

# The New Zealand Radio Record

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## Home Journal

(Incorporating the "Canterbury Radio Journal.")

P.O. BOX, 1032, WELLINGTON.

Published Weekly. Price 3d. Subscription Post Free in advance, 12s. 6d. per annum; booked, 15s.

Literary communications should be addressed: "The Editor"; business communications to "The Manager"; technical communications to "The Technical Editor."

Advertisers are asked to note that alterations of advertisements should be in hand Friday of each week for insertion in the succeeding issue, printed Tuesday, bearing Friday's date. No responsibility is accepted for blocks remaining unclaimed three months after last insertion.

RADIO PUBLISHING COMPANY OF NEW ZEALAND, LTD.  
P.O. Box 1032, WELLINGTON.

WELLINGTON, FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1931.

### EDITORIAL NOTES.

FOR some weeks past, under the title of "The Voice of Michael," we have been giving the views and advice of an esteemed contributor upon the radio talks presented from various stations. That page has concentrated attention upon a phase of radio activity which many listeners had relatively neglected. To get the best out of a radio talk one must concentrate and closely follow the speaker's presentation. To this many, not knowing what they were missing, have been disinclined to lend themselves. We are glad to learn from the evidence of correspondence and personal contact that the attention that has been drawn to the wealth of valuable talks available on the air has increased the number of those who now habitually make a selection of the best talks of the week. Last week was particularly rich in intellectual matter. Possibly the most thoughtful address was that by Dr. E. N. Merrington, of Knox College, Dunedin, when, in treating of "The International Mind" he outlined the necessary trend of world thought to win nations from the old individualistic outlook on to that broader basis which is necessary for the fullest attainment of international peace and amity. That address was so weighty as to call for permanent record, and is given in another column, so it may be allowed to speak for itself. As the doctor says in his concluding passage, radio has its part—and no small one at that—to play in the development of the international mind. By it the world is becoming more and more a whispering gallery, enabling nation to listen to nation and people to people.

IN speaking at Urenui last week, the Postmaster-General, the Hon. J. B. Donald, had some observations to make upon the broadcasting service. In essence his remarks added nothing to the statement made by him in Parliament last year, when he intimated that the Government had in view the taking over of the broadcasting service and its development upon a rather grandiose scale. Subsequently in Parliamentary debate the Minister admitted inability to advance details of his scheme, but undertook that, before action would be instituted to put the Government scheme into operation, the full details would be presented to Parliament for its discussion. In the intervening months the Minister has had time to finalise his scheme, but he has done nothing so far to satisfy the natural curiosity of listeners as to the detailed means by which he hopes to achieve his avowed objective. At the Auckland Radio Exhibition he hinted that on the governing body of the future both members of the trade and the listening public would find representation. What is perhaps more to the point from the point of view of both the listener and the taxpayer would be an indication of

the financial obligation involved and an assurance that efficiency and economy would be observed in the conduct of the scheme. These are vital matters requiring consideration and protection, and the time is more than ripe for the Minister to take the public into his confidence on major points. So far the Company would not seem to have been given official advice as to the non-renewal of its contract. In the Minister's words: "It has been given to understand"; but more business-like procedure is required in connection with contractual obligations of the moment involved in this transaction. If the Minister places any reliance at all upon the views of listeners, it would be advisable for his scheme to be promulgated in all vital detail, so that full and frank discussion might be entered upon prior to any possible debate upon the floor of the House. Only by that means will listeners and taxpayers be able to determine whether the scheme offers any advantages over a similar scheme of comprehensive relay stations submitted to the Government by the Radio Broadcasting Company some two and a half years ago.

## Plays for Country Women

### Competition Launched by "Dairy Exporter" and "Radio Record"

RECENTLY, it will be remembered, Miss Elizabeth Blake gave an interesting talk from 2YA upon the possibility of forming a League of Drama in New Zealand on the lines of the organisation conducted in Great Britain. Miss Blake outlined her ideas in full, and they attracted a great deal of interested attention both in city and country. Miss Blake is now in England, but will return early next year and put her ideas into practice.

In the country there now exist some 250 women's institutes. These are gatherings of women designed to promote social contact among those interested in various hobbies and intellectual developments. Many of these Institutes are interested in the presentation of plays, and the scheme promulgated by Miss Blake made a definite appeal to them. As a result of correspondence received from many members of these Institutes, indicating their difficulty in securing suitable plays for presentation among themselves, Tui, the Lady Editor of the "Dairy Exporter," has arranged for a competition for suitable plays for prizes donated by "The New Zealand Dairy Exporter" and "The Radio Record" in conjunction. The plays desired must be capable of presentation wholly by women, and should not take longer than 20 to 30 minutes to present. It is hoped that this competition will produce some interesting talent, and if plays of sufficient merit are found, arrangements may possibly be made for their presentation over the air. The prizes will be £5/5/- for first prize, £4/4/- for second prize, and £3/3/- for third prize; and the following conditions will apply:—

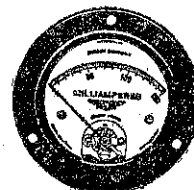
(1) Plays must be the original work of entrants; typed or written in ink, one side paper only.

(2) Plays must be capable of presentation by women only, and should occupy approximately 20 to 30 minutes.

(3) Publication rights of successful plays are reserved to the "Exporter" and "Radio Record," and women's organisations in New Zealand shall be entitled to present the plays without special fees.

(4) Entries close July 10. Address MS. "Drama," P.O. Box 1001, Wellington. Enclose stamps for return of MS. All care taken, but no responsibility for possible loss of MS.

Mr. Victor Lloyd, the well-known producer and playwright, has kindly consented to act as judge of the plays submitted.



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