

THE NEW ZEALAND Radio Record

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LITERARY MATTER.

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A. J. HIGHTWAY,

Managing Editor,

"The N.Z. Radio Record,"

P.O. Box 1032.

WELLINGTON.

WELLINGTON, SEPTEMBER 2, 1927.

On Tuesday of last week the "Radio Record" was the subject of attack by the Labour Party in Parliament, Mr. H. E. Holland in particular excelling himself in the things he said. On noticing the Press reports we wrote Mr. Holland on Wednesday as follows:—

"I notice from this morning's "Dominion" that some complimentary attention has been devoted to the "Radio Record" by your good self.

"Without knowing the exact incident to which you refer, I am still prepared to give your statement that we published a "deliberate lie" a flat denial. If any inaccuracy has appeared in our columns, either in the news columns, based upon newspaper reports, or editorially, we are quite prepared to make the necessary correction; but I would ask you to accept our assurance that no inaccuracy has been deliberately published. That is quite apart from our practice or policy, and for it to have been suggested that such was done deliberately is in my opinion ungentlemanly and definitely untrue."

So far we have not received a reply from Mr. Holland, and at this writing we are still ignorant of the grounds upon which Mr. Holland thinks himself justified in descending to the level he did. We do not claim any immunity from the possibility of error, and if error has occurred in our columns, either in our report of Parliament's proceedings or in what we consider perfectly fair and justifiable comment upon those proceedings, we will be happy, on proof being given, to make the necessary correction. From the reports of Mr. Holland's latest outburst, we are unable to determine where his complaint lies. So far as his allegation is concerned as to our having perpetrated an untruth deliberately, that remark can be flatly contradicted. We invite Mr. Holland to either justify his statement or apologise.

Mr. Peter Fraser joined his chief in the attack, and sought to make political capital out of the dual editorship of the "N.Z. Dairy Produce Exporter" and the "Radio Record." An extraordinary inconsistency and confusion of thought seems to characterise the observations of this group of members of Parliament upon wireless and associated matters. In his remarks Mr. Fraser alleged, first, that the "Exporter" had been used by the Government as a party journal prior to last election. Next, he complained that it had been used to attack the Government. Exactly where does Mr. Fraser stand in the matter? The truth is that the "Exporter" has been perfectly independent, and never has at any time been used politically either for or against the Government, or the Labour Party. Criticism has on occasion been directed against both, and doubtless will be again. At the last election period those responsible for the Reform Party's campaign recognised the extraordinary advertising value of the "Exporter," with its circulation of approximately 60,000 copies, reaching all dairy farmers' homes throughout the Dominion, and inserted a number of full page advertisements which were duly paid for in hard cash. The same privilege was open to the Labour Party, and if the Labour Party intends next election to follow the lead in publicity given them by the Reform Party, we would take the opportunity of putting a word in now on behalf of the "Exporter." Mr. Fraser, we believe, holds the purse-strings of the Party, and will realise that he can spend its money in no better direction, or secure better advertising value.

Humour apart, however, Mr. Fraser's allegation is utterly unfounded. The "Exporter" editorially has been perfectly independent, and will remain so. Its function is not a political one at all, and even in relation to the outstanding contributions of "Economist"—who wields the best informed and most trenchant pen on economic matters in the Dominion to-day—his articles have been equally independent. He has on occasion subjected the Government to very well informed and sound criticism on financial matters—so much so that the Minister of Finance, in his pre-sessional policy speech at Feilding, paid "Economist" the unique compliment of singling his observations out from those of all other Press writers, by replying to them in detail. Mr. Fraser will probably recall that thereafter "Economist" very effectively traversed the Minister's statement, and proved his original contention. Mr. Fraser's charge against the "Exporter" is quite baseless.

We can also emphatically deny the observation that the "Record" has "frankly indulged in propaganda against the Labour Party." That is not so. We have criticised the observations of certain members of the Labour Party in relation to broadcasting, but we have made no other comment upon the Labour Party's policy, and are not, in this field, concerned in the slightest degree with it. We are perfectly entitled to express our views upon the comments made in Parliament by the Labour Party upon broadcasting matters, and the thin-skinned and petulant complaints of Mr. Fraser and his confreres will not deter us from doing so. Mr. Fraser says we are out to boost broadcasting. He

is awarded top marks for his perspicacity. That is exactly our function—to serve broadcasting and give listeners essential information of value to them.

