibition ground, four miles from the city, and to transmit impressions of scenes, crowds, entertainments, buildings, and courts.

THESE TRANSMISSIONS WILL BE PICKED UP ON THE LATEST RECEIVING SETS, PLACED AT SUITABLE INTERVALS WITHIN THE GROUNDS, FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE PUBLIC. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE EQUIPMENT WILL ALSO BE

USED FOR TELEVISION EVENTS IN THE CITY FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE EXHIBITION.

. . . But will hopes be realised? Will the peculiar antennae of television rear themselves among Wellington roofs? Or will the "vision" that has prompted the preliminary negotiations be doomed to disappointment?

Statements

IMMEDIATELY the Sydney report came to light, it was submitted in its entirety to Rt. Hon. M. J. Savage, as Minister of Broadcasting, together with a request for information on certain points—but chiefly to determine the authenticity or otherwise of the story. Illness intervened before Mr. Savage could reply, but from the Hon. F. Jones, acting for the Prime Minister, came an interesting statement.

"SO FAR AS I AM AWARE," declared Mr. Jones, "NOTHING DEFINITE HAS BEEN ARRANGED IN THE MATTER."

"I UNDERSTAND IT WAS THE INTENTION OF A LOCAL RADIO COMPANY TO IMPORT APPARATUS TO BE EXHIBITED AT THE EXHIBITION, BUT I AM NOT ABLE TO SAY DEFINITELY WHETHER THE COMPANY IS PROCEEDING WITH ITS PROPOSAL."

In reference to the Sydney suggestion that, after May, the Government would assume control of the equipment, Mr. Jones's statement was brief and to the point:

"THERE HAS BEEN NO UNDERTAKING BY THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE OVER THE EQUIPMENT AND OPERATE IT AFTER THE EXHIBITION."

The Minister regretted that this was all the information he could give.

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Hot Shots

SO Japan is training bees to carry messages. Guess those messages won't be the Lord's Prayer on a grain of rice.

A HUGE stock of old cigarettes was burnt in Christchurch. Modern version of the "Boston Tea-Party"?

"VERY TIGHT POSITION: BIG MUTTON SURPLUS", says New Zealand newspaper heading. Sounds like the aftermath of a Sam Weller soiree.

IN Dunedin Rugby premiership final, when Ron Silver, of Union, ranged up to take penalty kick which decided his team's supremacy over Southern, the vast crowd roared, "Hi-Yo, Silver!" AS the schoolboy said, "It's not the school I don't like, it's the principal of the thing."

FROM a crime story in a Christchurch paper: "The alarmed detectives smashed in the door. There was a dead man there, sitting quietly at a desk." Well, what did they expect him to be doing?

SILENCE isn't always golden—sometimes it's just plain yellow.

A MEMBER of Parliament has been complaining about the number of letters and deputations he has been receiving lately. But how would he like to be in Central America, where they don't write letters to the Government—they shoot at it.

THINGS which might have been worded more happily: "Mr. — spoke of the qualities of the original founders. His father had had nine children, and for them all he had insisted on a fully adequate education. He, too, had been a man of great industry."—From a Dunedin paper.

"MAJOR-GENERAL MUTO, one of the Japanese delegates at the Anglo-Japanese talks, pointed out that the negotiations were smooth until economic issues arose."—Cabled news item. We're quite prepared to believe that the Japanese side of the negotiations was pretty smooth.

"MR. EDEN IN CAMP," said a newspaper heading last week. And it's a Government camp this time.

JEWS will be strictly separated from the Aryan population in Prague under a police decree which will exclude them from restaurants, cafes, and public gardens. They can still be buried in Aryan cemeteries, though.



★ FIRST AMERICAN ARTIST ever to be televised was radio singer Edith Griffith, who passed through Auckland the other week. See story on page 12. ★

THIS project is being formulated with a singular lack of publicity. In fact, had it not been for casual reference in a Sydney journal we might still have been in blissful ignorance of the experience that is likely to be ours.

Sydneyiders were frankly told a few days ago that "New Zealand is to have television before the end of the year." The installation would be only temporary—for the purposes of the Centennial Exhibition, but there was a belief that when the exhibition came to an end, in May next, the Government would take over the equipment and continue to operate it.

THERE IS A FEELING, SAID THE REPORT, THAT IF TRANSMISSIONS AT THE EXHIBITION ARE SATISFACTORY, THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE THE TELEVISION EQUIPMENT.

IN ANY EVENT, IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT EXPERIMENTS WILL BE MADE TO ASCERTAIN THE LIMIT TO WHICH TELEVISION CAN BE USED IN NEW ZEALAND WITHOUT THE SETTING-UP OF SECONDARY STATIONS. EXPERTS ARE CONFIDENT THAT THERE WILL BE NO DIFFICULTY IN GETTING SATISFACTORY RECEPTION FROM ONE SIDE OF COOK STRAIT TO THE OTHER.