

THE NEW ZEALAND Radio Record

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Managing Editor,
"The N.Z. Radio Record,"

P.O. Box 1032,
WELLINGTON.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1927.

AUSTRALIA'S ROYAL COMMISSION.

We publish in this issue the recommendations in full of the Australian Royal Commission appointed to report upon wireless broadcasting. In addition to those detailed recommendations, we give their summarised observations upon several of the aspects of broadcasting that are of particular appeal to us.

It is plain that the Commission entered upon its task most thoroughly. Full personal investigation was made of all main stations, their balance sheets, and their programmes, and hundreds of witnesses and documents were interviewed and perused. The result is a document that will be of the utmost value not only to Australia, but also to New Zealand, where our problems are somewhat parallel.

We are satisfied that the report will be perused with very great interest by listeners, and will serve as a very definite medium of enlightenment upon many of the problems with which radio management has been confronted. One of the most interesting features of the report is that all stations in Australia are being operated at a loss, save 3LO Melbourne, where special circumstances in a highly compact community, and good management, have enabled a profit-making service to be maintained. The cost of service will be interesting to listeners. Where the Australian centres are required to maintain but one station on their revenue, New Zealand has been faced with the problem of maintaining four. This is fundamentally the special difficulty of this country.

Perusal of the report and its revelation of the general Australian position, prompts the reflection that, with all our delays and difficulties in New Zealand, we have managed to profit by others' experiences, and have in reality established broadcasting in this country upon a foundation which is solid, and is permitting satisfactory development. Our slow start is proving somewhat of an advantage, and with the opportunity of profiting by the experience of others, we should continue to progress satisfactorily.

One feature of the report deserves our special attention, and if possible, the immediate attention of our legislature. This is the matter of copyright. The report sets out the position herein, and bluntly states that the demands of the holders of copyright are too high. It recommends a reduction to 5 per cent. on the gross revenue of the broadcasting station without limitation upon the number of items to be broadcast. The payment imposed upon the New Zealand listener is a 10 per cent. royalty up to a certain amount. The lead given by the Australian Commission should immediately be followed, and the backing of Parliament sought for equal relief upon the funds of listeners available for broadcasting service.

We commend the report and its accompanying observations to the thoughtful consideration of listeners. It is a very valuable document, and sets a platform very suitable for our future guidance. In view of the local listeners' conference, which has just concluded its session in Wellington it is interesting to note that the report suggests an annual conference between the Wireless Committee—which is a departmental organisation comparable say to our Postmaster-General, the secretary of the P. and T. Department and the chief telegraph engineer—the station administrators, the Wireless Institute radio dealers and manufacturers, and licensed listeners. Such a conference would serve a very useful purpose for ventilating the problems confronting the attainment of the best service, and would prove a medium of educating public opinion of definite value.

SPECIAL FEATURES OF

CROSLEY RADIO

"BETTER — COSTS LESS."

VOLUME, DISTANCE GETTING, PURITY OF TONE, ONE-FINGER CONTROL, SIMPLICITY OF OPERATION, ABSENCE OF SQUEALING.

NO. 2 BROWNIES

Just Arrived

G. G. MACQUARRIE LTD.

CROSLEY SALES AND SERVICE,

95 WILLIS STREET,

WELLINGTON.

Phone 45-805.

Radio Fans:—Our Reference Library is at Your Service.

CRYSTAL RECEPTION

GOOD REPORTS IN

CLOSING DATE OCTOBER 10.

Readers are reminded of our competition for the best long-distance crystal reception recorded during September of 2YA. To stimulate interest in crystal work and secure knowledge of the records possible therein, we offered a prize of £1/1/- for the authenticated record of the reception of 2YA from the greatest distance in New Zealand throughout the month of September on a crystal set, preferably home-made.

The following simple conditions were applied:—

1. The reception must be certified to by some reputable person, whose name and address, together with that of the successful entrant, will be published.

2. The reception must take place in September, and entries will close with us on October 10, thus giving full time for mails from distant corners to reach us.

3. Only New Zealand entries accepted.

4. Cost of crystal set to be given with brief description and whether home-made or not.

5. In the event of difficulty in adjudicating the winner on distance alone, the other factors of merit in the equipment and cost will be taken into consideration, the principle being to secure the maximum results at the lowest cost.

