

# Amongst the Listeners

This is the Listener's Corner. It is available for reports of receptions from individuals; the correspondence of Leagues of Listeners and reports of their proceedings; constructive criticism or suggestions for the betterment of radio in general and the consistent improvement of the service that broadcasting can render in our community life. We wish this page to be the meeting-place of listeners and officials for the better understanding of points of view and the problems of others.. It is a "Service" page, and we invite you to make use of it. Address all communications: Editor, "Radio Record," P.O. Box 1032, Wellington.

## LISTENERS' LEAGUE

Delegates from various listeners' societies throughout the Dominion are scheduled to meet at Wellington on September 20, commencing with a special session at 11 a.m., when they will be welcomed by the Mayor (Mr. G. A. Troup). Among those who have been invited to speak are the Prime Minister (the Right Hon. J. G. Coates), the Postmaster-General (Hon. W. Kosworth), the Secretary of the Post and Telegraph Department, and the general manager of the Radio Broadcasting Company of New Zealand, Ltd. The first sessions, which will be held in the Dominion Farmers' Institute, will be open to the public. The establishment of a New Zealand Listeners' League, to which all societies will affiliate, will be among the important matters to be considered. The Wellington Society will be represented at the conference by its president, Mr. J. H. Owen; and Mr. I. M. Levy, vice-president. Mr. R. Leslie Jones, hon. secretary of the society, will act as secretary to the conference.

Members of the executive committee of the Auckland Listeners' League recently had an opportunity of discussing the broadcasting situation with Mr. A. R. Harris, general manager of the Radio Broadcasting Company, says an exchange. Since the interview the league's executive has spent no time in formulating a scheme of co-operation with the local station director. If the idea is accepted, says the "New Zealand Herald," it is "the league's intention to shelve, for the time being, its policy of endeavouring to obtain a similar control of New Zealand broadcasting to that obtaining in Great Britain."

## RECEPTION OF 2YA

W. M. Pitcher, Hamilton, writes:—I read with interest your reply to my letter in "Radio Record" dated August 26. My letter, however, does not refer to fading. We all know the natural fading is no fault of the station. This does not explain why Christchurch station is received with more volume and better tone than Wellington. Although it is farther south and only one-tenth the power, both being in exactly the same position as far as Hamilton is concerned. I also notice you refer to the discrepancy of reports, and mention that a listener in Stratford reports excellent reception from Wellington, whereas a listener north of Auckland reports poor reception. Is this a fair guide? I think not, Stratford being practically under Wellington's aerial. [Stratford is 120 miles air-line from Wellington; Auckland 200.—Ed.] I understand Mr. Thow, who was sent by the makers of the plant for Wellington to instal same and adjust it, has not been in the station since three days prior to the official opening; he has neither adjusted the plant or passed it, the matter being left entirely to the local experts. This, no doubt, explains the trouble I was previously referring to, and suggest that Mr. Thow be approached immediately, as this will save trouble and expense of experimenting at the station.

[On referring this letter to the authorities concerned, we received the following reply from the Standard Telephones and Cables, Ltd. (employers of Mr. Thow): "It is not correct that Mr. Thow has not been in the station since three days prior to the official opening. No particular trouble has been referred to us by the general manager of the Broadcasting Company, but we have been requested to have Mr. Thow visit the station at any convenient time and submit recommendations that in his opinion would effect an improvement in the broadcast transmission."]

[We understand further from the Broadcasting Company that the recommendations received from the manufacturers of the plant, in regard to both erection and operating, have been strictly adhered to. Reports of good reception have been received from Australia, New Guinea, Pacific Islands, and the Western States of America, although the company is aware that there are some localities where reception is not as good as might be expected from a station the size of 2YA. In regard to this the company is closely in touch with the conditions, and the matter will be remedied in due course as far as it is practicable to do so.—Ed.]

## LICENSED LISTENERS

### COMMENT ON THE FIGURES.

The following are the latest official figures giving the numbers of wireless licenses:—

	Listeners.	Dealers.
Auckland	11,396	442
Wellington	6,651	624
Canterbury	6,423	250
Otago	1,760	157

Totals	26,230	1,473
Three months earlier the figures were:—		

	Listeners.	Dealers.
Auckland	8,993	351
Wellington	3,347	475
Canterbury	4,606	197
Otago	1,440	132

Totals 18,326 1,155

The increases in receiving licenses in the four districts in the three months are:—Auckland, 2403, or 27.57 per cent.; Wellington, 3301, or 98.72 per cent.; Canterbury, 1819, or 39.49 per cent.; Otago, 320, or 22.22 per cent.

