

wakened sweating and screaming to the Saints for help?

Kate: Hush, Moira, hush! Try to tell us quietly.

Moira (more reasonably): Did you not know, then, that he was wed?

Mrs. Rudd: We have not seen or heard of him for ten years till to-night—ah, if we could never have known what he had become.

Kate: It seems so strange that we could have lived together, and such friends, too, Moira, for all these years, and this dreadful secret between us, and none of us guessing. But his name never passed our lips, and Ted had burnt even the young photographs of him. Of course you never spoke of him either, and so it happened. You see we had changed our name and taken mother's maiden name when we came here. He had disgraced the name so horribly, and we knew that he would disgrace it again. It was a woman, that time, and money as well. We saved him, but it ruined us, and we came here to hide.

Mrs. Rudd: Always it was the same; so handsome, so charming, so hopelessly bad.

Moira: The heart of him was born black and laughing in its evil.

Mrs. Rudd (piteously): Ah, but not when he was tiny. . . . He was a beautiful baby.

Kate (rising and going to window): Poor mother! . . . Why do you stand here, Moira? Come to the fire.

Moira: It is a black night and there is blacker evil flying through it. Oh, Kate, I do be grieving that I brought sorrow to your door.

Kate: That is not so. It was not you that he was following, for he had no idea you were here. But he heard the name Rudd and remembered it was mother's maiden name. He thought it worth following up, and he had been hiding round all afternoon, trying to get a glimpse of Ted. He told me that when we were getting the horse.

Moira: And where will we all be hiding now? There is no place in the world for the likes of me to be finding peace.

Mrs. Rudd: We will find it together, dear child; you belong to us.

Kate: Oh, what a night! Will he get away?

Mrs. Rudd: He was always a fine rider, but there may be slips on the road.

(The telephone rings and they all listen—one short and two long.)

Moira (laughing hysterically and leaving window): And it was to-night that we were calling it a blessing in our loneliness!

Kate: Try to be calm, Moira. If we don't hear soon he will have got through. You will be ill to-morrow.

Moira (dully): And will there be a to-morrow coming?

Kate: Of one thing you may be certain: he will not try to return here.

Moira: And is it not strange to think that the man you were once loving is hunted down in the night with guns and men?

Kate: He is not human, Moira; he was born like that.

Mrs. Rudd: Ah, no, Kate. How I loved him! (To Moira) And you loved him, too.

Moira (fiercely): I loved him? I tell you I would have kissed the ground and him walking on it. I was nineteen when he wooed me, and the people of the town did be saying he was bad. But I was laughing in their faces and thanking the Virgin for sending me my perfect lover.

Changes in N.Z. Broadcasting

B.B.C. AS FUTURE MODEL

Modified State Control Adopted

ACCORDING to a statement made by the Postmaster-General to the daily Press last week the Government has decided that at the expiration of the Radio Broadcasting Company's contract, broadcasting will be placed under the control of an independent board.

It is stated that Cabinet appointed a Committee consisting of the Hons. J. B. Donald, H. Atmore, A. J. Stallworthy, and A. J. Murdoch to go into the question, and this Committee considered the methods in vogue in other countries, and heard evidence from the directors of the present lessee company. It was unanimously decided that the British Broadcasting Corporation was the model which could most readily be adapted to the needs of the Dominion, offering as it did all the advantages of non-political direction with none of the disadvantages attaching to private monopoly of a public utility. Cabinet confirmed the decision of the Committee, and a Bill to give effect to it is now ready for presentation to Parliament.

The proposed board will be vested with the ownership of all stations and equipment, and with entire control of the technical and studio staffs. The Post and Telegraph Department, as at present, will collect license fees and allot wavelengths, etc. The intention is that the board shall consist of a chairman and four others, all appointed by the Government.

State Ownership and Control

WHEN the Government's alternative scheme for the control of broadcasting in New Zealand was referred to Mr. A. R. Harris, general manager of the Radio Broadcasting Company, he remarked:

"In effect the Government proposal means the purchase and nationalisation of the present broadcast service, and a further extension of State ownership in the field of 'public service,'" said Mr. Harris. "The personnel of the board to be appointed by the Government will have no monetary liability in the undertaking; once this is done, all incentive to efficiency is gone. Also, I understand, the intention is to place the board beyond political control, but it remains to be seen how this is to be done without jeopardising the public interest. Such a board, having no monetary obligations, would be subject to some form of political veto. It is not possible to dissociate Government ownership from Government control."

