

Amongst the Listeners

The Human Side of Radio.

"Being an interested listener-in last Wednesday, I heard Mr. — singing," writes a listener. "I saw his name in the 'Radio Record,' and wondered if he was the Mr. — I knew. When I heard the voice I knew it must be. I have very often wondered where he was. I knew him to be in Christchurch somewhere, but wondered why I hadn't heard him over the air before. I have listened intently to the programmes given sometimes by a Welsh Society in Christchurch, also from the Cathedral, and I have fancied the voices have been familiar, but as no names were announced my curiosity wasn't satisfied. Being Welsh and coming from about four miles away from the same place, also being associated with him and his sister on the West Coast, you can imagine I was interested."

A Distant Listener's View.

Sir,—Just a word concerning your paper, and the discussion going on about the newspapers copying the programmes. Now, if some of those people would like to change places with me for a month they would understand the need and value of such a paper. We get the daily paper two days old, so what good is it to me? I hope that the paper is taken by every listener-in. I have a Browning-Drake five-valve set, and 2YA comes in like a peal of thunder, although I am nearly 375 miles away. I must say we enjoy every item, except one, and that is the piano and organ. The organ spoils it. When played separate nothing could be nicer. The announcer's words come perfectly clear, and I hear the motors sounding their horns in the streets. I must wish you and all the artists who entertain us so nicely the very best of luck.—Yours, etc., C. F. Bennett, Earsclough.

Query About Fading.

Sir,—Will you kindly advise me why it was, on Monday evening, August 15, portion of 2YA's programme, the Christchurch station was at least 50 per cent. louder than we received Wellington direct. This is very strange, considering that Christchurch is considerably farther away from here, also with a power of 500 watts against Wellington with 5000 watts. This was noted by several listeners up here who are curious to know why this should be so. 3YA is always received here considerably louder and with better modulation than Wellington; there is also less fading.

Programmes are very much improved, but 3YA is our only consistently reliable station. Why this is so is best known to those behind the scenes. I certainly think the Broadcasting Co. should leave no stone unturned until both Wellington and Auckland are made as reliable. 1YA, at least, should be in working order by now, considering it was installed before Christchurch. There is, perhaps, an excuse for Wellington, although, on the other hand, it is ten times as powerful, therefore should, at its worst, be superior to Christchurch if power counts for anything; yet at present it is far inferior. There must be a considerable amount of power going to waste, and we suggest that this be pointed out to the expert sent to install same. Wishing your journal every success.—I am, etc., W. M. PITCHER.

[Fading is a phenomenon which even technical experts cannot explain, much less remedy. There is scope for much research work here. Even an alteration in wavelength affects certain localities. It certainly seems inexplicable that 3YA should be received more

loudly in Hamilton than is 2YA, but there it is. It is proposed to conduct a test, or series of tests, to ascertain how the various New Zealand stations are received in the various parts of New Zealand on certain nights. Listeners will be asked to co-operate in this respect. Some places in New Zealand are "black" to some of the stations. Correspondence received by the Broadcasting Company shows that in certain districts of the South Island 1YA is received better than is 3YA, while a great area of the North Island receives 3YA better than 1YA—the East Coast, Bay of Plenty, Hamilton, etc. Reports show that while stations are received specially well in certain districts on certain nights, in other districts on the same nights the reception has been bad, so bad that listeners have complained, thinking that the transmission was at fault. It can be accepted as a fact that all is well at the transmitting end. The entertainment goes on the air in "good order and condition," but the company has no control over the reception. Atmospheric conditions may be unfavourable and receiving sets may not be above suspicion. In a great many cases it is

HELD OVER

OWING TO PRESSURE ON SPACE A NUMBER OF VERY INTERESTING LETTERS FROM LISTENERS ARE UNAVOIDABLY HELD OVER TILL NEXT WEEK.

a receiving set, in bad order and badly operated, that does more harm to the reputation of radio than do atmospheric conditions. Atmospheric, however, provide a great problem, and a test of the conditions prevailing over the Dominion at a given time would be particularly interesting. Though the Broadcasting Company receives many letters reporting on reception, these reports have not been made systematically. It must not be assumed for a moment that fading is peculiar to New Zealand stations. Letters from Australia are continually reporting the fine reception of 2YA, 1YA, and 3YA, which, the writers say, fade less than their own local stations!—Ed.]