Upon these figures the radio writer of the "Post" sensibly comments:—The startling feature of the figures is the Wellington total. In spite of the number having almost doubled, it is still far below that of the Auckland district three months earlier. It is hardly believable that the number of licenses issued represents even approximately the number of receivers in use in this district. The population of Wellington seems to be far more interested in radio reception than the license figures indicate; it is a topic in almost every group one enters.

Consider, also, the numbers of dealers' licenses. These are as nearly as possible complete; the radio inspectors are able to keep very close track of traders in wireless apparatus. According to the Wellington figures, there are eleven licensed listener-per dealer. When one goes into a radio dealer's shop and finds a crowd of buyers there, and goes to another to save time and finds another crowd, the statistics begin to look a little weak. It seems probable that Wellington's high-power station, simply because it is a high-power station, cheats itself of revenue; it is so easy to install a crystal receiver and use it with an indoor aerial; and without an offensive inspection campaign such installations cannot be found. It appears that a system of raising revenue from listeners' licenses must be accompanied by very effective means of ensuring that listeners have licenses, and at present the matter is left almost entirely to the consciences of those concerned, and they are elastic. Licenses should be available at least as early as receivers, and some means should be found to induce dealers to take an interest in the question whether a purchaser is doing his share in maintaining the broadcasting service.

## Our Mail Bag

### What's Remarkable.

Sir,—I wish to congratulate Mr. McKay and Mr. Hutton on their fine lists—particularly the latter, as only four valves were used. Lists such as this show what a good set and locality can do. My list is only 69 (latest addition CMRV, 500 watts, B.C., which seems to be on old wave 201, and closed at 6.36 p.m. on September 7). Given the time there is no knowing where the limit is. Re the statement by "Reflex"—"I would like to ask where anything remarkable comes in"—my reply is, it's not remarkable. The only remarkable thing is that more and better lists have not been forwarded. Sixty-two stations from Dunedin on 4 valves wouldn't make "nearly 80" or a Counterphase 8 remarkable, would it? Replying to Mr. Key's questions, Between 2BL and 3LO is 7BY. (2) The one on 318 metres is a bit hard no doubt. No 3 just above KPON at 6 a.m. this morning was 3LO on low power. Wishing you and your readers as happy radio hours as I have.—I am, etc., C. P. GRIFV

### The Other Side.

"J.W.C.": Some people are never satisfied. I notice by this week's "Record" a letter signed "G.C.H.," and another by "G.P.P.," wanting the Broadcasting Company to give us a little more for our money. "Ye gods!" for thirty-seven-and-sixpence per annum

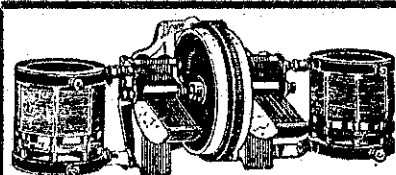
we get a daily service and a paper (second to none). Now, these people want the quarter of an hour between 7.45 to 8 p.m. and Sunday afternoon respectively. Surely the announcer wants, and is entitled to, that fifteen minutes, and fully deserves the Sunday afternoon. 1YA and 3YA have been fading badly this last week, and 4YA has disappeared off the air. 2YA has been splendid, and I think puts on a better programme than any of the others.—"J.W.C.," Masterton.

### Alterations Wanted.

A Listener: I would like to suggest that when Mr. Ball has finished his daily "news reports," any known alterations to the programme could be broadcast to the listener. It is very unsatisfactory to be waiting for an item to be broadcast and without any apology or explanation that item does not come through, and as I consider myself a customer of the Radio Broadcasting Co. I think I should get as much value as possible for the money I spend. This is a hint that is worth consideration, and in fairness to the listener-in who has paid his listener's fee he should be informed of changes from the set programme.