From the listener's point of view, what good purpose has been served by this carping Parliamentary criticism of the Government loan? It would almost seem that this undue attention to broadcasting is a confession of the Labour Party's inability to find anything to talk about. Listeners are concerned to secure the best possible station, and the best possible programmes for their delectation and entertainment. When the Government wisely conceived the idea that it would be advantageous to have a high-powered station at Wellington, in order to have a daylight range over the whole Dominion, and a night range over the whole Pacific, and approached the company to that end, the company rightly enough pointed out that such an extension of the original commitment of £20,000 would require a revision of the financial arrangements. In that revision the company, from its own strength, extended its obligation from £20,000 to £35,000, and the Government advanced on suitable security the £15,000 in question, to permit of the completion of 2YA on the high-powered basis desired.

From the listener's point of view the Government is wholly to be commended for giving the financial assistance necessary. As a result, listeners have secured better service without any increased license fee, more listeners have been attracted, so that the revenue available for programmes has been enlarged, and as a consequence a general forward movement for the betterment of the broadcast service has begun. The whole atmosphere in broadcasting circles has changed for the better in the last two months, and this has its foundation in the opening of 2YA on the basis made possible by the Government's financial provision. The advantages of 2YA that we have enumerated are quite apart from the extra asset that this station represents in the case of national emergency.

We cannot see that the Labour Party, in their excess of criticism on this feature, have rendered any service to listeners or added to their own credit or reputation. The debates have been of a distinctly carping nature, and there is at least ground for the suspicion that their attitude has its base in the dairy control controversy, and the Labour Party's resentment of Mr. Goodfellow's necessary reminder to the farmers of the country of the Labour Party's attitude to the method of election, and the consequences thereof. If that is so it hardly seems cricket to make broadcasting the stalking-horse for political revenge.

ACROSS THE ATLANTIC IN A COCKLESHELL

FAMOUS FEAT OF 56 YEARS AGO TO BE TOLD FROM 3YA

When Captain Hayter and his mate were drifting slowly over the Atlantic in their 1½ ton boat, a prey to wind and tide for 92 days, Captain Hayter little thought then—fifty-six years ago—that there would come a time when airmen would fly across like birds, and that he would be telling the people of a new generation by means of the most wonderful discovery of the age, radio, of his wanderings half a century previously.

who, in a cockleshell of a boat, braved the "Roaring Forties" and crossed and recrossed the Atlantic? Such a feat was accomplished in 1871. It is a long way to go back—fifty-six years—but 3YA has found one of the two men who caused the sensation in 1871, and he will tell on the radio his recollections.

The "ancient mariner" is Captain Hayter, of Redcliffs, Sumner, where, by the way, he first saw the light of



Captain and
Mrs. Hayter.
Captain Hayter, on
Wednesday,
September 7,
will tell from 3YA
how he crossed
the Atlantic in
a cockleshell
56 years ago.

Deeds of bravery, like other things, are judged by the standard of the time. Recently the men who flew across the Atlantic Ocean were acclaimed as heroes. They were the first men to succeed in overcoming the risks inseparable from such an undertaking. But how does their bravery compare with that of men

day 15 years ago, the first white boy to be born there. It has been only after much persuasion that the old seaman has consented to tell of a feat unknown to the present generation, and long forgotten by old people who ever knew about it.

The address is to be given on Wednesday, September 7.

DANGER TO LOUD- SPEAKER

OVER 110 VOLTS RISKY.

Radio dealers in New Zealand sometimes have loudspeakers brought to them with the wiring of the coils burnt out. This is caused by using too high a plate voltage (from the B battery) without connecting a siftron or other choke and condenser device, or transformer, between the loudspeaker and the set when more than 110 volts is fed from the B battery.

Ever since the advent of the power valves of the 112 and 171 type for use in the last stage of audio-frequency amplifiers, there is an attendant danger that some damage may be done to the windings of the loudspeaker, unless some protective device be inserted in the output circuit of the power tube. The plate voltage required by these tubes is anywhere from 135 to 180, and, in the majority of cases, such a voltage flowing through the loudspeaker windings will burn them out, or cause some other damage.