Press Writer Corrected.

"I notice a paragraph in the Christchurch 'Star' relative to the present wavelength allotment, and the paragraph mentioned will bear quoting if only to demonstrate the appalling ignorance of even the fundamentals of radio, shown by some of the writers in the daily Press. The paragraph runs as follows: 'High-power stations cannot be worked at a closer separation than ten kilocycles (100 metres), and stations which are comparatively close together should be separated by fifteen kilocycles or more. Will this convince the P.M.G., New Zealand, that 3YA's wave is too close to that of 1YA?'"

Somewhat, I do not think this paragraph is going to cause the P.M.G. any concern, for if the relationship between frequency and wavelength had been understood by the "Star" writer he would not have "put his foot" in it to the extent of demanding a separation of "at least fifteen kilocycles," where already he has nearly eighty kilocycles. Anyway ten kilocycles represents a difference of 100 metres at only one point in the wavelength band, and that is between 1800 and 1900 meters.—Nuf sed.—I am, etc., MODULATOR.

INDIA BROADCASTS

TWO BIG STATIONS

EFFECT ON THE NATIVES

BOMBAY.
7BY, 357.1 METRES, 3000 WATTS.

CALCUTTA.
7CA, 370.4 METRES, 3000 WATTS.

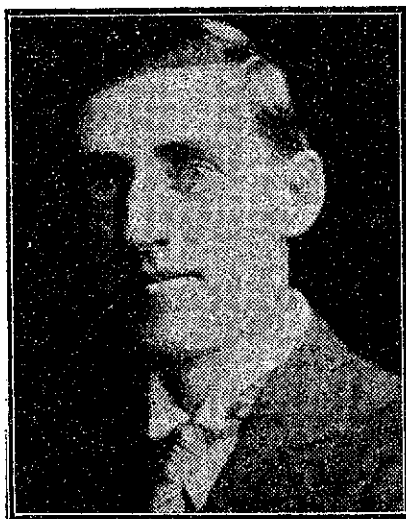
(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bombay, July 19. Broadcasting, that all embracing carrier of entertainment, news, and instruction, has struck out on bold lines in India, which, within a few weeks, will possess two of the most up-to-the-minute high-power broadcast stations in the world. It would be difficult to assess the far-reaching influence that broadcasting is going to exert upon the national life of this wondrous land of mystery.

Old friends in distant New Zealand may, without being over optimistic, expect to hear the Indian stations once they have dropped into their stride, and with the zeal and experience of the engineers conducting these stations they should be operating at their peak efficiency before the end of August.

7BY, BOMBAY, ON THE AIR.

Last evening, with great eclat, 7BY, Bombay, 357.1 metres, 3000 watts aerial energy, was officially opened by the Viceroy of India. This station is located at Worli. It sweeps a vast area for crystal reception alone, not to mention its range for valve sets. The chief object in establishing so powerful a



—Photo, S. P. Andrew.

Mr. Preston Billing, of the Wellington Radio Society, who has begun a series of Radio talks from 2YA, of which much appreciation has already been expressed. Notes from Mr. Billing's talks will be incorporated in our columns as far as possible.

station was to bring broadcasting per medium of inexpensive crystal sets to the homes of a substantial proportion of the teeming millions of the Presidency of Bombay. In this Presidency alone there is a population of something like 23,000,000, or, roughly, over eighteen times the total population of New Zealand. The Presidency, despite the ravages of pestilence and famine, is quickly recuperative and produces an enormous supply of cotton, cereals, sugar, tea, and wool. The secondary industries, too, are extensively developed, so the masses, seeing that crystal sets can be purchased for seven or eight rupees, are in a position to enjoy the boon of broadcasting.

CALCUTTA COMMENCES.

