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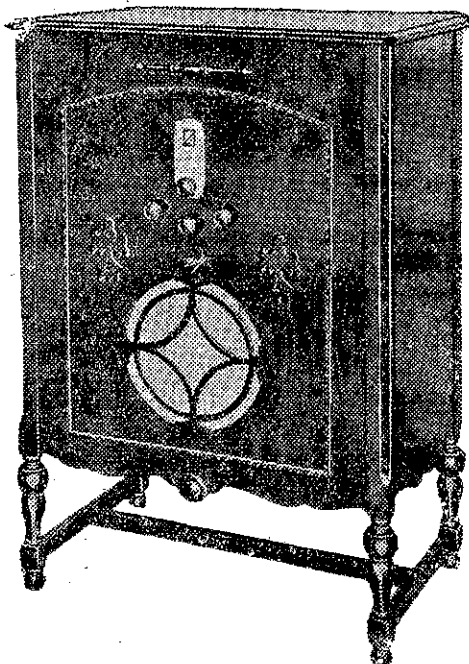
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The Songs of the Tui A Noteworthy Artist

(To the Editor.)

Mr. Barend Harris

COULD not a scheme be formulated for broadcasting the tui? This is an opportunity for some enterprising person. Bird lovers who have not heard and seen the tui sing in his natural environments will appreciate very much listening-in and hearing creation's greatest song bird. It is a difficult problem to broadcast the tui. I am confident that in the near future the Radio Broadcasting Company will surmount difficulties and arrangements will be made to have the tui and the choicest gems of his repertoire sent over the air to the millions of listeners in various parts of the world.

Those who appreciate music and take a deep interest in the study of the song birds of Maoriland have some time or other felt a thrilling ecstasy when listening to the charm and beauty of the melodious, deep, rich, bell-like notes of the tui. When once one has heard this bird's mellifluous singing it will always remain in the memory. I do not know of any bird to equal the tui for the purity and perfection of his voice. He is master at manipulating the lowest and highest notes of the musical scale which neither human skill and genius nor the human voice can compare.

The tui sings best when alone and undisturbed, and in summer evenings. It is one of life's rarest experiences listening to the faultless songs of love, happiness and sadness of the tui. The nightingale is his only rival—and a puny one at that—for the tui is credited with several hundreds of songs at his command which would make even the masters of the human voice pale into insignificance as compared with the wonder vocal organs of one of the world's most charming birds.

The tui is a heritage every New Zealander should be proud of, and a most unique treasure. May we all find in his songs something of joy, pleasure, and happiness even if only to listen to the soothing melodies he pours into the lap of mother earth.

It would be a graceful tribute to the native song birds of New Zealand if the Radio Broadcasting Company condescended to put the tui and his songs over the wireless.—Rore John Josephs (Maniapoto Tribe, Te Kuiti).

"Phil," the Radio Pup A Clever Automaton

A NOVEL demonstration was given in London recently of "Phil," the radio dog. Although he is mains-operated, "Phil" also utilises several batteries disposed about his interior, which also accommodates innumerable relays to operate the two driving motors as well as a klaxon to represent his bark.

Two photo-electric cells constitute the dog's eyes, into which it is but necessary to shine a light to cause him to "bark." His powers of locomotion, which incidentally are rather uneven and thus give him an appearance of, well—a dog who is having his day—are fully directional, for by shining the light into either eye he turns that way. Altogether a very ingenious contrivance and one which would prove immensely popular with children.

CONTINUING his New Zealand tour, Mr. Barend Harris, the Sydney bass-baritone, who has already fulfilled three engagements at 1YA, will appear at 2YA on Monday and Thursday next week.

Mr. Harris will again sing several Hebrew folk songs, but listeners will have the pleasure of hearing this magnificent singer in songs like "The Song of the Volga Boatmen," "The Carnival," "The Song of the Toreador," "My Old Shako," and "The Floral Dance." One of the Hebrew songs will be the well-known "Kol Nidrei."

The Broadcasting Company has been particularly fortunate in being able to engage an artist of Mr. Harris's calibre for a tour of the New Zealand stations. Mr. Harris was a member of the Melba-Williamson Opera Company, and was soloist in Broughton's "The Immortal Hour," which Dr. Arundel Orchard produced at the Conservatorium. He toured for twelve months under J. C. Williamson, Ltd., and Union Theatres, Ltd. He was the soloist at the Sydney State Theatre, the second week it opened, and has appeared as soloist at many of Union Theatre's presentations. Mr. Harris is at present the bass soloist of the Great Synagogue Choir of Sydney. His Hebrew songs have never previously been sung in the Dominion, and some of them have not been sung in Australasia before. They are entirely new, and are unlike any other songs. Mr. Harris has made a special study of Hebrew songs, of which there is no other singer in either New Zealand or Australia.

Helping Sport

Part of Broadcasting

THE contention that broadcasting is harmful to sport is not supported by the "New Zealand Referee." This is what last week's issue has to say in the matter:—

Broadcasting has contributed more than its mite in helping the game of fisticuffs. At one time the hue and cry was raised that broadcasting would have a tendency to injure the gate receipts, but during the last few months it has been realised that the sport is being helped rather than hurt by chronicling the doings over the air.

To refute the suggestion that broadcasting keeps the fans at home one need only hark back to the two Dempsey-Tunney heavyweight championship matches as illustrations. Of course the attraction was there, but all the same there were more at the second match than there were at the first one.

Broadcasting of boxing contests in New Zealand has instilled a good deal of interest in the game, and there are some very ardent supporters of boxing in the country who so far have never had the fortune of attending a contest.