

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.

KAIKOURA

Business here is booming. Mr. Jeff. Bullen, of "The Lakes," has installed an eight-valve set, and is obtaining excellent results.

The pack horse was called in to equip Mr. G. E. T. Shand with a six-valve set. This shows how the wireless is taking the latest news to the most inaccessible spots.

Mr. Morton Bullen, of "The Elms," is another radio fan at present operating a six-valve set.

On Wednesday last, when the football match was being broadcast from Palmerston North on relay, Mr. Roy Clark took a six-valve set in a motor-car, and listened to the progress report of the match until his destination was reached in the Blue Duced Valley. The report came through with excellent volume.

A novice who recently took up radio in these parts boasted of his powerful set. Said he to a friend: "Wellington is on 420 metres, isn't it? Well, I can get it from 420 down to 300!" Not much selectivity about that set!

Another agent said: "Boy, you should hear my set; I can get three stations at once—Wellington, Japan, and Sydney." He should try and hold Wellington, and cut the other two stations out!

Recently a young fellow thought he would attempt to secure a commission for a radio set. He had a five-valve, quite new to him. Hearing that another firm was installing a set, he rang up the prospective client, saying: "Hang off, radio, I have the goods for you." He later visited the residence and found a six-valve set installed. Then he hurried off to Christchurch, and brought up a seven-valve set. The prospective purchaser gave him a "chance," and asked him to demonstrate against his six-valve set. The six-valve operated on the second floor, and the seven-valve on the first. The purchaser directed operations, and called for stations. The six-valve won easily. It was an eight-valve, with only six used, and this without an aerial. It was a good test, and smart Alec was defeated.

There are now fifty radio-sets in Kaitiaki, forty-one of which have been supplied by the "Star" office, the pioneers of radio in Kaitiaki. Mr. A. B. Clark published the "Wireless News" in France in January, 1918.

RADIO DANCE AT PIRINOVA

Radio dances are becoming more popular every day. The Memorial Hall at Pirinova was the scene of a successful function on Saturday, September 10 last, when a number of the local residents gathered to dance to the music of Allen's orchestra, so excellently broadcast by 2YA. After 2YA had closed down, those present were able to hear descriptions of motor-cycle racing from the National Speedway, Brisbane, per medium of Station 4QG; also motor sports from 2FC, Sydney. The last two rounds of the fight, Williams v. Squires, were enjoyed by the men present, and altogether an enjoyable radio evening was spent.

Several people expressed regret that there was not more variety in the dance music, consisting as it did of only fox trot and waltz numbers, but several extras, including lancers and two one-steps were arranged, with Mr. "Perriot" Morris—a prominent Maori entertainer—at the piano. Much appreciation of 2YA's programme was expressed, the opinion being advanced that if more dance music was included on these occasions the gatherings would be even more successful.

NEW RADIO NAMES

New standards of nomenclature for radio receivers devised to simplify the technical vocabulary of manufacturers and users of such apparatus have been adopted by the United States Standards Committee of the National Electrical Manufacturers' Association. The association handbook, which will be available shortly, will include the new standards. The radio division of the association has adopted the following colours for vacuum valve bases to permit ready identification: Dark red for general purpose valves; green for special detector valves; orange for audio power valves.

Our Mail Bag

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. Mather (Millerton).—It is quite evident that your batteries are defective, and should be sent to the agents for examination. The vendors would be the best people to get in touch with.

C.V.B. (Waihopi, North Auckland).—3XM is listed as the Princetown University Wireless Club, Princetown, New Jersey, U.S.A., but the call-sign may have been changed over to the Bell Telephone Company, U.S.A.

W. N. McNabb (Marsden, Grey-mouth).—4ZB is listed as R. B. Brewin, 21 East 38th Street, Savannah, Georgia, U.S.A.

"Perplexed" (Havelock).—The trouble is seemingly due to a power-line leakage. It is probable that the music from 3YA submerged the noise, that station being louder than 1YA. It is not practicable to eliminate the noise from the dynamo without considerable expense.

E.H.B. (Northland).—Evidently your crystal receiver and aerial tuned right on to a harmonic of 2YA. The fundamental wave-length of your aerial and earth system being equal to the wave-length of the harmonic.

K.R.P. (Murchison).—It would appear that you were receiving 2YA on a "harmonic." The station you heard just above 300 metres was 2GB, Sydney, the Theosophical station.

Who's the Stranger?

