

# The New Zealand Radio Record

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## Home Journal

(Incorporating the "Canterbury Radio Journal.")

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WELLINGTON, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1931.

### THE SERVICE OF 2YA.

THE outstanding event in radio circles is unquestionably the service rendered by 2YA in connection with the earthquake disaster. In this time of national emergency it proved itself a perfect clearing-house for information and an incomparable centre for the dissemination of instructions facilitating all phases of rescue work. As the need developed, all agencies that required this service turned naturally to 2YA, and speedily announcements from such diverse authorities as the Post and Telegraph Department, the Railway Department, the Transport Department, the Salvation Army, the Y.M.C.A., the Red Cross, St. John Ambulance, the Wellington Automobile Club, and many other organisations, were concentrated upon it. Putting over the air these announcements enabled remedial measures to be applied infinitely more effectively than could have been secured by any other means.

EVEN more impressive service, however, was rendered the general public by the detailed help given in tracing missing friends and locating their whereabouts among the refugees from the affected area. Inevitably, in the first stages of the evacuation, records of the location of each person were incomplete, with the result that extensive inquiries became necessary to locate individuals and restore the circles of families and friends. A special tribute to the whole of the staff of 2YA is due in this connection. The long hours imposed by unceasing inquiries were faced without hesitation. The telephones of the station for all practical purposes never ceased over the days concerned in the rush period. Unfailing attention and courtesy were given to all, and as the broadcast inquiries brought telephonic and telegraphic response, steps were taken, not only to broadcast the information received, but to directly inform the original inquirer. 2YA thus became a centre of social work of the utmost importance. Many touching and direct messages of thanks have been received at the station, but apart from these, in thousands of homes the will may be taken for the deed. Inevitably perhaps, there have been those who have thought the earthquake matter was being overdone, and messages indicating impatience and the desire for the restoration of the ordinary routine were not lacking. On one Saturday night, for

instance, some listeners voiced their impatience that the cause of suffering should have precedence over "their dance music." That such individuals suffered from lack of perspective and a proper appreciation of the need of "first things first" is perhaps the kindest way of regarding their action. The extent of the disaster is only gradually becoming fully appreciated, and the need for sympathy, understanding and practical help is still imperative. As a means of showing their practical sympathy a number of leading radio performers are combining to give in the Wellington Town Hall, on Monday, February 23, a public concert under the auspices of the "Radio Record." This venture is commended to the goodwill of the Wellington public and all listeners further afield. Listeners unable to attend are invited to forward contributions to the "Radio Record" for addition to the funds of the concert.

### Opening of Vatican

#### Speeches Rebroadcast

IN the early hours of Friday morning last the YA stations carried out a rebroadcast of the new short-wave station in Vatican City. This station is one of the most powerful in the world. The official opening ceremony was performed by his Holiness the Pope, who sent a message to the peoples in all parts of the world.

His address was couched in Latin and reception in New Zealand was exceedingly clear and strong, as was also the speech made by Senatore Marconi.

Unfortunately for New Zealand listeners by the time interpretation into English began daylight conditions had caused the signals to fade.

The broadcast from Vatican City and rebroadcasts were another epoch-marking event in the history of radio.

### Reminiscent of Early Days

#### Talk from 3YA

MENTION of the name of Mr. Te Ari Pitama, who is scheduled to lecture from 3YA on "The Evolution and Development of Maori Music," recalls the raid which the bloodthirsty Te Rauparaha made on the pa at Kaiapoi (Kaiapohia) over a century

#### Lord Baden-Powell

FOLLOWING are the broadcast in connection with the visit of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell to Wellington next week:—

Friday, February 27.—Civic reception in Wellington Town Hall at 8 p.m.

Saturday, February 28.—Scout and Guide Rally in Basin Reserve at 2 p.m.

ago. On that occasion the North Island chief, by his usual cunning, succeeded in capturing the pa and massacring nearly all the occupants. One who was made prisoner and who later escaped was Mr. Te Ari Pitama's grandfather.

Mr. Te Ari Pitama is a journalist, educated at Christ's College. His lecture at 3YA will be illustrated with musical numbers.

### IYA Musical and Dramatic Committee

THE IYA Musical and Dramatic Committee met on Tuesday, February 10, Mr. A. B. Chappell, M.A. (representing the Dickens Fellowship), presiding. There were also present: Miss G. Bertram (N.Z. League of Penwomen), Mr. J. F. Montague (Auckland Comedy Players), Mr. Karl Atkinson (Auckland Piano Students' Association), Mr. F. M. Price (Aeolian Orchestra), Mr. E. Blair (Workers' Educational Association), Mr. C. B. Plummer (Auckland Choral Society), Mr. L. C. Barnes, Mr. H. C. Trim. An apology for absence was received from Mr. L. E. Lambert.

Appreciative references to the manner in which the staff of IYA had carried out their duties in connection with the earthquake disaster were made, and officially recorded.

The resignation of Mr. T. T. Garland and Mr. J. Tait were received with regret. New representatives will be appointed by the societies concerned. In connection with the recent song writing competition conducted by the committee, the station manager was asked to make arrangements for the prize-winning song, composed by Mr. Eric Waters, to be sung from IYA.

The chairman outlined the arrangements which he and the station manager had made in the spelling bee, to be held at IYA on Friday, February 13.

The station manager, referring to coming programmes, mentioned that the choir would give a special programme on March 31, when the "Messe Solenne" would be performed, also some choruses from "The Messiah." On March 10 Miss Kitty Camplin and Mr. Ralph Eskridge would give recitals.

Mr. Blair reported that the W.E.A. was preparing a schedule of lectures. Mr. Barnes reported that the "New Zealand Programme" was in hand. In regard to the inter-college debate, this depended on whether a relay line was available. Arrangements had been completed in connection with the visit of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell.

### Clearing the Ether

AT a London meeting of the Institute of Radio Engineers it was predicted that, as a solution to the problem of clearing the broadcasting ether of its present congestion, the use of a limited number of 1000 kilowatt broadcasting stations would become a recognised necessity.

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