

Percentages of Licenses to Population.

There are now 9·6 licenses per hundred of population in the Dominion. For comparative purposes a list is appended showing the position in a number of other countries :—

Country.	Date to which Percentage refers.			Percentage of Licenses to Population.
Denmark	30th June, 1934	15·06
Great Britain	30th June, 1934	14·23
Sweden	30th June, 1934	11·48
Netherlands	30th June, 1934	10·56
New Zealand	31st December, 1934	9·60
Australia	30th June, 1934	9·00
Germany	30th June, 1934	8·20
Switzerland	30th June, 1934	7·92
Austria	30th June, 1934	7·51
Canada	31st January, 1934	6·57
Belgium	30th June, 1934	6·55
Norway	30th June, 1934	5·11
Czecho-Slovakia	30th June, 1934	4·21
France	30th June, 1934	3·83
Union of South Africa	31st December, 1933	3·67
Japan	31st May, 1934	1·88

New Zealand towns (as at 30th November, 1934) :—

Town.	Percentage of Licenses to Population.	Percentage Increase since 30th November, 1933.
Blenheim	16·70	Nil
Masterton	15·74	2·84
Wellington	14·53	0·90
Hamilton	13·21	4·21
Ashburton	12·86	0·20
Oamaru	12·79	0·79
Whangarei	12·74	4·54
Christchurch	12·12	2·50
New Plymouth	11·97	1·57
Palmerston North	11·29	0·59
Wanganui	11·17	2·77
Hastings	11·03	2·53
Napier	10·68	1·98
Dunedin	10·51	2·51
Bluff	10·35	2·35
Auckland	10·31	2·41
Greymouth	10·14	1·54
Nelson	10·08	1·08
Rotorua	10·00	3·00
Gisborne	9·51	2·31
Timaru	9·48	3·08
Invercargill	9·18	2·58

TECHNICAL.

Steady progress has been made during the year in furtherance of the Board's policy to provide a high-grade service to listeners throughout the Dominion. Microphones of known excellence have replaced the older types, and numerous improvements have been effected to amplifying units and to studio equipment.

The recent opening of the new 1YA transmitter, the most powerful and best-equipped station in Australasia, was the important event of the year. The transmitting equipment is housed in a commodious new building on the main North Road about two miles north of Henderson, and provision has been made in the building for future extensions. The contractors for the equipment were Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia), Ltd. The whole equipment is in every way of modern design, excellently fabricated, and will afford a service of high quality over a wide area. The aerial system is of novel design for this part of the world and takes the form of three ribs of an umbrella supported by a single mast 500 ft. high. The three aerial wires or ribs are spaced 120° around the mast, and the special feature of the system is that maximum radiation along the ground is obtained with a comparatively small expenditure on towers.

Transmissions from the new plant for several weeks after opening were of an experimental nature, the testing and final adjustment of such equipment being a fairly lengthy process.

In order to bring into use the studio apparatus associated with the new transmitter, a part of the new studio building in Shortland Street, Auckland, was made available on the day the new transmitting equipment commenced operations. This new building contains four completed studios provided for different purposes. The dimensions of the largest one are 60 ft. by 40 ft. by 25 ft. It is used for performances by orchestras, bands, choirs, and other large combinations. Number 2 studio is 40 ft. long, 25 ft. wide, and 15 ft. high, and is used for smaller groups of instrumentalists or vocalists. Number 3 is 28 ft. long, 22 ft. wide, and 15 ft. high, and is intended, primarily, for children's sessions.