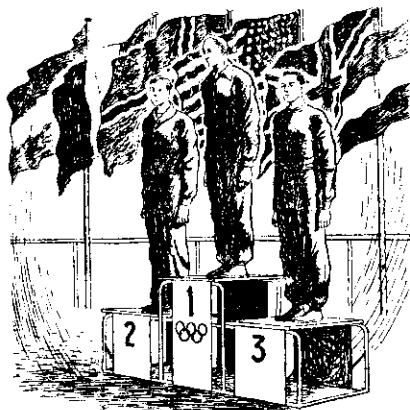


## ZB OLYMPIC REPORT

FOR the duration of the Olympic Games the Main Commercial Stations and Stations 1XH, 2ZA and 4ZA will be broadcasting an Olympic Report direct from Melbourne each day.



(continued from previous page)

can vary from one to three. It is obvious that this fluctuation could have an effect on the number of heats.

"In arranging our present programme schedule we have made a conservative estimate of entries. In the event of there being full entries we would find it difficult to adhere to the projected schedules."

Apart from the question of entries, there are several other factors which make pre-scheduling of broadcasts rather hazardous. Mr. Cross here mentioned an incident in the 1950 Empire Games at Auckland, where Pettie, the Canadian representative, was disqualified in the 100 yards final for repeated breaking. While Pettie stood on the sideline watching the remaining finalists getting down on their marks to start the final without him, the Canadian manager came across the centre of the arena to lodge an immediate protest.

"The start of the final was consequently held up for half an hour while the argument went on, after which

### SHORTWAVE FROM MELBOURNE

SHORTWAVE listeners throughout the world will be taking a special interest in the Olympic Games broadcasts of Radio Australia from Melbourne. During this period, Radio Australia, overseas service of the Australian Broadcasting Commission, will be broadcasting for 23½ hours a day. Two new 50,000-watt transmitters have been brought into service, and the full array of transmitters will be VLA, VLB, both 100,000 watts; VLC, VLD, VLY, all 50,000 watts; VLG, 10,000 watts; and VLR, 2000 watts. Transmissions will be beamed to every continent, and the facilities will be used by many broadcasting organisations.

Transmissions especially for New Zealand listeners will be broadcast on 11760 kc. (25-metre band), 8.14-10.45 a.m.; 15160 kc. (19-metre band), 11.0 a.m.-8.45 p.m.; 11900 kc. (25-metre band), 9.0 p.m.-1.30 a.m. The commentaries for local interest in New Zealand will be broadcast on the VLR transmitter, a station which at present relays the ABC Home Service.

Frequencies have not as yet been announced, but VLR has been assigned 15230, 11880, 9680 and 6150 kc., and any of these channels could be used. In all, Radio Australia will use frequencies ranging from 7220 kc. in the 41-metre band, to 25675 kc. in the 11-metre band.

Brian Russ, NZBS Sports Announcer, one of the team of broadcasters from New Zealand at the Games, will give Commercial listeners an on-the-spot picture of proceedings at the Games, including commentaries on important events, interviews with leading personalities, and general cover of highlights of the Games up to the time of each broadcast. Beginning on Tuesday, November 20, at 9.32 p.m., and from then on throughout the Games at the same time Monday to Saturday, the words "This is Brian Russ calling you from Melbourne . . ." will introduce the latest news of the Olympics.

From Saturday, November 24 (with the exception of November 26 and December 3) there will also be an Olympic Report at 7.15 each morning. This Sunday, November 18, and on November 25, December 2 and 8, there will be special Sunday programmes on the Games from 4ZA at 10.0 p.m., and from the other Commercial stations at 9.0 p.m.

Pettie was allowed to compete in the final. In this instance the competitors and officials spoke English. Imagine how much greater the delay if the protest was discussed in seven languages, which could happen if such an incident occurred at the Olympics."

Another incident, this time at the 1936 Olympiad: The qualifying final for the high jump went on into the night under floodlight, because there were more people of a higher standard than expected, and eliminations were consequently slow.

Heavy rain could affect field events in the track and field section, as anyone who has held a pole or a slippery shot in pouring rain can testify. "It is said that events will go on regardless of weather conditions, yet heavy rain can slow down events near enough to complete stoppage."

Absence of weather (or at least a near dead calm) could throw the yachting out, for the rules provide that unless the leading competitor averages at least two knots for the full course, the race is declared no-contest and must be re-run. A fourteen-knot course at this minimum speed would take seven hours to run!