F.J.R. (Taumaranui). For the past two or three evenings, whilst listening in to 2BL, Sydney, I have been annoyed with a whistling sound, caused by a station broadcasting—I presume, on the same wave-length. Last evening it was more pronounced than usual, and I was able to hear—whilst 2BL was working—a woman singing, and then some orchestral music. This was during the children's session. On my set, Christchurch, Auckland, and 2BL are close together, Melbourne, 3LO, and 4QG, Brisbane, coming next, all within twenty degrees on my dials. In between Christchurch and Auckland a station works, but does not interfere with one much; but the station above referred to causes interruption with both Auckland and 2BL. The approximate time the interruption occurs is about 7.30 p.m. Perhaps some of your readers could help me. I was pleased to read in last week's "Record" that you are going to have an experimental evening next week. 2YA is certainly the pick of all stations, except on my set it is somewhat noisy, and I have to go down on to first stage, and I get it louder than Auckland. Christchurch is picked up better than Auckland, and that is a thing I cannot understand.

[The fact that all the stations come in within twenty degrees of your dials seems to indicate that your condensers are of too large an electrical capacity. It would be worth while ascertaining whether the set was imported, or assembled in New Zealand. Sometimes correspondents allude to their sets as being of a certain make, whereas they were assembled in New Zealand, and they omitted to explain this. We cannot identify the interfering station at present.]

Is the Powerhouse Too Powerful?

A. Jardine (Horo Hora). My set works absolutely quietly at Mount Eden, Auckland, and yet at the power station here considerable hissing or rushing noise comes from the loudspeaker, but occasionally dies down quiet, then returns. Some nights are not as bad as others, giving clearer reception and a faint hiss. On Saturday, 10th, there were intermittent scratchy noises in the loudspeaker; hissing or rushing very pronounced; constant fading. Fading on other nights is frequent, but lasts for only a second or two, like the wave voltage dying to zero and returning to maximum. A peculiar thing is, the station announcement is always full and clear, but when a speech is made it is difficult to hear all, just as though the speech-maker had turned around instead of speaking into the microphone. Music comes through the best, particularly pianos, organs, orchestras, and instruments; singing fairly good; difficult to hear the words. Christchurch

tunes in at good volume sometimes; other times it is faint; but this station is fairly easy to pick up. Auckland, or 1YA, is the most difficult to get, and is subject to considerable fading. On Saturday night, September 10, 1YA could not be tuned in, yet 3YA came in strong. The weather was wet and misty. Of the Australian stations, 2FC comes in at good strength, and formerly 4QG, Brisbane; but now only 2FC tunes in. Does the nearness of the power station with the H.T. lines cause interference? Have they any choking effect? Does a sub-aerial antenna eliminate this by using filtered ground waves? My aerial is No. 14 S.W.G., solid phosphor bronze, 80 feet including lead-in to ground. Does a brass knife switch on the aerial to set (indoor), with good contacts, do as well as a copper switch, than connected direct from aerial to set? The ground connection is of four galvanised iron pipes, 3 feet 6 inches deep, and a heavy gauge wire running to the water service pipe 12 feet away; the 4 g.i. pipes are in gravel ground, but kept well saturated with water; earth leads are bolted to brass clips on pipes.

[The proximity of the power station is likely to cause interference, such as a rushing sound, other noises, and even a choking effect. A sub-aerial means a greatly reduced range for your set, and, therefore, weaker signals. The brass switch will be effective. Use either the galvanised iron pipes or the water pipe, but not both. By testing, ascertain which earth is the better and restrict yourself to it.—Ed.]

2YA Strong Enough in Picton.

"Radio" (Picton).—What is worrying me is the number of listeners that complain that 2YA has no strength. I can't understand it, more so as we are in a very bad locality for long distance reception, and anything in the champion log line. 3YA fades terribly with us at most times, but we don't blame the station; we can't very well when other localities twice as far from 3YA report excellent reception. I get sufficient volume from 2YA without an aerial to fill a house. Yet if I grasp the end of the lead-in in my hand, but not touching the set in any way, signals at once almost cease. Can you explain this? Mr. George Scott, Oaonui, Taranaki, asks about a station broadcasting a church service on Thursday, August 25, 6.45 to 7.15 p.m. I have had this station two or three times and wrote you some time back concerning the stranger. May I make one suggestion, Sir? When a breakdown occurs at any of the B.C.'s stations, could this be announced a couple of times from the other stations? This would satisfy the listeners, and also save a lot of worry over the telephone.

The fading of 3YA, Christchurch, is due to uncontrollable causes in respect to your reception. The station broadcasting a church service on Thursday cannot be identified by us. The grasping of your lead-in affords a passage to earth for the incoming signals. Apparently the aerial has an inductive effect on your set when the lead-in is free. The suggestion regarding a breakdown was applied recently (although belatedly) in connection with 2YA's breakdown. There would always, of course, be many listeners who would not pick up the announcements from the other stations.]

