

THE RADIO RECORD

DISAPPOINTMENT

REBROADCASTS IN CHRISTCHURCH

HINDERED BY COUNCILLORS

Just when the Broadcasting Company had found a site ideally suited for a receiving station and proposed to make rebroadcasts of 2YA and overseas stations a regular feature in Christchurch, unlooked-for opposition came from certain members of the City Council.

For the purpose of rebroadcasting the description of the Hawke's Bay-Wairarapa Ranfurly Shield match, and for the official opening of 2YA, a temporary aerial was erected in Victoria Park, Cashmere Hills. So successful was the experiment and so general the public approval, that the Broadcasting Company sought to make the station a permanent fixture, at the pleasure of the controlling authority, of course. When the company applied to the City Council, however, some opposition was raised, Councillor McCombs, a lady member, strongly attacking the company. She said: "My own private opinion is that the matter of broadcasting should never have been handed over to a private company, but that it should be in the hands of the Government and the municipalities. No company should be allowed to exploit persons wishing to make use of the radio, and I am going to oppose it." The company thereupon withdrew its application and the Christchurch people are now wondering if, and where, there will be another rebroadcast of 2YA.

The Cashmere Hills site was chosen because it was eminently suitable for the purpose, from a receiving point of view and from the point of view of telephonic communication, which, if the company had secured a permit from the City Council, it would have perfected. The wisdom of the company's officers in choosing the site was demonstrated by the excellence of the two rebroadcasts in question.

The park is under the control of the Christchurch City Council. Permission for a temporary installation was given by the chairman of the Reserves Committee, Councillor Clyde Carr, and confirmed by the committee, which further recommended the council to grant permission for a permanent installation at a nominal rental, with a proviso for one month's notice on either side.

The council declined to accept the committee's recommendation, however, some members choosing to regard the proposal as involving a possible alienation of public reserves!

Councillor E. H. Andrews had suggested that the necessary batteries, etc., could be housed in a corner of a practically disused kiosk on the summit of the hill upon which the temporary masts had been erected.

The park is mostly leased to the present caretaker as a sheep run, and there is a tearoom in connection with the caretaker's residence for the accommodation of visitors. The caretaker had expressed cheerfully his willingness to keep an eye on the installation.

Altogether, the proposal was an attractive one from the company's point of view, and a reasonable one from that of several of the councillors. It was, however, successfully side-tracked by some of the disaffected councillors, and the company decided to withdraw its application. "Sic transit gloria mundi." And "hinc illae lacrimae."

Following on the City Council discussion the company read numerous offers of the use of land in various localities, but not one of them has the same recommendations that the site in Victoria Park has.

The matter of rebroadcasts in Christchurch is therefore at present much in doubt, a fact to be regretted in view of the great public interest in and demand for them.

HEARD IN AUSTRALIA

NEW ZEALAND STATIONS

APPRECIATIVE ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Just as New Zealanders like to pick up Australian stations, so do Australians like to listen to Dominion programmes. A great number of letters come from Australia—from Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales, and as far

north as Redlynch, via Cairns, in West Queensland.

An enthusiastic Victorian, living inland, wrote as follows:—

"Last night was the first time I heard a clock strike outside Australia, and I can assure you, Sir, I thought it great. I will listen to you often."

Another correspondent in Victoria said:—"The receiver I used was working on a very poor aerial and as this station was recorded at fair phone strength in daylight, I am rather doubt-

ful if it was 1YA." The items which the gentleman mentioned proved that it was 1YA that he heard.

This was a message to 1YA:—"Your transmission is excellent in every way. I receive you every night and hear everything you send out. It is wonderful considering the low power you are on."

Another writes:—"It speaks volumes for your stations (which, I understand, use only 500 watt power) that they can be received here with as much strength

and many times better clarity than Australian stations, on 5000 watts and much nearer."

One more:—"I have now built a two valve set out of spare parts which gives better results than the 3-valve set on which I received 1YA. I can now hear both 3YA and 1YA. I cannot understand how it is that your stations are so easy to tune in over here. I think 100 miles on water must equal 10 on land to radio waves."

EFFECTIVE RANGE

ILLUMINATING ESTIMATES

FACTS ABOUT BRITISH RECEPTION.

New Zealand listeners who have been working over long distances, and securing results from the moderately powered stations of 1YA and 3YA, will be specially interested in the following authentic estimates of effective range, as made by the British Broadcasting authorities. The average New Zealand reception extends over infinitely greater distances than are considered feasible in Britain.

Manufacturers who claim that their two and three-valve sets will give continuous reliable reception "from all the inter-State stations" (says the Melbourne "Argus") will be disturbed by a recent investigation carried out by the British Broadcasting Corporation to show the type of receiver needed for first-class reception at various distances from the main British stations. For really effective reception from Daventry, the most powerful of the British stations, it is estimated that for distances up to 30 miles a two-valve set will give satisfaction. For distances between 30 miles and 100 miles, a minimum of three valves is considered necessary, while for effective reception in towns, where field strength is reduced by buildings, four valves are recommended. A minimum of four valves is needed for distances between 100 and 150 miles, and a five-valve set is required for reception of Daventry over greater distances.

The real importance of these estimates will be apparent when it is remembered that Daventry uses a power five times as great as the power of the largest Australian broadcasting stations, and transmits on a long wave. For the ordinary British stations, which are about half the power of the Australian stations, two valves are recommended for reception up to five miles, three valves for reception from five to 15 miles, and four valves for reception over distances of more than 15 miles.

