

## Black Magic

### Radio on Pitcairn Island

**CAPTAIN E. H. WILSON**, now a retired officer of the U.S.S. Company, sends an interesting note to Mr. Clive Drummond, announcer at 2YA:—

"Passing through Pitcairn Island in August last I had the pleasure of installing a presentation six-valve set there for the benefit of the community. You will be gratified to know that even in that far-flung outpost they have learned to appreciate 2YA and were thrilled when they heard your voice giving news items, following which the clock boomed out 8 p.m. and then musical items. It was a glorious moonlight night with about a hundred islanders listening-in to 2YA for the first time in the history of Pitcairn. Many of the islanders have never been off Pitcairn and had never heard anything of the kind before."

### Temporary Breakdown

#### 2ZW Assists 2YA

AT a few minutes to six on Monday evening, 2YA suffered an unfortunate breakdown, and as it was obvious the damage could not be rectified in less than several hours' time, station 2ZW was immediately advised. That station, although not due to go on the air till 7 p.m., immediately stepped into the breach and provided dinner music from 6 to 7, as usually given by 2YA, and followed with a summary of the more important news of the day, then continuing its own dinner music for a time prior to resuming its ordinary programme. The courtesy and promptitude of the aid given by 2ZW was much appreciated by station 2YA and listeners.


#### A Talk on Wool

A TALK of outstanding interest to farmers will be given from 2ZW on Saturday evening next, October 17, by Dr. T. Marwick, an English scientist and authority, engaged in research. His observations will be of special value to wool producers, who are asked to advise their neighbours of the event and time.

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## Dorothy Filkins

Dorothy Filkins came prominently before the musical people of Christchurch in 1928, when she won the £50 prize given by the Society for Imperial Culture for her compositions of "Prometheus Unbound" and a string quartet. But she has many other works to her credit—cello, violin and piano pieces, as well as songs. Compositions by Miss Filkins will be an important feature of 3YA's programme on Wednesday, October 21, and additional interest will be added to the items by the fact that Miss Filkins, who is a talented pianiste, will play several of them herself. Miss Filkins received her musical education in Christchurch, and is at present studying for the degree of Mus. Bach.



—Stephano Webb photo.

## Our Mailbag

### Dinner Music.

UNDOUBTEDLY it is hard to please everyone, but still we must air our grievances. The dinner session may be all right according to 99 per cent. of the people—highbrows we will presume—but, sir, do you think the R.B.C. studies the 1 per cent. Every evening between 6 and 7 we have one mass of "selections" and "movements," and if by any chance we should have a light selection it is generally a dance item that is well out of date. I suggest that they draw upon their dance programmes for some up-to-date records for the dinner session. Why do we never see any complaints about too much jazz during the session? The reason is obvious: classical 99 per cent., jazz 1 per cent. and out of date. Regarding the evening session, why not 15 minutes of dance items similar to the international programmes, during the popular programme? Do you ever think it is likely that 2YA will open up for a breakfast session, between 7.30 and 8.30?—One Per Cent. Jazz.

### Likes and Dislikes.

I DON'T like these women singers; they are all as bad as one another, with one or two exceptions I'll admit, but the rest have to be heard to be believed. The piano bangs out, they sing, you cannot understand a word they say, and next thing we hear, "we were entertained by the brilliant songster, Mrs. or Miss So-and-So." It's funny I'll say, but it's no joke to listen to, but there's a silver lining: I just twiddle round to another station. The R.B.C. have been jolly good sports to take on the control, and they deserve cheers. I disagree with the way they arrange their stations' programmes, and I think about once a week from 8 to 11 or 12 a dance programme should be given. The company were the pioneers and should be allowed to continue, as they have gained experience. Certainly they know more about it all than we do, but I think that when a person

buys a radio he buys it for entertainment, and it's hard when he has to pay all expenses incurred and not get what he wants. That is what I think about it, but I'm just one, and do not expect anybody to take any notice of me.—Camera (Hastings).

### A Plea for Lighter Music.

I HEARTILY agree with "Third Grid" and "Second Grid" that we should hear much more solo and popular instrumental music over the air from 2YA. This would greatly diversify the programmes and make them more interesting; and even the classical programmes would not suffer any "come-down" if they included an occasional, or rather a regular, bracket of clarinet or cornet solos. There should be no difficulty about this as both the orchestras at 2YA contain the necessary soloists. Why are they so seldom heard? Why cannot we hear more of such artists as Mr. Lad Haywood (whose regular Saturday night items were such a treat a couple of years or so ago), the "Three White Coons" (an outstanding combination from a broadcasting point of view), Mr. L. Probert, and others?

With regard to the proposed chain of relay stations, it is my opinion, in common with a few other of your correspondents, that it would be much wiser to increase the power of the other YA stations to that of 2YA as, judging from the results of 2YA, it is practically certain that nearly every corner of New Zealand would be able to have a choice of two programmes at least. For instance, in our district at present 1YA and 3YA fade very badly, while 4YA comes in very clearly and steadily, but very weakly, seldom loudly enough for speaker except with a very powerful set. Thus the advantages of increased power are easily seen, while the disadvantages of the relay stations would be that they could not provide an alternative programme. The many new wavelengths necessary would mean more congestion in an already crowded ether. Although a supporter of the Broadcasting Company, I must say that the exceedingly low power of three of

## Broadcasting in France

THE French postal authorities are at present engaged in sub-dividing a map of France into a number of broadcasting circles indicating service areas which could be adequately covered by stations of 60 k.w. power. When completed, the plans will be passed over to M. Guernier, the most radio-minded Premier that France has ever had, and it is believed that, thus armed, this energetic politician will soon press forward the new Broadcasting Bill, which has been languishing "on the shelf" for many months.

Revenue for the new scheme will be obtained through a valve tax and "a tax on apparatus collected monthly by postmen."

## Expensive Experiments

THE International Broadcasting Union, which now includes almost every broadcasting organisation in Europe, recently held its General Assembly at Lausanne. Among the questions appearing on the agenda was that of electrical interference and the steps to be taken against it. In addition, the council resolved to pursue more extensively than hitherto the investigations which it has undertaken, both from the technical and the scientific standpoints, in regard to the field strength of the indirect rays radiated by transmitting stations.

the main New Zealand stations places them hopelessly out-of-date in these days when other countries recognise high power is the thing.—F.L.H. (Waverley).

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