

## England's Prime Minister in New York

### Broadcast of Arrival

THE recent arrival of England's Prime Minister, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, in New York, was the occasion of a very successful world-wide broadcast. The following is an interesting account (appearing in the "Manchester Guardian") of the reception, and of the elaborate preparations made to ensure the success of the broadcast:—

When the Berengaria drew into New York harbour with Mr. Ramsay MacDonald aboard, the hooting of sirens and the shouting of huge crowds vibrated on the microphone on the quayside, and a vivid impression of the city's reception to the Prime Minister was broadcast to the world. If noise was any indication it was indeed a great reception, for the announcer's voice was almost drowned in the uproar; and even the strains of the military band (which, said the announcer, "oughten make a thrill run up your back") was hardly distinguishable.

It was a "good old New York welcome," and by the sound of it they do things well in New York. But noise was not everything; according to the announcer—whose voice came through clearly in the intervals of comparative quiet—there was colour as well, the light dress of the crowd adding to the splendour of the military escort, "with its neat white leggings," and the hundreds of police.

One could almost see the thousands of streamers thrown over the procession from the quay to the City Hall, and—again quoting the very entertaining announcer—"It is a good job Broadway is so narrow, making it easy to clean up afterwards." There must have been several microphones at work, for after the landing of the party a glimpse was given of the arrival at the City Hall, the welcome in the aldermanic chambers, and the public reception in the great hall. There was music and shouting everywhere, and uproarious laughter, too. That was when the reader of the scroll of welcome described Mr. MacDonald as "Prime Minister of the United States." After shouting and laughter had died down the speaker corrected himself by saying, "I was only expressing a hope."

Mr. MacDonald's voice was exceptionally distinct and impressive, the only fault being that he lowered his tones too much at the end of a sentence, and the microphone could not always catch them. Particularly impressive were his opening eloquent remarks that he had come "on a mission of peace," and that the two nations were roadmenders paving the way for their children and grand-children. "Wherever the work of God is to be done, we shall be side by side in the doing of that work," he said, and the cheers that greeted this remark must have resounded round the world. If only from a technical point of view, the broadcast was a success.

## Christchurch Repertory Theatre Society

### To Present Programme at 3YA

THAT splendid organisation in Christchurch known as the Canterbury Repertory Theatre Society, which performs under the aegis of Professor Shelley, of Canterbury College, will provide the whole of the evening's programme at 3YA on Thursday, January 16. The entertainment has been arranged for the 3YA Musical and Dramatic Committee. The programme will include selections by the Society's orchestra, these comprising the overture "Caliph of Bagdad," a selection from "Maritana," "Norma," and "William Tell." There will be two short plays and a dramatic presentation of Ibsen's "Peer Gynt," in which the orchestra will take part. "Anita's Dance," and "In the Hall of the Mountain King" will be played, and "Solveig's Song" will be sung by Mrs. W. B. Harris. This presentation of "Peer Gynt" will occupy half an hour. During the evening Professor Shelley will himself enact a Shakespearian sketch, the famous quarrel scene between Cassius and Brutus in "Julius Caesar."

Interspersed through the programme will be several songs. Mrs. A. Harper will sing the "Habenera" (from "Carmen"), Quilter's "Shakespearian Songs" will be sung by Mrs. W. H. Harris, and Mr. A. G. Thompson will sing "Star of Eve" (from "Tannhauser").

## N.Z.A.R.T. Convention

### Successful Gathering in Auckland

(By "Call Up.")

THE first annual convention organised by the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters was held in Auckland on December 27 and 28. About thirty members attended.

On Friday, 27th, no very serious business was done. During the morning visits were paid to several of the stations worked by amateurs round about Auckland, the opportunity being taken to send messages to friends in other centres. The party lunched at the Mount Eden tea kiosk, and then set out in buses on a comprehensive sight-seeing tour of Auckland. They visited 1YA for a time during the afternoon transmission, and in the evening attended the Regent Theatre.

Delegates assembled at the Leys Institute, Ponsonby, at 9.30 a.m. on Saturday, Mr. H. P. V. Brown, of Christchurch, presiding. A resolution was carried approving the principle of organised communication from one end of New Zealand to the other. The chairman said the time was opportune, as the great need of a radio relay chain had been demonstrated during the recent earthquakes in the South Island. If there had been a definite relay system the association could have given valuable service to the stricken areas. He believed that what was needed was a complete chain of communication which could be established at short notice. This would necessitate the keeping of watch schedules and the sending of test messages. A most important adjunct would be an efficient portable transmitter, together with a collapsible antenna equipment which could be erected in a few minutes. After a little practice any operator should be cap-

able of speedily establishing this portable station.

Such a chain could be made available to the Post and Telegraph Department when regular communications were interrupted by storms or other causes. In discussing details of the relay chain scheme members agreed that Sunday should be the principal night, as telegraph offices were then closed, and an alternative method for the transmission of urgent messages was needed. A special committee was set up to finalise details of the scheme.

It was announced that, whereas there were only eighteen members of the association three years ago, there were now 250, and this total was growing rapidly. The meeting received the result of a ballot which resulted in the election of Mr. T. R. Clarkson as Dominion president and Mr. C. N. Edwards as vice-president.

On the Saturday evening a dinner was held in the Akarana Yacht Clubrooms, Mr. H. P. V. Brown being in the chair. Included among the toasts were "The King," "The Visitors," "The Post and Telegraph Department," "Kindred Associations and Radio Societies," "Absent Friends," "The Secretary, Auckland Branch," and "Headquarters, Officers Past and Present." A number of musical and other items were rendered during the evening. Mr. Bob Fowlds gave some piano pieces, Mr. J. Housego sang, and the N.Z.A.R.T. jazz band played some selections. An amusing feature was the mock trial held by a number of members.

A picnic was to have been held at Motu Island on Sunday, but this was postponed for a fortnight owing to threatening weather. Altogether the gathering was a most successful one, and apart from the business and discussion of the convention, members had a most enjoyable holiday. The second convention is to be held in Wellington next year.

For Sale or Exchange.

See page 32 for column of casual advertisements.

## "Pioneers' Night"

### 4YA Programme a Success

THE "Pioneers' Night" programme which was presented at 4YA on Saturday, December 21, proved a striking success and has been the subject of many encomiums. It was an excellent entertainment for both young and old. It proved a link with the past which it brought before the vision of the present generation, and it revived the recollections of the older people.

One correspondent makes the following comment in the course of a letter to the Broadcasting Company:—"The programme was all it promised to be. I have special interest in the description of the 'Strathallan's' voyage by the fact that an uncle of mine was a passenger by that vessel, and the incidents described coincided with his description of the journey out to New Zealand. The experiences related by our worthy friends Messrs. Thompson and Bain were very unique, and were highly appreciated by us. Just here permit me to offer a suggestion: That a few reminiscences be put over the air occasionally by old pioneers, to be an object lesson to our young folks, whose pleasant present surroundings were made possible by the pluck, courage, and sacrifice of our worthy forebears. In conclusion I hope you will convey this humble appreciation to all the contributors to the programme, not forgetting our indispensable interlocutor, Big Brother Bill."

## Electrical Leakages

THE Mount Victoria area of Wellington, including Roseneath, has been having a bad time lately with electrical leakages. The noise is like "frying," and is sufficiently intense to overwhelm all "outside" reception while it lasts. Fortunately it is intermittent and runs from five minutes to ten minutes at a time. The noise has a definite peak in frequency, and is loudest somewhere between the frequency of 3YA Christchurch and 2BL Sydney.

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