

SHORTWAVE HIGHLIGHTS

AT this time of the year the improvement in daytime reception enables New Zealand listeners to tune to the North American Service of the BBC, which broadcasts its programmes between 9.15 a.m. and 2.45 p.m.

Stations, Frequencies, Wavelengths and Appropriate Times of Transmission:
GSI, 15.26 mc/s, 19.66 metres (9.15-11.0 a.m.); GSP, 15.31 mc/s, 19.60 metres (9.15-11.0 a.m., 1.30-2.45 p.m.); GRP, 18.13 mc/s, 16.55 metres (9.15-11.0 a.m.); GWH, 11.80 mc/s, 25.42 metres (1.30-2.45 p.m.); GRH, 9.825 mc/s, 30.53 metres (1.30-2.45 p.m.); GWO, 9.625 mc/s, 31.17 metres (1.30-2.45 p.m.).

Headlines in the Programmes for the week June 15-21: Trans-Atlantic Quiz, 10.0 a.m., Sunday; Three Counties Show—Hereford, Worcester, Gloucester, 12.0 noon Sunday; Off the Record (Richard Dimbleby), 2.15 p.m. Sunday; British Farmer—talk by Ralph Wight-ham, 10.30 a.m. Monday; Observation Post, 10.0 a.m. Tuesday. As Seen from Scotland (talk), 10.30 a.m. Tuesday; Sand Castles in the Air (radio play by Beatrice Gilbert), 1.30 p.m. Tuesday; Parliamentary Review, by A. J. Cummings, 10.30 a.m. Wednesday; Window on Britain, 1.30 p.m. Wednesday; Diplomatic Diary, 10.30 a.m. Thursday; Reclamation in Holland, 1.30 p.m. Thursday; Country Magazine from the Isle of Wight, 10.0 a.m. Friday; London Letter, 10.30 a.m. Friday; John Q. Englishman—an interview programme, 10.30 a.m. Saturday; Maddon's Rock (a serial play: episode 1), 1.15 p.m. Saturday.

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the word "haome." "No" becomes "nao," or even "neh-oo." The long vowel in "too" and "school" is shortened to sound like the "oo" in "foot." "Culture" becomes "cahlture" and "love" "lahve." "First" is turned into "fust," or even "fast," and persons become pahsons. "F' yaw" and "k'yorious" (for "curious") are borrowed from English sources. Now and again we run against some even odder importations, such as the suppressed aspirate in "Are you a tome?" (Are you at home?).

Some of the elocutionists have exploited Colonial genteel in a way that calls for the use of a blunt instrument. Their worst crime is the murder of the loveliest vowel in the language, the long I. I shudder at the thought of how these naive reformed people would speak Poe's famous line—

The viol, the violet and the vine.

The bounds of standard English speech must, of course, be drawn to allow for slight variations, not only from person to person but from place to place. For example, I think New Zealanders can afford to shorten very slightly the "ah" sound in the diphthong "ah-oo" in such words as "now"—without giving that particular word the triple vowel sound that makes it rhyme with "miaow." And "certain," which many Englishmen pronounce "certinn," can accommodate a more neutral vowel than the short i. But these things amount to altering the shade of the vowel sound very slightly, not to making it an entirely different colour.

In my next article I shall try to delve a little more deeply into the social circumstances in which some of these speech-habits take root.

(To be continued)

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