

Broadcast From Mariposa

Enterprise of "B" Station

A DESCRIPTION of the Matson liner Mariposa, which made its maiden trip to Auckland on February 20, was successfully relayed from the steamer by the Auckland B station, 12R. It is understood the broadcast was the first of its kind in New Zealand, and 12R is to be congratulated upon its enterprise. The microphone was installed in one of the luxurious dance saloons, and the announcer, Mr. W. Hindman, who had previously inspected the vessel from top to bottom, gave a splendid description. Rain caused some delay in the laying of the relay wires, but the broadcast was carried out without a hitch. The noise of a nearby crane on the wharf and the babel of voices in the saloon were heard over the air, but did not mar reception.

Station 2ZW Gift of a Piano

A RECENT appreciation of Wellington's station 2ZW has come from England. Messrs. Hamilton Nimmo and Sons, agents for the Challen piano, have received instructions from their English principals to provide 2ZW with the latest model Challen concert grand piano, the identical piano model that is used in the B.B.C. station 2LO.

Radio has brought a knowledge and appreciation of music into millions of homes throughout the world, and into tens of thousands of homes here in New Zealand. By means of well-planned and carefully balanced programmes, efficiently broadcast by experienced technicians, radio can well boast that it has created a tremendous new audience for music. The new medium of radio has created a new musical public.

The Challen Piano Company realise this, and that a radio station that sets and maintains a high standard of musical entertainment is a creator of a prolific demand for music in all forms. The more radio, the more musically-minded people. The more music is loved, the more pianos are needed.

Station 2ZW may be congratulated upon this signal compliment.

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A Battle With a Bee

(Continued from page 3.)

My anger grew, and it must have been reflected in my face. I had nothing in my hand, but he must have sensed my change of mood: he must have guessed I was desperate and violently angry. For instead of me running away, he abruptly changed his tactics, and turned tail. Like a flash he darted into this room.

"But my anger was so great that I was not satisfied to be rid of him. I wanted revenge. My blood was up. I determined to kill him. Yes, uncontrollable anger is a terrible thing, and I was seeing red. I set my teeth, and crept softly across the carpet, every sense alert for a sudden attack from him.

"Slowly I pushed the door open wider, an inch at a time, expecting any moment to feel that sudden burning pain that would agonise me if his weapon struck home. But no. He evidently thought he had found sanctuary in this room. He was sitting on the edge of the table with his back to me. Slowly I crept nearer. He moved a little once, and I held my breath, while the perspiration ran down my temples. But he still sat there unsuspectingly. Nearer I crept—and nearer still—until I was within striking distance. Then, before he could move, I sprang upon him and crushed the very life out of him."

The supposed murderer paused. Then collecting his wits, he resumed: "Now I feel calmer. My anger has evaporated now that the danger is over and his dead body lies before me. He will never attack me or anyone again—unless a bee has nine lives like a cat. By my jove! I've just remembered something I read years ago. 'Bees can only sting in the daytime.' I wonder if that's true. Still, I don't think I'll risk it. I've been stung once and the memory is painful. And the bee might not know it wasn't daytime!"

"By the way, where's Mr. Announcer got to? Oh, there he is—under the sofa! Come out, sir, and resume your duties!"

Announcer: You frightened the life out of me. If you tackle a bee like that, I shouldn't like to be around when you get annoyed with a lion. . . And that is the end of our Surprise Item: "A Battle With a Bee," an original effort, presented by Mr. Victor S. Lloyd.

Listeners Express Pleasure.

THIS original turn met with a splendid reception. The first indication of its success came over the telephone immediately afterward. So

realistic had the whole affair been that at least one listener had to be reassured that Mr. Drummond was safe.

A listener at Port Ahuriri wrote to the Announcer:—"Please accept our most hearty congratulations upon your acting on Monday, 22nd instant. The acting was as that of a professional actor. The sudden start, the thrilling expression, the lifelike soundings added to the surprising effect of the story. Dad jumped, Mum ran as though an earthquake was in progress. Ears were strained—silence reigned supreme. Only the groggy sound of your voice broke the silence. We were all fully convinced that it was the real thing until we heard your voice again. Then, you never saw a more surprised face than Dad's. We are anxiously waiting for the next surprise evening."—"Listen."

Another letter received by the Announcer was written by a young lady at Ashburton:—"You are to be congratulated on your surprise item staged to-night; it was truly realistic down here. Imagine a huge house situated in spacious grounds with plenty of covering for a burglar, and a girl sitting alone sewing with the radio switched on. You certainly took me in properly. I just didn't know what to do, and even now I am all 'hot and bothered.' You did give me (as I presume you meant to) the desired thrill, not knowing previously about these surprise items. I looked over the studio in November last so was able to follow."

Made Wartime Yarns Go Flat.

THEN picture this quartet of worthies in an up-country town:—"There were four of us yarning in the bar parlour of the hotel here and thought we'd tune in for the weather report from 2YA. Was just on the point of switching off again, for we were talking about war experiences and were not thinking of music at all, when the Announcer stopped short. I can tell you that three and a half pairs of eyes (Jim lost one at the war) nearly bored a hole through the dial of the old radio set. We'd have given quids to have been able to see into the studio. It all sounded so dinkum genuine. It was the greatest thrill I've had since I was in France. But it quite spoiled the rest of the

evening. All the yarns seem flat after that. If your next 'Surprise Item' is as great a surprise as last Monday's, it will be some surprise."—Digger.

Strained the Old Arteries.

THE incident with its unexpected denouement seems to have appealed to old and young alike:—"Permit me to commend the 'Surprise Item' idea. The first we had was of an instructional, educational sort, and was most interesting. I feel as though I now know the instrument room at the Telegraph Office. But last Monday night's was a real surprise. As my grandson describes it, it was a stunner. That's the sort of thing we can do with now and then. It gave us all a good stir up and our livers were working much better next day. I nearly burst my old arteries, but never mind, I enjoyed it. The whole thing was jolly well acted.

"Take it from me, if there was more of the element of 'Surprise' about your programmes, listeners would think more of them. If they did not know who was going to sing, or what, the interest of listeners would be increased. Expectation is a good sauce."—"Three Score and Ten."

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