

The New Zealand Radio Record

—AND—

Electric Home Journal

(Incorporating the "Canterbury Radio Journal.")

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WELLINGTON, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1930.

THE CHILDREN'S SESSION.

BEFORE us as we write lies a roughly-written postcard addressed to one of our technical departments. But it is not intended for us—it is a simple request for a birthday, written by a hand unused to writing and with a pen that probably had not been used for a long time, for the lines are very scratchy and the angles inked. Right up in one corner is the date, a week back, followed by a name we have never heard of and which we cannot locate on a detailed map. The messages and the little moral for the children are all there, but they are scattered—nevertheless they will be deciphered and the message will go over the air to that little family.

That family group can be imagined. They are probably miles from the nearest neighbour, receive their mail once a week, the children may have to ride several miles to school over rough roads or they may even be too remote to attend school. Cut off from the world, seeing none of the rapidly moving things of the life, the family is pioneering in the remotest of backblocks. And this letter is, no doubt, typical of thousands.

Such families can be pictured before and after the advent of radio. It has changed the whole aspect and now, with the limitations necessarily imposed by economical batteries, that would cause their set to be treated with disdain by those more fortunately situated, that set will be one of the most treasured possessions. Its effect in moulding the minds of the young children is paramount. It is a means of entertaining those young, isolated children whose playmates are those of their own family and the studio children and the aunts and uncles become part of their widened circle of acquaintances. They become veritable playmates and chums. Their bright songs, stories and patter provide the young, active and impressionable mind with some new thought, that they would not otherwise have had.

Then of a different nature though of equal importance is the Sunday song service with its Scripture hunting, special hymns and stories. To those who cannot reach the Sunday schools and have the desire to attend, the radio service does incalculable good. To those little ones who have learned the specially-composed children's hymns

and can join in the songs, the barriers of isolation must be, for the time, non-existent. The little ones singing in the bush home must feel part and parcel of the choir helping in the studio song service. Only last Sunday we heard Uncle George remark from 2YA that in some of the remote districts the Sunday services were used as Sunday schools. We who are in the midst of the bustle and rush of city life cannot realise what radio must be to these pioneers.

"Robin Adair"—An Irish Melody

Brought to Scotland

IT is interesting to note that the melody of "Robin Adair," one of the songs on the Scottish programme to be broadcast from 4YA on Tuesday, November 25, is now claimed to have come from Ireland. According to tradition it was composed by the Irish harper, Carrol O'Daly, in the latter part of the 14th century, and was inspired by a romantic incident of his own life.

O'Daly loved an Ellen O'Cavanagh, of the County of Connaught, but her family looked unfavourably on his suit. When O'Daly returned from an enforced absence, he found that Ellen had been prevailed on by her relatives to promise her hand to another. Filled with despair he sought a solitary spot, and, from a full heart, composed the song "Eileen Aroon"—the melody we know as "Robin Adair." Next day, disguised as a harper, O'Daly appeared at the wedding festivities, and at the request of the bride herself played his newly-composed air.

The song had the desired effect. Recognising in the disguised travelling musician the identity of the harper, Eileen experienced a return of affection for her former lover and eloped with him that night.

Although this melody was printed as an Irish air at least as early as 1729 it subsequently appeared in several 18th century collections of Scotch melodies. It was the custom in olden times for Irish harpers and wandering minstrels to make trips through Scotland in much the same way as an artist tours a foreign country to-day.

The celebrated Irish harper, Dennis O'Hempeny, born in 1695, made a tour of Scotland, in his youth, and played as one of his most popular airs, the melody of "Eileen Aroon." This was taken up and widely circulated by the Highland minstrels, and was published and presented as a Scottish air, to which were eventually fitted the words of "Robin Adair."

N.Z. Hears King's Voice

ALL the YA stations carried out a rebroadcast of the opening of the Indian Round Table Conference at midnight on Wednesday, November 12, New Zealand summer time. The results were generally satisfactory, particularly 1YA and 3YA, where the King's speech was heard with perfect clarity. The rebroadcast in Christchurch was one of the best that has been carried out from the Chelmsford station, 5SW.

A WELL-KNOWN Australian singer, Miss Addie Campbell, has taken up her residence in Christchurch and will give her first radio performance on Monday, November 24. The quality of Miss Campbell's voice has been the subject of much commendation; in fact, she was generally known as "The Bendigo Nightingale." The songs chosen for Monday evening will be: "Ave Maria" (Mascagni), "The Wreath," "God Touched the Rose," and "Three Green Bonnets," a variety which will demonstrate the range of Miss Campbell's extensive repertoire.

Talk with London Wireless Telephone

IF tests upon the Tasman radio telephone prove satisfactory within the next few days it is anticipated that a unique conversation will take place early this week, when the Acting-Prime Minister, Hon. E. A. Ransom will speak from Wellington to the Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. G. W. Forbes, in London. This will be the first official conversation between England and New Zealand, and it will mark an important step in the advance of inter-Imperial communication.

The radio telephone service between London and Sydney has been in operation for some time, and experiments upon the service between Wellington and Sydney have been in progress for several weeks. This section is the one causing the difficulty, but it is anticipated that the service will be ready for commercial operation in the near future. The Director of the Commonwealth Postal Department, Mr. H. P. Brown, recently had several successful experimental talks with Mr. G. McNamara, Secretary of the New Zealand Post and Telegraph Department. It was hoped that the service would have been opened by now, but the tests have been prolonged in view of various difficulties that have been encountered.

There was a proposal that the Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. P. A. de la Perelle, should speak to the Lord Mayor of Sydney when the New Zealand offices were opened there last Monday, but this proved impossible, so that the conversation between Mr. Ransom and Mr. Forbes will be the first to take place, apart from those conducted by the Commonwealth and Dominion departments.

Numerous complications have to be overcome by the Post and Telegraph Department in conducting a successful service between London and New Zealand. The service between Sydney and London is only working four hours a day, owing to fading trouble. Once the tests have been completed it is not expected there will be much difficulty in maintaining a service between Sydney and Wellington. It is possible there will be a little trouble for a start between Wellington and London, as in the first instance there is a variation in time of 12 hours.

Mullard
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