

HERE AND THERE

MAINLY ABOUT PEOPLE AND PROGRAMME FEATURES

A THOROUGHLY finished artist new to Dominion listeners will be heard at 1YA on September 4, when Mr. Raymond Beatty appears before the microphone. Mr. Beatty has a voice of rare quality, possesses a distinct artistic temperament and a mature style not frequently observed in a young singer. He was for some years a student of the New South Wales Conservatorium of Music, when he laid the permanent foundations of sound musicianship, and earned the unstinted praise of his mentors. In 1931 he proceeded to the Homeland to continue his studies, and here he gained further commendation from the critics. Prior to his departure from Australia he had already become a firm favourite among concert patrons, who had recognised promise of a successful career. Several tours of his native State had established for him a wide reputation which might be envied by a much older person. Mr. Beatty is now on his way back to his native land, where it is certain he will again be in great demand.

ONE of the most famous military highways of history, along which modern motor-buses hoot their noisy way, is Watling Street, which the Romans constructed from Dover to London and beyond. At Rochester the River Medway was met, and here the "conquerors of the world" saw the strategic importance of erecting a great and strong citadel that could protect the road and river alike. All traces of the Roman fort have long disappeared, but numerous coins have been unearthed which testify to the size of the garrison. More than six centuries elapsed from the time of the departure of the legions to the coming of William of Normandy, and predatory Saxons and Danes demolished all traces of the Roman castle.

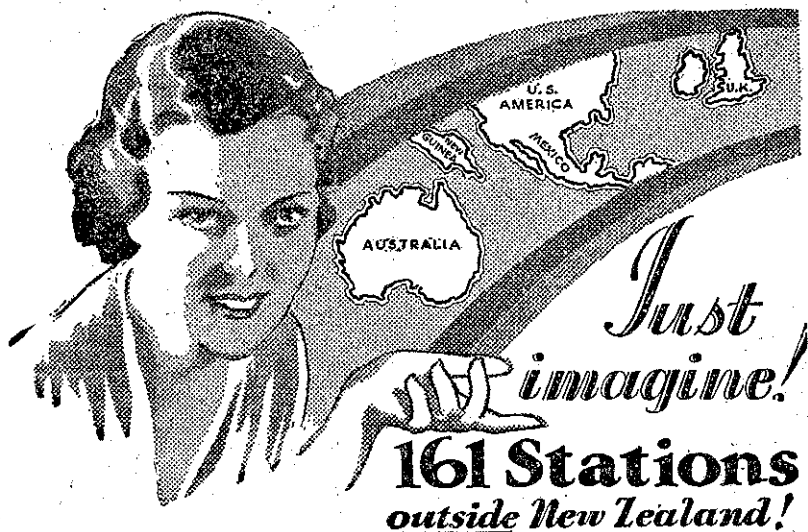
BARBARIAN invasions into the heart of South England continued along the Medway until William the Conqueror assigned the county of Kent to his half-brother, Odo, Bishop of Bayeux. In the eleventh century churchmen were warriors and architects too, and the bishop "wrought castles wide

amongst the people and poor folk oppressed," and Rochester again became a mighty fort. Odo's ambitions were frustrated by his own miscalculations and the power of William and Rufus. In the years that followed, Rochester sustained many sieges. John, who wished to repudiate the Magna Charta, reduced it. Henry the Third gathered a force at its walls and Simon de Montfort invested it.

IT was at Rochester that Henry the Eighth first saw the ill-favoured Anne of Cleves in an interview that failed to "nourish love." Here Charles the Second made a stage in his journey on the occasion of his "happy restoration," and twentyeight years later James the Second left Rochester, and the country he was never to rule again. To-day only the ruins of the Keep remain, from which is afforded one of the loveliest views of East Kent. At its foot lies stately Rochester Cathedral, with Chatham and Gillingham stretching to the horizon. Across the river lies Strood, and in the leafy distance is Gad's Hill, the home of the inimitable, and the peaceful Hundred of Hoo. England's castle ruins are emblems of the Quick. The Pyramids are dead and the Parthenon is a mausoleum, but Rochester is a living thing. The writer has often stood on its walls in company with Americans returned to England to engage in a little ancestor worship. On September 5 Mr. Geo. O'Halloran, friend of Heath Robinson, will relate the story of Rochester Castle from 1YA.

INCLUDED in the programme at 2YA on September 4, is a song-scena entitled "The Floral Dance," which will be contributed by Cornish Cousins, who will relate the circumstances of Helston's annual festival, the "Furry Dance." All know the song, but it is not generally known that it is based upon a festival of great antiquarian interest. Helston is an Old World village between Truro and the Lizards, and from time immemorial every well-conducted Helstonian has regarded it imperative to rise early on May 8 and "fade" into the country for flowers and greenery for the dancing, kissing, and revelry of "Furry Day."

AUTHORITIES are wide in their speculations as to the origin of the custom. "Fade" is a Cornish word meaning "to go," and is often corrupted into "faddy," while "furry" is derived, according to some authorities, from "fuer," signifying a "fair" or "merry making." Others connect the word with the Irish national dance which had great popularity at one time in England, the "rinnecefada" or "long dance," and Shakespeare refers to it in "The Winter's Tale" when mention is made of "Their dildos and fadings." Other antiquarians attribute a Roman signi-



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