



DR. GEORGE DE CLIVE
LOWE

An historical drama from the facile pen of this well-known Auckland litterateur will be broadcast by IYA on Wednesday, November 4. This three-act play, which will be produced by Mr. J. M. Clark and his company, is entitled "The Doge of Venice." It is based on the story of Marino Faliero, Duke and Doge of Venice, and makes a very interesting and intensely moving drama.

—S. P. Andrew, photo.

RADIO drama plays an important part in overseas broadcast productions and the Radio Broadcasting Company is endeavouring to keep pace with the whirligig of time in this respect. The presentation of "The Doge of Venice," an historic chronicle-drama, at IYA on November 4 will be the most ambitious undertaking in the field of radio drama at Auckland since the production last year of "Paolo and Francesca."

The play has been specially written for the microphone by Dr. G. de Clive Lowe, of Auckland, the author of the murder-mystery, "The White Owl," and other successful radio plays. Incidentally the general manager of the company, Mr. A. R. Harris, suggested the style of historic drama to the author, as he is of the opinion that actual history presented in the form of swiftly-flowing drama would appeal to the greatest number of listeners. The production will be in the capable hands of Mr. J. M. Clark and his versatile company which needs no introduction to IYA listeners.

Dr. Lowe has taken his material from the most interesting chapter in the long and chequered history of ancient Venice—that of the fourteenth century when, under the iron hand of the then Doge, Marino Faliero, Venice vied with Genoa for supremacy on the sea. The story is pithily confined to the exciting internecine events in April, 1355, when the aged Doge was executed for treason.

Marino Faliero, who was one of the most complex mentalities the old world ever produced, was born about 1274. He gained fame as a Venetian general and naval commander,

The Doge of Venice

Historic Drama from IYA

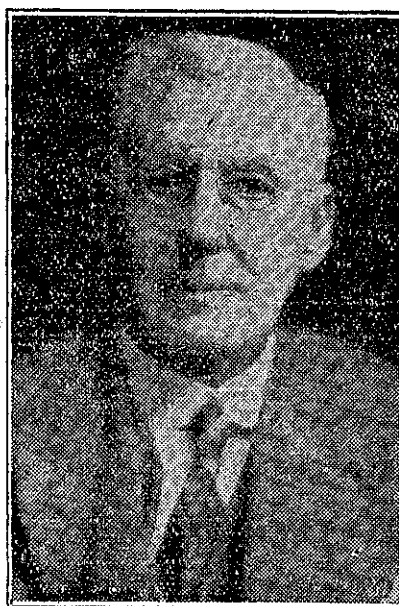
By "MICROPHONE"

"It may be," said the Doge to Bertruccio, the artisan, and Calandro, the mason's sculptor, "that we meet next on the broad Piazza, standing side by side amongst, and gazing down on the grizzly things that once were men."

his notable achievements including the routing of an army of 80,000 Hungarians at the siege of Zara in 1346 and later, while in command of the Venetian fleet, the capture of Capo d'Istria. He subsequently became ambassador of the Republic of Rome and Genoa, and at the age of about 80 was elected Doge. In the following year, being angered at the light punishment inflicted by a patrician tribunal upon a young noble, Michele Steno, who had publicly insulted the Dogessa, he hatched a diabolical plot with the plebians to assassinate the oligarchy and make himself supreme ruler of Venice. His fate forms the theme of tragedies by Byron and Swinburne.

The three-act play is constructed on the lines of descriptive narrative told simply yet vividly with passages of fine dramatic intensity. All the roles are masculine.

Listeners will first be conveyed by the imagery of the microphone to a room in Count Conaro's palace at Venice, where Count Lioni is recounting the trial which took place before the Signory at the Council Hall of the arrogant and sarcastic of tongue, Count Steno.



MR. J. M. CLARK

Who, with his company of versatile players, will present "The Doge of Venice" from IYA next week.

—S. P. Andrew, photo.

The aged Doge, whose face was pale as death with anger, had accused the handsome Steno of a list of charges including insulting himself and spreading a vile canard about his young and beautiful wife, the Duchess of Venice. Steno's ready wit and contemptuous attitude lashed the prosecuting Doge into fury. The latter was filled with brooding resentment at the decision of the Signory of patricians when Steno escaped with a short term of imprisonment and a period of exile. The Doge's cup of bitterness flowed over when he, as the first patrician, passed sentence upon the mocking Steno.

"The members of the Signory and Count Steno," recounted Lioni, "have given Venice the greatest enemy she ever had and transformed our Doge into a potential traitor." Lioni warned Conaro that the plebians hated the dominance of the patricians, and that only a tiny spark was needed to light up such a blaze in Venice as would never be forgotten in that world.

THE incensed Doge in the following scene tells his noble-minded nephew, Bertruccio, of his hatred for the Signory and the patricians. "I tell you, Bertruccio, that I wish that every member of the Signory and Senate and every patrician in Venice had but one throat amongst them all; yes, one single throat, and I would joyously slit it—now—to-night." The State, the lion of Venice declared, had its enemies, but had none greater than Marino Faliero, Duke and Doge of Venice.

Two plebian fanatics and agitators, Bertruccio and Calandro, seek redress of grievances from the Doge who enlists their aid in carrying out an inhuman plot to rid Venice at a single blow of the domineering patricians. The crafty Doge plans to have the Great Bell of St. Mark's peal its thunder, which will hasten the Senators to the Council Hall and the populace to the Piazza. The cry would shatter the dawn that the Great Fleet of Genoa was bearing on Venice, and the mob, who would be armed, would slaughter the assembled Senators. "It may be," said the Doge to his arch-conspirators, "that we meet next on the broad Piazza, standing side by side amongst, and gazing down on the grizzly things that once were men."

Meantime the scheming has been overheard by a mercenary plebian furrier, Bertruccio, who awakens (Concluded on page 31)