The Calcutta station, 7CA, 370.4 metres, 3000 watts aerial energy, is dated to be opened officially at 6.30 p.m. on August 26, by Sir Stanley Jackson, Governor of Bengal. The time in New Zealand will be midnight on August 26. The Calcutta station has been erected at Cossipore, in Calcutta, the capital of Bengal. Here, again, we have not only a huge city (population of about one and a half millions), but a territory supporting something like 50 million people. The earning capacity of the masses is relatively high, the primary products embracing innumerable varieties of cereals, tea, cotton, sugar, pepper, spices, cinchona, coal, iron, and copper. There are also big jute and cotton mills around Calcutta employing tens of thousands of natives. By means of the inexpensive crystal set the natives will be able to have this modern miracle, broadcasting, at their disposal. Calcutta is built on the River Hooghly, 80 miles inland, and is well situated for the site of a broadcast station.

BROADCASTING HOURS.

For the first few months the broadcasting hours of the two stations will be:—

Sunday.—11 a.m. till noon; 6.30 till 10 p.m.
Monday.—11.30 a.m. till noon; 7.45 till 10.30 p.m.
Tuesday.—3.30 till 4 p.m.; 8 p.m. till 11.30 p.m.
Wednesday.—11.30 a.m. till noon; 7.45 p.m. till 10.30 p.m.
Thursday.—3.30 p.m. till 4 p.m.; 8 p.m. till 11.30 p.m.
Friday.—11.30 a.m. till noon; 7.45 p.m. till 10.30 p.m.
Saturday.—3.30 till 4 p.m.; 8.15 till 11.30 p.m.

NEW ZEALAND TIME.

To enable New Zealand friends to pick up the Indian stations it is advisable to explain that Calcutta time is 5 hours behind New Zealand, and Bombay is 6 hours behind New Zealand. For instance, when it is 8 p.m.

in Calcutta it is 1.30 a.m. in New Zealand. It will be 2.30 a.m. in New Zealand when the clock shows 8 p.m. on Bombay.

GOOD EXPERT STAFF.

We have a highly-qualified expert staff in charge of the technical side of the broadcasting scheme which is operated by the Indian Broadcasting Co., Ltd., Radio House, Apollo Bunder, Bombay. The chief radio engineer is Mr. V. A. M. Bulow, who is an experienced radio man, with an abundance of resourcefulness and energy. The general manager of the company is Mr. E. C. Dunstan.

UNWIELDY ADVISORY BOARD.

There is one flaw in the general scheme, and that is the creation of an unwieldy Advisory Board of no fewer than a dozen leading citizens. It is my experience that the advisory boards are nothing short of a clog to progress in all forms of public enterprise. A capable manager who is desirous of catering for the greatest number, and who is imbued with the spirit of progress, is only hampered by the widely diverse opinions and fads of inexperienced persons who interfere with his own carefully-considered plans. The thing would not be tolerated in a railway company, steamship company, or banking organisation. Not infrequently, too, the person with the most unreasoning fads possesses a zeal and a flow of eloquence which converts the less combative minds of their colleagues. This renders the position of the general manager most unenviable. Just how our Advisory Board will function remains to be seen, but at the very best it cannot give the general satisfaction that would result from the untrammelled endeavours of a competent and energetic manager.

THE FADING QUESTION

(To The Editor.)

Sir,—It is a pity that your correspondent "Ex-Maorilander," who contributed an article in your issue of August 5, touched upon only one side of the question of reception from Sydney stations.

The letters which were published in his article were of course published in the first instance, in "Wireless Weekly," but anyone who has a complete record of the issues of the last few months will see that while a proportion of people complain about poor reception, many others have nothing but praise.

It is ridiculous to condemn 2FC and 2BL, simply because certain people in certain localities find that fading and distortion interfere with their reception.

The question of fading and distortion, as you know, is one that is not peculiar to Australia, as the same conditions prevail in every other country under the sun where broadcasting is conducted.

They are properties not of the transmitting station itself, but of a series of natural phenomena which of course are not controlled by the broadcasting stations.

Experience seems to show that no matter what wave-length is adopted, some listeners in some territories will get poor reception at some period during the day or night.

In the main, general satisfaction is expressed locally, concerning the service put out by 2FC and 2BL, and no doubt reference to the correspondence files of these two stations will disclose thousands of letters supporting this point of view.

These points of course, while obvious to anyone versed in radio, are not obvious to the listener who cannot understand why reception from a station a hundred miles away is poor, while reception from a station situated hun-

dreds of miles beyond is consistently good.