Two Valves Needed.

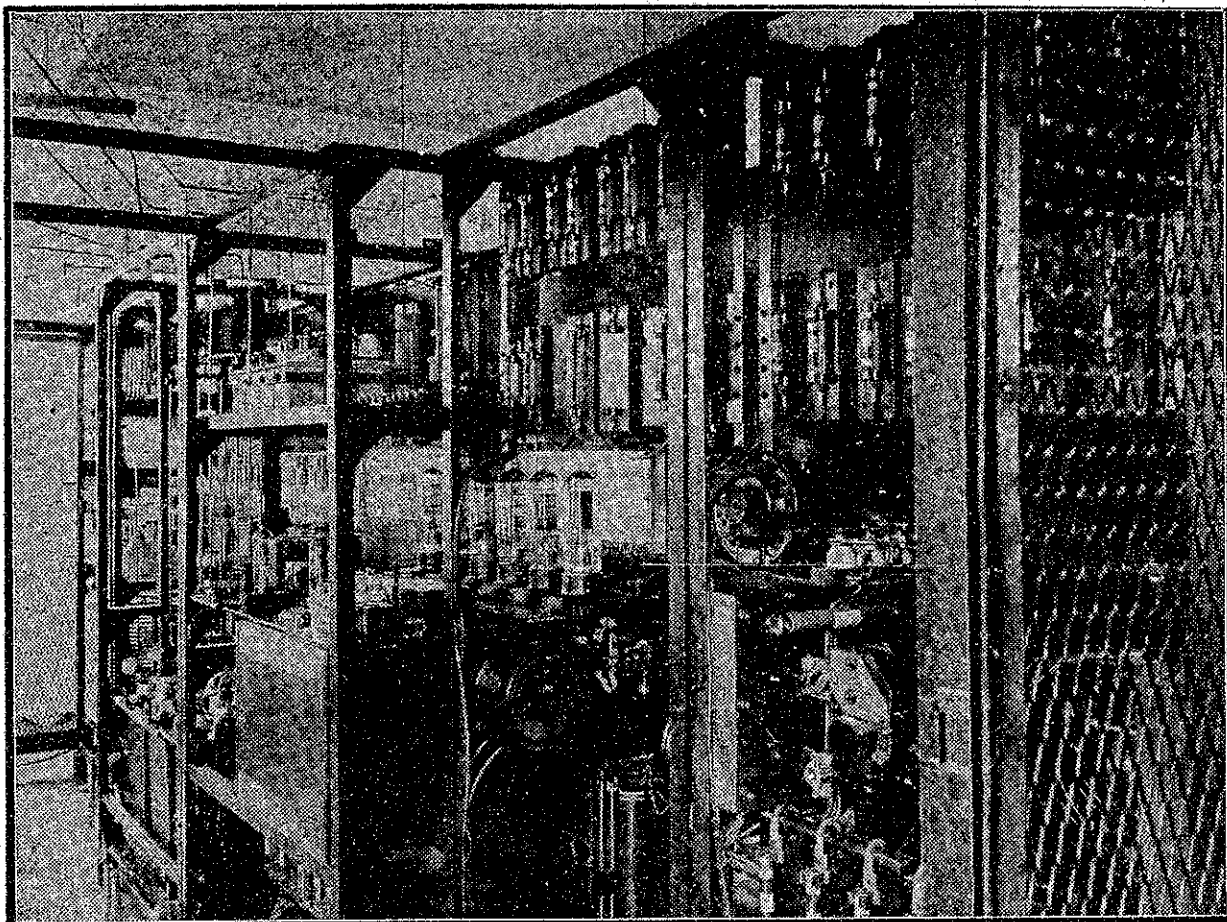
For the relay stations, which are about the same size as the B class stations in Melbourne, two valves are recommended for reception up to two miles from the station, and three valves for reception over distances of between two and three miles. All these estimates assume the use of an aerial not less than 25 feet high and 100 feet long. On the above figures it will be clear that for reception of Australian stations over distances of 500 miles, about a dozen valves would be required.

British manufacturers, however, freely admit the fact, which is generally disregarded in Australia and America, that the receiver has not yet been built which will give a consistently satisfactory service from a broadcasting station working on ordinary broadcasting wavelengths over distances of more than about 70 miles. This distance is the limit of effective reception, irrespective of the power of the broadcasting station.

Fading and Distortion.

The limit is determined, not by the sensitivity of the receiver, but partly by the extent to which signal strength is varied, or signals are distorted, by fading effects, and partly by the extent to which transmissions are interrupted by atmospheric factors. Both these factors operate for an average of one night in two throughout the year over distances of more than 70 miles from a broadcasting station, and seriously interfere with the musical value of a programme. It is perfectly true that inter-State stations can be received in Melbourne on two valves, but for a considerable portion of the time for which the signals are audible, the transmissions are valueless as a source of entertainment.

Printed and published for the New Zealand Radio Publishing Company, at their registered office, Dominion Avenue, Wellington, by Archibald Sando, of 47, Freyberg Street, Lyall Bay. FRIDAY, JULY 29, 1927.



What a glimpse of the interior of a 500 kilo watt station looks like—view of the "works" of 2YA.

—L. Wallace, photo.



General view of the home of 3YA, Christchurch, and headquarters of the Radio Broadcasting Coy. of N.Z., Ltd. Here the transmitting apparatus is adjacent to the studio, and the masts, placed right in the city, constitute a notable landmark.