



**THE CHRISTCHURCH SALON ORCHESTRA.**

A very fine combination formed by Mr. Francis Bate, well-known Christchurch cellist, playing regularly at 3YA. The personnel is (sitting): Miss Aileen Warren (pianiste), Miss Gladys Vincent (1st violin), Mr. Francis E. Bate (conductor), Miss Rena Algie (celliste). Standing: Miss Norma Middleton (2nd violin), Fred Woledge (clarinet), Mr. A. E. Hutton (flautist), and Mr. Jas. Alston (bass).

perience has shown that departmental administration tends to become extravagant. But it is more than ever important that the danger of the broadcasting service, with its enormous possibilities, being utilised as an instrument of political propaganda, as it might conceivably be under direct State control, should be averted.

### "The Press," Christchurch

IF the Government has a policy which it means to put into force when the Radio Broadcasting Company's license expires at the end of the year, the sooner an announcement is made the better. Only a few months remain before some change has to be made, whether provisional or final; and listeners have a right to know what is intended, and a right to be heard in criticism. Further, the interests of listeners apart, the public as a whole has a right to know what kind of control the State proposes to

establish over broadcasting, particularly if the system is to be nationalised or semi-nationalised and if public money is to be spent on it.

Practically all that has been heard so far has been a very impetuous statement from Mr. Donald, many months ago, and another, soon after, in which he unsaid nearly everything and left only the present uncertainty. That ought to be cleared up now as soon as possible.

### "Christchurch Times"

THE Radio Broadcasting Company, which has been subjected to a good deal of criticism, public and private, has taken the very wise course of laying its position frankly and fully before the public. At the same time it has published details of a scheme that it has drawn up at the request of the Government for the future control of broadcasting in the Dominion. The position, of course, is that the

company's license will expire at the end of this year and the Postmaster-General has stated that it will not be renewed. Mr. Donald, however, has never been explicit as to the future policy of the Government, and we may take it that, before arriving at a decision, Cabinet, in fairness to the existing company, has given it the opportunity of submitting a proposal. It does not follow that this scheme will be adopted, of course, but it will serve as a very useful basis for the public discussion of the subject. There are various alternatives, but

we may rule out at once the idea that the Government might undertake the ownership and management of broadcasting, since that course would assuredly be repugnant to a large section of the public.

The Post and Telegraph Department could not be saddled with the burden and the public would not tolerate the creation of another State department in its present temper. A possible alternative would be the formation of a company in which radio dealers, owners of receiving sets and the Government would be represented, somewhat on the lines of the British Broadcasting Company. This system, which has obvious merits, has also obvious disadvantages. The creation of a company having a financial interest in the success of the operations and amenable both to public criticism and Government supervision and regulation would, however, possess the merits without the disadvantages, and the scheme prepared by the present company is broadly on those lines.

### "The Sun," Christchurch

WITH the expiry of the Government's agreement with the Radio Broadcasting Company of New Zealand, the question of the future control

of broadcasting is now one of national importance. . . It is not impossible that the Post and Telegraph Department could control broadcasting efficiently, but at the present time it is undesirable that the State should be saddled with further business enterprises. If by unhappy chance Government control of broadcasting was not quite satisfactory, there would be financial liabilities that would in some way have to be borne by the people. It has been proved that a private company has been able to give listeners in a good service, and there is not the slightest reason why that company or its successor should not be allowed to develop further the services of which it has had such extensive experience, subject, of course, to the safeguarding of public interest. The Post and Telegraph Department in the first place would have to learn for itself what the company already knows, and until the department did acquire that knowledge the service which is now so good would undoubtedly suffer. This consideration apart,

public opinion must be definitely against the Government taking over an unnecessary liability, even if only on the one ground that State control does not necessarily guarantee an efficient or profitable service.

Since the Broadcasting Company is the body that has had the experience of all the problems of broadcasting, it is sensible that its suggestions should carry most weight. . . It is stated that the proposals outlined to-day are being considered by Cabinet. Their adoption would ensure the further development of broadcasting in the Dominion, and at the same time give listeners themselves an opportunity to take a share in the control of an important organisation which is designed primarily to be of service to the public.

### "The Dominion," Wellington

WHAT appears on the face of it to be a reasonable and workable scheme for the future management and control of radio broadcasting in New Zealand has been submitted to the Government by the existing company. The scheme . . . recommends itself because it combines in one organisation the advantages of experience and business management with the democratic or representative principle. Broadcasting has become almost a public utility and in many minds there are objections to such a service remaining as a private monopoly. On the other hand experience of State services has been such as not to encourage their extension, especially in this type of business. Between these two opposites the company has suggested a middle way, offering a real prospect of progress.

Public opinion may be expected to react favourably to the suggested solution, for there can be no doubt the country is hostile to the Government assuming new responsibilities and making fresh financial commitments in the present difficult times.

State enterprise has already gone too far in New Zealand, in no direction has it been conspicuously successful, and in some its losses have added heavily to,

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