It is, of course, purely a technical matter, involving at present the little known properties of skip-distances, ground waves, sky waves and the heavy-side layer.

I think, in justification, "Ex-Maorilander," in his somewhat sweeping article, might have touched upon these points, instead of conveying the impression that 2FC and 2BL are unsatisfactory stations. An examination of the increase of license fees will show that the reverse is the case.

In any case the publication of an article outlining the points above in an early issue of your paper would, I am sure, serve not only to remove the unpleasant effect of your correspondent's article, but would also prove a source of enlightenment to many of your readers.—I am, etc.,

A. W. WATT.

Editor "Wireless Weekly."

We are glad to publish this letter and to acknowledge all the claims made. The purpose of our contributor and of ourselves in publishing the article was to point out that the fading problem was not peculiar to the reception in New Zealand—that the admittedly good stations of Australia were encountering the same difficulty in certain areas. We endeavoured to make this point plain in our introduction to the article where-in we said that the faults were such as to be apart from station faults. Our purpose was to enlighten our readers as to overseas facts and in no way to reflect upon Australian transmission or reception.—Ed.

ESPERANTO

Lesson V of our Esperanto course is presented to readers this week. The course is being conducted in conjunction with 2YA, from which station an explanation of each week's published lesson is broadcast.

Judging by reports which have been received by the instructor from various parts of the Dominion, a great deal of interest is being taken in the lessons, it being evident that radio enthusiasts are appreciating the facilities afforded them to study this delightful language.

Inquiries relative to Esperanto may be made to "The Esperanto Instructor," New Zealand Broadcasting Co., Wellington, or care of "Radio Record." A stamped addressed envelope must accompany each inquiry, otherwise a reply cannot be guaranteed.

LESSON 5.

(To be broadcast from 2YA on September 1, from 7.30 to 7.54 p.m.)
Salutation: Bonan vesperon. Good evening.

THE PRONOUN.—THE PERSONAL PRONOUNS are: mi, I, ci, thou, li, he, s'i, she, g'i, it, ni, we, vi, you, ili, they. oni, one, they, people. (oni is the indefinite pronoun.) si, himself, herself, etc. (si is used in reflexive sense; refers to 3rd personal pronouns only.)

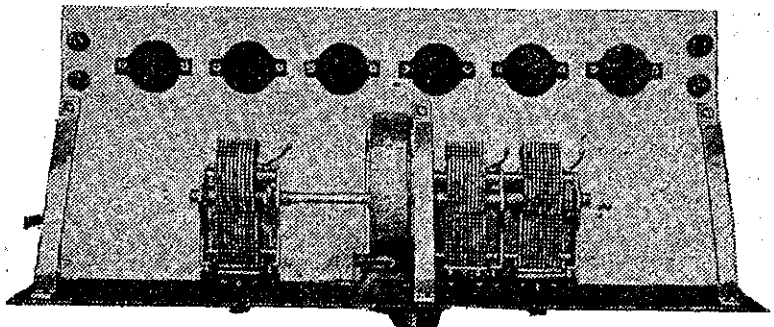
THE POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS, being adjectives, are formed by adding—A: mia, mia, his, via, via, etc., mv or mine, our or ours, his, etc. They take the endings—J, —N, —IN, according to number and case, when necessary.

Li invitis siajn amikojn. He invited his (own) friends. Li invitis HAJN. He invited his (someone else's) friends. Mi rompis mian valvon, I broke my valve. Lia amikooj estas miaj. His friends are mine. Oni diras. . . They say, it is said . . .

WORDS.—Legas, read; skribas, write; franco, a Frenchman; Sinjoro, Mr., sir; diras, say; ke, that; domo, house; amas, love; is loving; mem, self, selves (reflexive); ĉiu, all, everyone; vidas, see. Mi legas. Vi skribas. Ni vidas g'in. Ii estas Francoj. Oni diras, ke la domo apartenas al li. Li estas mia onklo. Niaj libroj kus-as sur la tablo. Mi amas min mem, vi amas vin mem, li amas sin em, kaj ĉiu homo amas sin mem.

Salutation.—Bonan nokton. Good night.

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