### Report on Reception.

R. W. Johnstone (Opoutawa): Speaking from what we find here, fading occurs more at night than during the afternoon—that is as regards 2YA. 1YA fades more than any other station in New Zealand with me here; 2YA fades, but not as much as 1YA; 3YA is the most consistent station in New Zealand as far as I am concerned, hardly fading at all. I have always put the Auckland fading down to the fact Bessels report that there is a 30-mile strip just north of the East Cape, where it is almost impossible to get New Zealand generally, having to get Samoa or Fiji to transmit to New Zealand. 2YA comes better some nights than others, irrespective of winds prevailing. For instance, Thursday, August 25, fading very badly, wind strong S.W.; Friday, August 26, hardly any fading, wind strong S.W. Only reason I can give is the change from a warm northerly wind on Thursday morning to a cold S.W. wind might affect the aerial wire here, and also your aerial, the change from warm to cold affecting both wires through the natural tautening of same. The Friday's atmosphere would naturally have nothing like the same effect, as the wires would be tautened and remain so for hours before the Friday broadcast. On Saturday evening, found all stations very noisy and fading badly. Strong S.W. wind blowing up till 8.30 p.m. Changed these to strong N.E. wind, and at 9 p.m. noise and fading had practically ended, all stations coming through well for the rest of the evening. Presume the relaxing of the wires with the change of wind caused, or at least helped to cause, noise and fading. 2YA usually very powerful, but sometimes get 3YA louder than 2YA, especially with strong southerly gales blowing. Perhaps a howling gale through the straits might affect 2YA, causing a deflection of current to a certain extent to the West Coast. Perhaps some listener-in on the West Coast may have taken notes during various gales or may do so and report.



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Tuesday, 30th, 3YA bad, 2YA horrible, 1YA bad until 8.30 p.m., and then very fair. Wind strong, N.E. gale.

### Sunday Services.

J. T. (Cambridge): I would suggest if possible that a Church of England service be broadcast from one of the following stations each Sunday evening:—1YA, 2YA, or 3YA, so that anyone wishing to have that service could do so. Dunedin is rarely available. We have three Sundays without a Church of England service at either of those stations. We greatly appreciate the improvement in the Sunday afternoon programme at 1YA, and hope it may still improve by the addition of the Municipal Band. May I also suggest a little alteration in the entertainments after church service. Some of them are not in keeping with the church service. I think the principle of keeping Sunday and Sunday programmes sacred will set a good example, as well as having a good influence with the large number of listeners, and would do a great deal of good.

### Crystal Reception.

Amateur: Is it possible to pick up the New Zealand stations, 1YA, 3YA, and 4YA, on a crystal set, if you have a large coil?—Our long distance crystal reception competition will show the distances workable by well equipped crystals. We expect some interesting results.

### Comparative Reception.

A Cromwell Reader: Just a line to congratulate you on the excellence of your publication. It deserves every success. The afternoon sessions from 1, 2, and 3YA come in here with lots of kick—a lot to spare on 5 tubes and often quite loud enough on four. 2BL and 2FC have been speaker strength all day during the past few months, but at present are only 'phone strength after midday till about 4.30.

### Hint for Crystal Users.

"A. D. X. Ham" writes: Here is an item of interest to your readers who use crystal sets, and which is not very widely known. I give it for what it is worth.

While building a crystal set recently I recalled an old dodge which I used to employ in 1922. As the more advanced readers know, a crystal passes 20 to 40 times more current in one direction than it does in the other, therefore a certain amount of current received in the aerial is rejected and so wasted. This rejected current can be used by another crystal being added between the earth end of the tuning coil and one side of the telephone receivers. It must be noted that the same type of crystal must be used in each detector, as the resistance of different crystals varies. The resistance of each crystal must be about equal. For obvious reasons, the carbonadium-steel type of detector with applied voltage is best, as the cat-whisker type is rather sensitive to adjust. The best way to get this circuit to work efficiently is to adjust one crystal at a time. Short the second crystal with a piece of wire and adjust the first detector to the best results. Then short the first detector, without upsetting the adjustment, remove the shorting wire from the second detector, and then find the best results on the second crystal. Remove the piece of shorting wire from the first detector, and it will be noticed that there is a decided increase in signal strength.

It is a recognised thing that wireless is sent out in a series of waves, and whereas a valve will utilise the whole of this wave (full-wave rectification), the crystal only uses either the top or the bottom half of this wave. The above circuit does not give the full-wave rectification, but only uses the rejected portion of energy from the first crystal detector. Full-wave rectification can be accomplished by means of four separate detectors (the circuit of which has slipped my memory), but the slight increase of signal strength given by this means was offset by the amount of trouble in keeping the four detectors working efficiently. For readers who only get weak reception, I can fully recommend this two-crystal circuit.

