

Radio in Africa

(Continued from April 1.)

WIRELESS on the safari had a great deal to do with the upkeep of the company morale, although there was practically none of the general entertainment angle about it, although I often did, in co-operation with the sound-recording crew, rig up a loud-speaker through the amplifying devices, and we had programmes including football games, the announcement that Aloysius Horn was broadcasting at Pallsades Park, New Jersey, and jazz programmes which were quite tame compared to the native African dance music going on in our camp.

For a time an advance party of ours was thought lost, as I had not transmitted for ten days, being on forced marches, but I happened to call Nairobi, and this saved them from sending a search party which was still being organised. At another time, Harry Carey was suffering from fever and a complication of digestive troubles, which I described over the radio. Detailed medical instructions were received—and Carey was soon cured!

Duncan Renaldo had two ribs broken by a stroke from an elephant's trunk, when he was hunting, and I sent this news and other such matters of interest out to Nairobi. Also Miss Edwina Booth suffered a sort of sunstroke, and fell from a tree while Harry Carey and Renaldo were under it chasing away a lion with clubs. Her costume, as required by the picture, was indeed scant, and she was overcome by the heat of the scorching sun on her body.

Talks With Byrd.

MY best and perhaps most curious performance was not official, but grew out of the visit of an American oil operator and the Governor of Uganda to one of our camps. This oil man was the father of one of the men on Commander Byrd's expedition to the South Pole. Through the A.R.R. League, mentioned above, I radioed to the South Pole and asked about the young man's health, and received an answer that he was okay, which we delivered to his grateful father in Africa.

At one time production was held up because the company was looking for a certain poisonous African spider needed in the story. In gossiping with Nairobi I obtained over the air a description of how the spider might be found, and through this message we shortly located one. From this radio

W.E.A. Syllabus of Talks

THE schedule of the bi-weekly W.E.A. lectures at the four YA stations is as follows:—

1YA—Wednesday and Thursday.

2YA—Thursday and Saturday.

3YA—Monday and Friday.

4YA—Tuesday and Friday.

W. H. Davies, the Tramp Poet

THE following is the outline of the second talk by the Rev. W. Jellie, B.A., to be broadcast from 1YA on Wednesday, April 20:—

I. His early life, related in "Autobiography of a Super-Tramp," was a strange apprenticeship to the art of poetry.

(a) Brought up by a grandfather publican. Leadership in mischief at school led to prison. Reading began with penny novel, but went on to Byron, Shelley and the great poets.

(b) Landing in America he met with a professional beggar and joined the tramp fraternity. Years followed of adventures by land and sea, haunted by the feeling that he was born for a different life. His fate decided by reading a newspaper appreciation of Burns and by loss of a leg in boarding a train.

(c) The next phase of his life was spent in London in cheap lodging-houses writing. Hawked his poems from door to door. Turned pedlar to earn money for printing a book. No sale. With last shillings posted copies to well-known people. His merit recognised, fame followed.

II. Subjects—

(a) Poems of nature, revelations of an innocent heart happy in companionship of innocent wild things.

(b) Money and the want of it. Music. Sleep. Infancy. Sickness. Old Age. Death.

(c) Love poems, inspired by a happy marriage contracted at 50.

III. Characteristics—

(a) His tramp experiences excite pity for wretchedness, sin and folly in others.

(b) Nearly all are short lyrics, the appreciation of a moment's experience crammed into brief space; "What a crowded world one moment may contain." Simple things expressed in simple language, where intensity of feeling gives intensity of imagery.

(c) All springs from his own joy—a deliberate joy, that issues from his experience of life and from renunciation of possessions prized by the world.

Instruments of the Orchestra—Lecture 2

The Wood-Wind Instruments—Group 2.

THE following is an outline of the second talk to be broadcast from 1YA by Mr. H. Hollinrake, M.A., on Thursday, April 21:—

1. Four instruments contained in this group: flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon.

2. Capabilities of each instrument and its sound.

3. Construction of each instrument. Vibration of a column of air in a tube—double reeds and single reeds.

4. History of the wood-wind instruments.

5. Use of the wood-wind instruments in orchestral music. Selected passages from orchestral music recording the use of these instruments by great composers.

hint we named the tarantula the "African radio bug."

Amusing incidents occurred from time to time. I have had to guard my precious antenna wire from native tribes, especially the Kavirondos, for they wind copper wire around and around their ankles and arms for ornaments, some women wearing ten or twelve pounds of the metal for a lifetime, and the men wear copper ornaments as well.

I have had monkeys, both a wild band and a tame red colubus and a baboon, playing antics on my antennas from time to time.

The natives regarded the humming of my plant as some sort of magic in remote districts, as indeed they considered everything strange about our motion-picture outfit.

I tried repeatedly to explain to some of our native helpers that I was talking to people far away, which they seemed to doubt. They have an ancient method of booming enormous wooden drums from village to village to herald the approach of strangers, and convey information, the drum telegraph, with which I competed on occasions.

MR. ALFRED WALMSLEY, one of Dunedin's leading singers, has been engaged by 2YA to give half-hour recitals on Friday, May 27, and Monday, May 30. Music-lovers can look forward to these dates, for Mr. Walmsley is an outstanding tenor. When in England, where he went to further his studies, he joined the Carl Rosa Opera Company and sang with much success.

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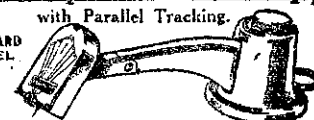
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