The protective device mentioned above generally takes the form of either a 1:1 ratio transformer or an audio-frequency choke coil, with a large fixed condenser placed in the plate lead of the power tube. By either of these means the high voltage is supplied to the plate of the tube without passing through the loudspeaker coils.

£37 10s A MINUTE

Jascha Heifetz, the eminent violinist, was offered £750 by G.L.O. Melbourne, for a broadcasting performance of 20 minutes—£37 10s. a minute. His contracts compelled him to refuse. He wrote to the company as follows:—"I wish to acknowledge your offer for broadcasting, but I must reply, as I have in the case of other companies, by advising you that by the terms of my contracts, my playing is not to be broadcast. Thanking you for your substantial proposal, which, I regret, I am not in a position to entertain."

RELAY STATIONS

WHAT ABOUT ROTORUA?

CENTRALLY SITUATED FOR RELAY PURPOSES.

A suggestion has been made by a New Plymouth society that a relay station should be established in New Plymouth, for the benefit of Taranaki listeners, and that as a preliminary the power of 1YA, Auckland, should be quadrupled. There is a kernel of merit in this suggestion, but it is obvious that there are a number of factors to be considered, such as, first, finance, and, secondly, situation.

From the broadcasting point of view, New Zealand is a particularly difficult country to handle. It is a long, narrow country, so that the stations, wherever situated, are certain to lose a great deal of power by unprofitable diffusion over non-paying areas such as the sea. It is safe to say that, from a money-earning point of view, Auckland is only 20 per cent. efficient, because, situated on a narrow isthmus, 80 per cent. of her power must be diffused over water areas on which listeners do not thrive and are not thickly located. A relay station at New Plymouth would be open to substantially the same objection.

Our suggestion for increased efficiency to listeners of the North Island would be, neither the quadrupling of the Auckland nor the provision of a relay station at New Plymouth, but a relay station at Rotorua.

This would have the advantage, in our opinion, of avoiding any disadvantages there may be of the association of broadcasting stations in cities, and would place a station in the centre of a large land area, reaching easily into the Bay of Plenty, Hawke's Bay, the thickly populated area of South Auckland, and New Plymouth and Taranaki, as well as the northern area of Wellington Province.

It would also have the advantage of making regularly available such attractive items as the Maori concerts. Every visitor to Rotorua knows the appreciation extended to the fine native concerts that are there available. The opportunity of putting upon the air this feature would, we think, constitute a very definite advantage. A satisfactory land line could also be arranged between Hamilton and Rotorua, to secure the cream of the talent available there, and the same extension could ultimately be made to Auckland, from which higher-powered station Rotorua's booming haka could be scattered over the Pacific.

As opportunity offers, we have no doubt that the Broadcasting Company will give consideration to the provision of such enterprises, but it is obvious that an essential preliminary must be an increasing revenue from a larger number of listeners, in order to meet the demands for such extra service. Listeners generally, we think, will be serving their own interests, as one correspondent phrases it, by "spreading the rosel" more generally. There is nothing so infectious as enthusiasm, and a different mental attitude in some quarters would, we are satisfied, have a very beneficial reaction in radio circles generally, increase listeners, and the possibilities of trade and the steady betterment of programmes.

BUSINESS FORECASTS

A PLAN IN PROSPECT.

Mr. A. R. Harris, general manager of the Radio Broadcasting Company, was in Wellington last week, and in the course of conversation gave an indication of some of the plans in prospect for future development. Some of these require further investigation before publicity can be given to them, but one feature mentioned will be of interest to business listeners. It is recognised, indicated Mr. Harris, that the soundest business life of a community is based upon the diversification of interests. Such diversification is in turn built upon knowledge of the probable course of markets and events. All business decisions are based upon individual judgment, which in turn can be exercised only in relation to the information available. With this thought in view, he considered it would be of service to secure, if possible, leaders of the business, banking and commercial world to periodically make available over the air their view of the probable course of markets and events of the succeeding few months. The business atmosphere was rooted, not only in physical facts, but also in the mental attitude to those facts or expectation of them. If the business judgment of men of the calibre he had in mind could be made available in this way to the whole community, it was likely, he thought, that many irrevocable decisions made by men of less experience might be avoided or made to better advantage. Some approaches had already been made in this direction, and it was hoped that a successful scheme would be evolved.

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