### An Interesting Letter.

A.R. (Tuatapere, Southland): I deem it may be of interest to your company and also readers of "Radio Record," to know how 2YA is received in this district, which is about the most distant in New Zealand from that station. When conditions are favourable it simply roars in on a four-valve Roberts. The other evening I got 2YA on the loudspeaker at good strength with the aerial dis-

connected and 15ft. of wire hung across the room. I then removed this wire and still got faint signals. This goes to show that the station gets there under favourable conditions, but there is another side to the picture, when conditions are not favourable and fading takes place, and I am pleased to see that this matter is being taken up and a test is to be made. We seldom get through a night without the station fading out a time or two. One evening, a fortnight ago, I could not get 3YA or 2YA, but 1YA was coming in at good strength at times. This goes to show that a moderate powered station will reach out under favourable conditions, and that a powerful station is not much good at a distance, when conditions are bad. At times New Zealand stations are coming in weak and yet the Sydney stations are strong, and then again the opposite occurs. It is a very interesting problem, this fading, Mr. Editor, and I often try round and take the strength of the different stations. I had a rather curious experience the other evening. I tuned in 2BL, Sydney, very weak, and then tried 2FC in Sydney. It was weak also. I then swung on to 2GB Theosophical Broadcasting Station, Sydney. This came in at fair loudspeaker strength. I immediately swung back on to the other two stations, but they were still weak. Now at ordinary times, 2GB is a weak station and here it comes in over the two powerful ones, and by the same pathway through the ether. Does this mean that under certain conditions a station with a certain wavelength will get through while others of different wavelengths will be blotted out? I think the fading tests to be of any use should be carried out over an extended period. I am sure the "Listeners-in" would be only too pleased to assist by filling in cards, which could be sent in at stated intervals. Divide the country into districts and have one or two checking for fading at certain times; and when filing the cards don't forget to file a copy of the weather reports and barometric pressures in the different districts. My wife can tell what the weather is like up north or in the Tasman Sea by what stations are fading out.

I consider that the object to be aimed at, no matter how long it takes, is to make it possible for every "listener-in" in New Zealand possessing a five-valve set to be at least certain of getting consistent reception from one broadcast station. I have just been listening to the announcer of 2YA giving the number of "listeners-in" in the different provinces, and Otago comes a bad last. The Scotch are a canny folk, Mr. Editor, and want something for their money. Their palate wants to be tickled with something better than 4YA (the programmes are all right, the little I ever hear of them); but could you not arrange to have 4YA transferred to Rotorua to act as a relay station, as I see suggested in the last "Radio Record," and give Otago a worthwhile station. I am diving to "listen-in" in the daytime with a reasonable amount of success. In concluding I would like to say I think the company are working on right lines, and are getting broadcasting out on a solid foundation at last, and that given time they will have everybody satisfied or at least nearly everybody almost satisfied. Wishing the company and your journal the best of luck.

### Sunday Services.

"In looking over the various Sunday programmes, I notice that the after-service sacred programmes have given place to a more general programme. This to my mind is a pity, for I know some who have installed sets chiefly with the object of hearing the Sunday services and the after-service concert. I am afraid that if some people had their way we should be treated (?) to jazz and such like stuff nearly all the time. Trusting that the Broadcasting Company will reconsider its apparent new move and put on the Sunday sacred concert when possible,—I am, etc., "Crystal Clear."

## A LABOUR STATION

The Debs Memorial Radio Fund announced in New York recently the purchase of station WSOB, in Woodhaven, from the Union Course Laboratories, to be used as "a militant voice of the American Labour movement to give expression to the aspirations of the millions of men and women who toil for a living." Active management will be taken over shortly, and application made to the Federal Radio Commission for permission to change the call letters of the station to WDEBS. A protest against the impending execution of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti was to be broadcast.

Broadcast station 7ZL, Hobart, is overloaded with "carrier wave." When its trainers clear its throat it will be worthy of battery current nearly every night.

A "tip" all broadcast listeners should heed is the desirability of experimenting with the B battery voltage of their detector valves to ascertain which gives the best results. It makes a whale of a difference to apply the correct high-tension voltage on the detector plate, especially for across-the-sea reception in New Zealand.

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