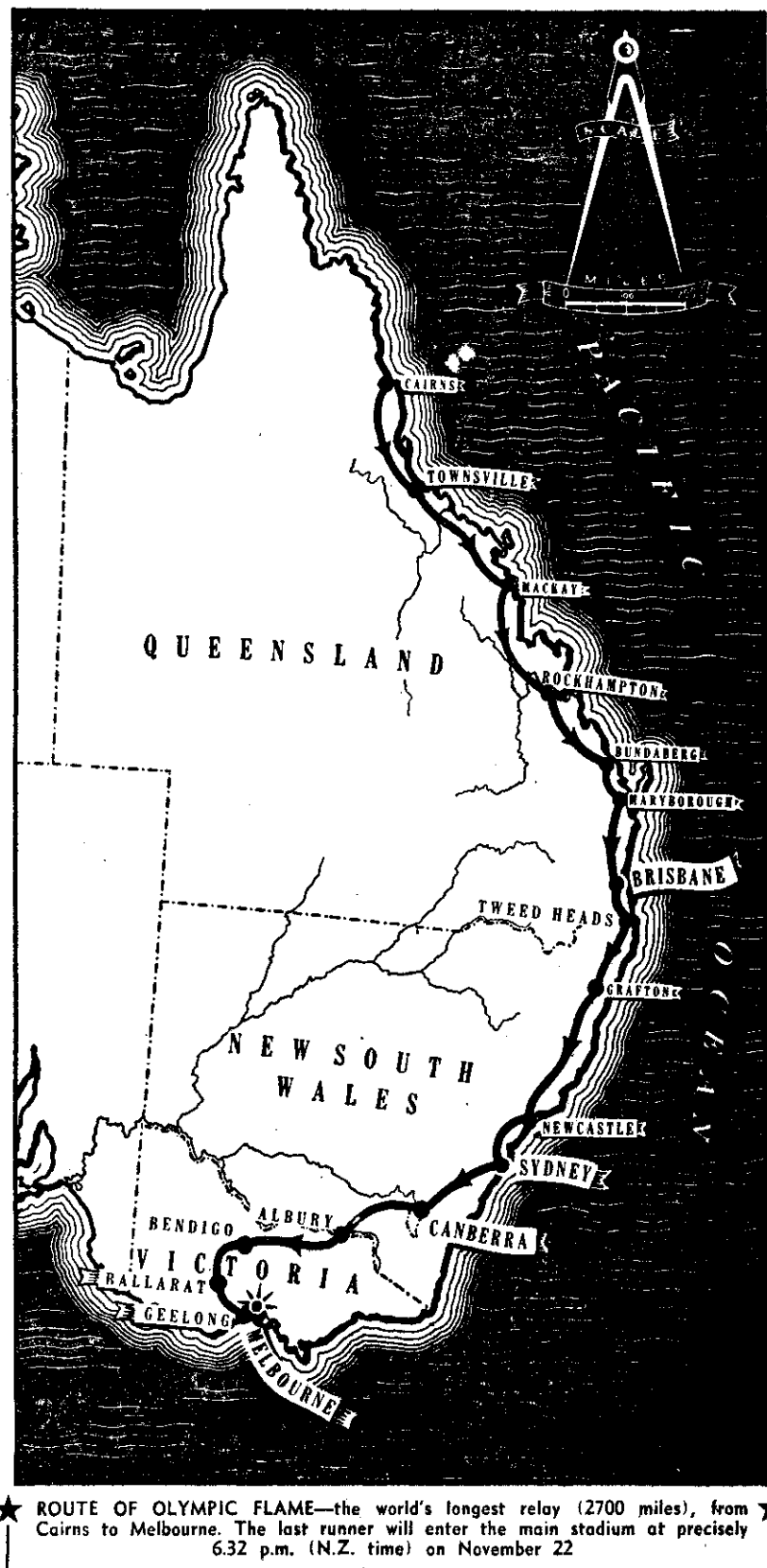
Similarly, the hockey rules state that should a hockey score be tied at the end of a normal playing period, two periods of ten minutes each will be played, and if at the end of this time no decision has been reached play will continue until a goal is scored. Two evenly matched teams under such circumstances could keep going well outside the expected duration of a match.

If VLR was committed on the live commentary of such a match, the transmission to New Zealand of the hockey would have to continue, for it would be unpardonable to leave the New Zealand team on the brink of victory or defeat, to say nothing of the listeners following the game. Yet in that extension of time something else important could well be happening.

"So it is obvious," Mr. Cross concluded, "that many unexpected things can happen to upset the programme schedule of broadcast times from the Olympics.\* All the schedules, however, will be held to whenever the Olympic programme itself runs to plan."

During the seventeen days of the XVI Olympiad the ABC will be host to 41 radio teams from other countries be-

\*See programme pages.



★ ROUTE OF OLYMPIC FLAME—the world's longest relay (2700 miles), from Cairns to Melbourne. The last runner will enter the main stadium at precisely 6.32 p.m. (N.Z. time) on November 22 ★

sides New Zealand, providing them with a temporary broadcasting organisation which will be the largest of its kind in the world. This service will be in addition to the ABC's own coverage of the Games for home listeners. The radio teams will have the use of 200 microphones at 19 different locations, seven short-wave transmitters, 48 studios (two for New Zealand), and among other facilities a section to maintain records and issue tapes that will be providing over 300 recorders and 12,000 tapes. The planning and organisation of these facilities have been spread over more than three years.

So far as VLR is concerned, test transmissions from Melbourne to New Zealand have been carried out by the ABC to make sure the signals will be received satisfactorily. All is now in readiness for the big day.

On Thursday, November 22, the XVI Olympiad Opening Ceremony will be performed by H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh at Melbourne. At 4.45 p.m. that afternoon (1, 2, 3, 4YA) Winston McCarthy and Bob Irvine will describe this Opening Ceremony in VLR's first transmission of the Games.