Good Daylight Reception.

F. McD. (Pahiatua).—2YA is particularly clear in the afternoon in this district. Personally, I have no fault to find with night reception of 2YA. There is occasional fading and distortion, but not more than from other stations. I hear other things said by a few other listeners, but as far as I can gather 2YA is being well received throughout the district, and the programmes are good.

Study the "Mike."

B.T.W. (Christchurch). (an old experienced listener with a wealth of scientific engineering skill at his back), says: Two things are wanted in radio—all performers, both vocal and instrumental, want to study the "mike" and learn that it does not give off the sound in the same volume it receives it, but squares or magnifies it, with the result that a singer who starts as if he or she were crooning a child to sleep (scarcely hearable) and finishes with a voice of full capacity (often on high notes) that would fill a hall containing 15,000 listeners, that could be heard a quarter of a mile off, must learn that this won't do for the microphone. All studio artist beginners want coaching with an expert. When I say all I bar such singers as the lady who sang at 2YA recently. I believe her name was Miss Marshall. She sang like a prima donna—splendid; so did the tenor, and the pianist was also perfect. Another thing listeners-in want, coaching, both through your paper and also through the studio. It wants drumming into them every night. 3YA has been very unreliable for about a month now. We had to cut it out time after time. Of course the station gets the blame, whereas if listeners would look nearer home they would stand a better chance of finding the culprit.

This is Pleasant.

H.F. (Whangarei). I have been a constant listener-in for the past two years, and during the greater part of this time have been patiently waiting for New Zealand stations to reach a standard which would put them on the radio map. I congratulate the Broadcasting Co. on having reached that standard—1YA, 2YA and 3YA are splendid stations, and the variety of the programmes should suit everybody.

Favourable Comment.

S.W. (Newtown). I wish to congratulate you on the steady improvement of your programmes. Could you give us more orchestral music and less vocal items? Sopranos especially do not broadcast well. Billy Hart's jazz selections are much appreciated by all the family. Having listened-in to the B.C. stations while in England, I can say that New Zealand compares very favourably. The B.C. does not have a silent night. I am sure there would be more crystal users in New Zealand if the silent night could be replaced by a relay. A nightly children's session is urgently needed for the kiddies.

Good Long Distance Reception.

A. V. Pearce, principal keeper at Pencarrow Heads Lighthouse, writes that on the morning of September 7 at 5.20 a.m. he picked up the test from station PCJJ at good loudspeaker strength and heard a beautiful band piece under the conductorship of Mr. S. Johnston. "This was 5.20 a.m., New Zealand time. Then I heard 3LO call out 'Hullo, PCJJ,' three times in succession. 'Broadcasting Company of Australia, 4 a.m., Wednesday morning.' Then came two tenor solos and then two piano solos by Mr. Williams. Static then interfered, but further calls from 3LO were heard. On Saturday morning I tuned in WGV at good strength at 2 a.m. The first item, a duet; at 2.15 a.m. dance music; at 2.25 a.m., violin solo; at 2.30 a.m., band music, very loud and good; at 2.35 a.m., a duet, after which the station closed down. This was all received direct, as I heard the announcer quite well."

Radio War in Taranaki.

George Scott (Oaonui). My letter caused one "B.C.L." to write a chapter in the "Taranaki Daily News," wherein he stated that he utters a prayer that "he does not live in Oaonui." If he were to live in Oaonui he might receive 2YA much better, and the fact that I am a two-valve, three-coil user does not necessarily mean that my set howls. "B.C.L." seems to have a set on anybody who gets 2YA successfully. I predict a "radio war" yet if New Plymouth listeners do not get a relay station, "B.C.L." is constantly complaining!

The Dempsey-Tunney Fight.

G.C.H. I notice that my letter in your issue of September 2 has brought forth a volley of adverse criticism from "J.W.C." In re the matter of filling in the gap between 7.45 and 8 p.m., I think that "J.W.C." has overlooked the fact that a station does not possess one announcer only! In any case, I do not think an extra fifteen minutes in the early part of the evening would be a very great strain even if there is only one announcer on duty. However, my object in writing is not to commence a discussion per medium of your columns, but to ask if there is any truth in the whisper that 2YA may rebroadcast the Dempsey-Tunney fight being broadcast on short wave by station WLW, Cincinnati, on September 23. The Broadcasting Company startled the whole country, and incidentally made a name for itself, by the memorable broadcast of the Hawke's Bay v. Wairarapa Ranfurly Shield match on July 9—a truly wonderful achievement for the initial transmission. There is no doubt of the interest taken in radio by the whole country from this date onwards. Similarly, a ring-side description of the Dempsey-Tunney fight heard throughout New Zealand would, I think, be a crowning achievement for the Broadcasting Company. The feat would not by any means be impossible, and if not attended by complete success no one could possibly be so unreasonable as to make any adverse criticism on same. In regard to rebroadcasts, I hope the Broadcasting Company is not going to take up the same attitude as the British

Broadcasting Corporation has in regard to Empire Broadcasting!