"Two years and a half ago," said Mr. Harris, "the company expressed the opinion that additional radio coverage was required to provide an efficient broadcast service, and recommended to the Government a scheme of relay stations. The company offered to provide these, conditional on its license being extended for a period so that the company would have a reasonable chance of reimbursing itself for additional capital expenditure and operating expenses involved in the wider service. The period was for a total of five years, including the unexpired term under the existing legislation. The Government has now elapsed, and had the proposals been accepted, the additional services would have been well under way with less than three years to complete the whole scheme before the company's extended license expired. The obligations would have been contracted without liability of any kind to the State. As it is, the extensions that are so vitally required are still uninitiated. Under the proposed board there would be no contractual obligations or any guarantee of continuity of any one policy."

"This is what actually happened in Great Britain and Australia," said Mr. Harris. "In one case a plan for regional stations was proposed, and in the other a system of relay stations. In neither case have they been carried out to schedule. There is no doubt that contractual obligations under private enterprise with adequate safeguards to the public is the only sound method for progressive, efficient development."

"The company's figures also show, particularly in the first few years of operation, that had it not adhered to a rigid policy a big deficit would have been carried forward, and as it was losses were made. Only in the last year has it been able to place the service on a sound financial footing."

Kate: He was a devil always, but I was near mad with joy that summer morning—and now it is a winter night and my heart is dead.

Moira: And when I had held firm and he married me, I did think the birds were singing only for Olive, and all the little flowers laughing that day. Mrs. Rudd: Not dead, Moira, only sorely wounded. Moira: Is it only wounded you are

when the world has turned to blackness in a few short days? I tell you, I scarce trod upon the dull earth on that wedding day—and in three months had me broken.

Mrs. Rudd (prays): Father in Heaven, forgive him!

Moira: There was no evil he did not know; there was no cruelty was not his joy, and I a young, innocent girl that loved him.

Kate (fiercely): We know. If only he had died at birth!

Mrs. Rudd: Ah, no. Ah, no. Once he was little and laughing—oh, I am very old.

Moira: I tried to leave him, and he laughed. But I was young and proud, and I would not tell. He nearly killed me, and one thing made me glad. He killed his little child, ere ever it was born. It was very well it died.

Mrs. Rudd: Poor Moira. Poor child.

Kate: And did you stay till the end?

Moira: Yes, and it was not long, for there was the other woman, and he killed her before he quite killed me. Only my heart died and my soul. They took him away to gaol, and my body went on living. (Crosses again to window.) See how it has all fallen quiet of a sudden. The wind has gone, and the moon do be shining on a dead world.

Kate (going to her and taking her hand): Not dead, dear, only asleep. Like your heart, Moira. Evil can't kill a soul. God wouldn't let it.

Moira: I have been finding no God.

Kate: But you will find Him, Moira, and you will find joy, too. You will find it here in the bush with us. We'll work hard together and know the happiness of work well done, and the happiness of sunlight and growing things, and the beasts and all the tiny creatures.

Moira (wondering): Will we be finding all that, Kate?

Mrs. Rudd: Yes, yes—comfort will come, and joy for those that are young.

Moira: Ah, no; ah, no; for some day he will come again, as he came to-day. I was learning how blessed it is to be forgetting—and then there was to-day, and to-night. Always he will be there and I will be finding no rest, no God.

(The telephone rings. One long. The women hold their breath. Two long. They rise silently to their feet. Three long. . . .)

Mrs. Rudd (sinking slowly to her knees): God forgive him.

Kate (kneeling also): And have mercy upon his soul!

Moira (passionately, with arms outstretched): They have killed him. They have killed him. . . . Him that I was loving once as a young girl loves . . .

The Curtain Falls.

Deputation from Radio Dealers

DURING last week a deputation representing the combined radio dealers waited upon the Postmaster-General and advocated a form of control on the basis of the B.B.C. The deputation expressed disapproval of the scheme set out by the R.B.C.

We regret that because of an unusually crowded issue, coupled with the fact that the Minister has recently made a statement that a system, similar to that advocated by the dealers, would be adopted, we are unable to publish in detail the points raised by the deputation.