

## Government Control

### Reply to Chamber of Commerce

THE Government will not control the radio broadcasting system at present existing in the Dominion, according to a letter which has been received by Mr. Roy Smith, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, from the Hon. J. B. Donald, Postmaster-General.

The letter is as follows:—"In reply, I beg to state that there is no proposal on the part of the Government in this direction. Possible methods of control which are receiving the consideration of Cabinet at the present time all definitely preclude any extension of the duties of the Post and Telegraph Department in the broadcasting field. The actual resolution of your chamber, being based on incorrect premises, therefore, requires no comment. On the general principal enumerated in your resolution I am wholly in accord."

The letter referred to by Mr. Donald contained the following resolution passed by the Chamber of Commerce:—

"It having been reported that it is the intention of the Government to take over the broadcasting organisation in New Zealand, this chamber begs to request that no further Government departments be created, nor any extension be made in the activities of Government departments in this or any field which can more suitably be covered by private enterprise."

## 22W Sessions

### Bright Orchestral Relays

FOR the last week or so station 22W, Wellington, has been relaying the overtures of the new De Luxe Theatre Orchestra, under the conductorship of Mr. L. D. Austin. These have been coming over particularly well and are most enjoyable. The orchestra plays well and performs a good class of work. The "Belle of New York" selections on Saturday night were particularly fine. On this night, too, was relayed a portion of one of the supporting pictures—a travelogue on "Japan."

Another worthwhile broadcast is the Divine service on Sunday morning. As the preacher says: "It is a service designed not to take the place of the morning church or chapel, but to carry a message to those who, because of their remote situation or infirmity, cannot attend regular services." This is an excellent session, well worth tuning in.

## "Sweet Lavender"

### 3 Act Play from 2YA

SIR ARTHUR PINERO'S three-

act play "Sweet Lavender," which Mr. Clement May and his company will present from 2YA on July 16, is one of those light, charming dramas so very much in favour in the late Victorian period, when ladies wore side-act curls, bustles, and crinolines. In view of the preponderance of delightful humour which permeates the play, it is more often regarded in the light of a fairy-tale than a drama of real life. Certainly no one would more readily agree with this than the author.

Its representations, which have taken place in almost every English-speaking country of the world, may be counted by thousands, while in London and New York scarcely a season passes which does not see its revival. And the reason for this is not difficult to find. It lies in genial humour of the play, and, in particular, the lovable nature of the weak-willed, down-at-heels Dick Fennell. Criticism from those who, perhaps, see its weakness in realism is disarmed by the simplicity and quaint pathos which characterises "Sweet Lavender" throughout.

Mr. May, who is producing the play, will also appear as Dick Fennell, a part he has played several times abroad. He has selected a particularly fine cast for the radio performance.

The part of Lavender will be taken by Miss Dorothy Miller, who made such a charming Juliet on the evening of the recent Shakespeare Anniversary programme. Miss Leonore Polsford, who will play the part of Mrs. Giffilian, has had considerable stage experience in the Old Country.

She has often appeared at the famous Daly's Theatre, London, as well as in many provincial touring companies. Miss Ranghilde Mee has been cast as Minnie Giffilian, while the somewhat pathetic part of Ruth Rolt, the housekeeper, will be taken by Miss Margaret O'Halloran (Mrs. Plank), who is the possessor of a very charming speaking voice.

The juvenile lead of Clement Hale will be played by Mr. Robert Charlton, while Mr. John Storr, who is already well known to 2YA listeners, will appear as Dr. Delaney. Mr. Kenneth Aitken will be heard as the American, Horace Bream, and the part of Bulger the barber will be taken by Mr. J. Watchman. Maw, the solicitor, will be portrayed by Mr. G. Cahill, and Geoffrey Wedderburn, one-time sweetheart of Ruth Rolt, by Mr. W. J. Mountjoy. "Sweet Lavender" should prove a fine evening's entertainment, and should take old theatre-goers back to the time of quaint and wholesome plays, in which the sordid sex element, so common in dramas of to-day, is entirely absent.



MISS DOROTHY MILLER, who is taking the part of Lavender. —Photo, Marie Dean Studios.

## "Buy N.Z. Goods"

### R.B.C. Questioned

MR. NASH recently gave notice in the House of Representatives to ask the Postmaster-General whether, with a view to ensuring that funds collected by the Government are as far as possible expended in the Dominion, he will inquire into the source of literature and stationery distributed by the Radio Broadcasting Company. In a note, Mr. Nash says a booklet recently distributed and also its envelope do not appear to be of Dominion publication, and that there are plants in the Dominion capable of doing similar work.

"The whole of the company's printing is done in New Zealand," said Mr. A. R. Harris when this message was referred to him. "The initial supply of folders, with envelopes, had," he said, "been obtained from Canada, but these were now printed in New Zealand." An analysis of the company's expenditure showed that no less than 90 per cent. went within the Dominion. Of the balance of 10 per cent., a big proportion was taken up by the payments that the company was compelled to make to the Australian Performing Rights Association.

## Engineering Complaints

### Sheltering Behind Anonymity

RECENTLY the Broadcasting Company has been receiving a number of letters returned from the Dead-Letter Office owing to addresses being unknown. These letters have been in reply to listeners who have made complaints and to whom the Broadcasting Company has replied at some length, for it is the practice of the Broadcasting Company to reply to all correspondence. The return of these letters would suggest that there is ground for assuming that there is a certain amount of indulging in the vicious practice of engineering complaints.

## Vatican Communication Scheme

THE wireless receiver is sometimes a tyrannical instrument, and among the latest persons to be placed at its beck and call are the Cardinal Archbishops and diplomatic representatives of the Roman Catholic Church. In a new Vatican instruction it is required that these personages must in future hold themselves in readiness at certain times to receive possible communications from the Vatican wireless station. Sets are being forwarded from Rome to dignitaries all over the world.

## Programme Jottings

MR. FRANK MILNER, C.M.G., Rector of Waitaki Boys' High School, will give a talk during the 3YA children's session on Saturday, July 25. He will speak on "Our Life Out of Doors," in which he will advocate the wisdom of taking advantage of sunlight.

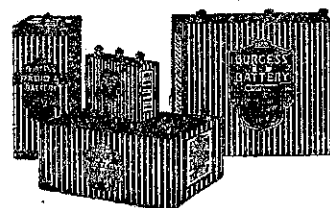
A new orchestral octet is shortly to be heard on the air from 3YA. It has been formed by Francis Bate, the well-known 'cellist, and will play under his direction. Other members of the personnel are: Gladys Vincent (first violin), Norman Middleton (second violin), Rena Algie (second 'cello), James Alston (bass), A. E. Hutton (flautist), F. Woleedge (clarinet), and Aileen Warren (pianiste). This fine combination will be known as the Christchurch Salon Orchestra.



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