[The Broadcasting Company will do its best in connection with this fight, and its plans will, we trust, give satisfaction.—Ed.]

Good Crystal Work.

A listener at Castlecliff, Wanganui, reports that he can regularly receive 2YA with a small, roughly-made crystal set, using galena, the coil being wound on a wooden former. The 'phone strength is clear and distinct enough to get every word of the news session, and fading is unnoticeable. The air-line is about 100 miles, mostly over water.

A Giant Loudspeaker.

A. E. Millston (Reefton).—All of us in this town appreciate the "Record" and in my opinion it completely fills the bill. As regards the programme, I am satisfied and realise the difficulty of getting up programmes for every night in the week. If the artists realise the pleasure they give to us in the backblocks, and leave out of their thoughts the cities, they will feel that their efforts are not in vain. Your reply to a correspondent: "That criticism has weight in accordance with the calibre of the person making it," hit the tack on the head with a sledge hammer, and I fully agree with you. As regards reception, this town is not a good receiving centre, as agents demonstrating various makes of sets have found out. I have no trouble in getting sufficient loudspeaker volume from 2YA. Swinging is bad at times, also mushiness. This I put down to weather conditions and local disturbers with their sets. 1YA and 3YA are consistent; to-night 3YA was very strong. 4YA is no good here. I will briefly describe my layout. I have 2 aerials 125ft. and 512ft., the former No. 16 copper, the latter 7-20 copper. Pipe masts, 50ft. high, standing on bottles. All stay wires insulated; water pipe earth, aerials set out by compass bearing. The set is a home made 3 valve duo reflex, and has tuned, straight, and reflexed RF crystal detector, reflexed and straight audio; the set is made up with all makes of instruments. Valves are 2/201A and PM6. Plate voltage 90. I use a 14-inch loudspeaker. I use mv 125ft. aerial mostly, and on nights when signals are weak, I turn over to the 512ft., which brings up to loudspeaker volume. I have also a large horn, 6ft. 3in. long and 3ft. 6in. across the opening. This latter is made to fit in the neck of my speaker. I use this horn on Sunday evenings for choirs and bands, and it is clearly heard up to 1½ miles air line distance. People all over this town leave their windows up, sit round the fire, or lay in bed listening to the music—not forgetting those who congregate outside on the road and grassy banks. Many expressions of thanks and praise have come voluntarily to me from people who have derived pleasure from my radio concerts. Music teachers have also sent their pupils up to get education on music. The volume given out by the big horn is not distortion or noise, and no complaints have ever been voiced to me or through others, when giving the entertainments.

Wanted, a Big Loudspeaker.

S.B. (Tauranga).—I agree strongly with one writer to your paper who complains of the absence of music on the air between the hours of about 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. If the four stations took turns it would require little more effort to provide music during such a session, and would undoubtedly prove popular to those who are unable to get distant stations. Could not something be done in this respect? Having had a slight experience with experimenting, I am interested to know whether it is possible to construct a loudspeaker of unusual proportion that might cope with an extraordinary amount of volume. I have tried several large speakers, but when the set is turned on full they are obviously overloaded. Perhaps other listeners have found the same difficulty and an article on the construction of an unusually large speaker in your paper might enlighten us considerably.

Is This Identity Right?

F. C. Sim (Tapanui).—In regard to Mr. S. Mackay's request, I may be able to enlighten him as to the locality of one of the stations he heard, in that, on Tuesday or Wednesday (Wednesday I think) of this week I picked up a harmonic (presumably) of 3LO Melbourne, transmitting on short wave to England, and this came in practically right on KIPON's setting on a five valve neutrodyne which I use. I listened to same from about 5 a.m. to 6 a.m.—the music, speeches, etc., coming in very clear, barring static, at good loudspeaker strength. I have also heard a station just a fraction below 3LO Melbourne's usual broadcast setting at 3.30 a.m., but could not pick up the call for static.

(Continued on Page 13.)

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