6. Decision as to airline distance from 2YA will be based on the "Radio Record" map as published in our issue of August 12.

Entries are now coming in, and we anticipate a goodly number by the 10th.

STILL RISING

NUMBER OF LICENSES

GRAND TOTAL 31,608.

The official figures for licensed listeners to September 30 are as follow:—

Listeners.	
Auckland	12,002
Canterbury	6,781
Otago	1,861
Wellington	9,261
Total	29,905

Dealers.	
Auckland	462
Canterbury	274
Otago	166
Wellington	681
Total	1,583

Transmitting Licenses ..	120
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Grand total of all Licenses ...	31,608
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MORE AUSTRALIAN STATIONS

FOUR 5000-WATT TRANSMITTERS

INCREASED RELAY SERVICE.

It is proposed by 3LO, Melbourne, to proceed immediately with its plans for providing a relaying service for listeners in country districts. Elaborate plans for providing a relaying service were arranged by 3LO late last year, but upon the announcement that the Commonwealth Wireless Commission would be appointed they were held in abeyance.

Mr. Conder, general manager of 3LO, stated recently that, following the commission's recommendation that no obstruction should be placed in the way of persons desiring to provide relaying stations in the country, 3LO would apply immediately for four licenses to erect relaying stations. One of these stations would be built in the Gippsland district, probably at Maffra, to provide a service in areas where 3LO's signals are now subject to fading. Another would be situated at Wangaratta or Benalla to serve the North-East. The third would probably be erected at or near Bendigo, and the fourth would be built on a site to be selected in the Western district, probably near Hamilton.

First Station for Bendigo.

The plans for these stations had already been prepared, Mr. Conder remarked, and he believed that it would be possible to have work on the first of the stations well advanced in two or three months. The first station to be opened would be that at Bendigo, where the population to be served is greater than in any other part of the State. The stations will each be as large as 3LO, having an effective power of 5000 watts. This is nearly ten times as great as the power used by the relaying stations of the British Broadcasting Corporation. Mr. Conder said that 3LO's technical advisers agreed with the commission that it was undesirable to attempt to serve country districts by increasing the power of the main central stations, and for this reason they had always recommended the establishment of relaying services.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES AND BROADCASTING

CONFERENCE PROPOSED BETWEEN CHURCHES AND COMPANY

The General Manager of the Broadcasting Coy., Mr. A. R. Harris, has made the following statement in regard to the broadcasting of religious services:

"Bishop Welldon wrote recently that 'If the clergy were to refuse or neglect such new means of communication as science affords, they would commit the same mistake as might have occurred many years ago had they failed to make use of the printing press or the steam engine.' Radio broadcasting offers to the Christian churches a wonderful opportunity of delivering their message to individuals who are reached by no other medium, and most churches are alive to the value of this opportunity and are eager to avail themselves of it.

"The Radio Broadcasting Company also is desirous of fulfilling to the greatest possible extent these obligations as a public utility, and in these it includes the broadcasting of religious services.

"In discussing any subject in relation to broadcasting there are three aspects to be considered:

- (1) Its desirability from the point of view of public utility;
- (2) Its acceptability to the great mass of listeners;
- (3) Its practicability with regard to the operation of the station.

"The desirability of broadcasting religious services may almost be taken as axiomatic, for the great majority of churches is agreed as to its value, though even in these churches there are individuals who disagree. Of its acceptability to listeners the Broadcasting Company and members of the clergy have received ample evidence. Many letters have been written expressing gratitude for broadcasts, both of the special children's services from the studio, and relays of church services, and telling of the joy that has been brought to listeners. These letters have come from people who through deafness have not heard a church service for many years, but who are able to hear perfectly through the use of head phones; from others who through infirmity are unable to attend church; from construction camps and dwellers in the back country living many miles from the nearest church.

"Assuming then the desirability and acceptability, it is necessary to decide as to the most effective way of accomplishing the desired end. Good work has been done in the past both by the churches, who have in many instances put forth special efforts to present a bright and helpful service to listeners, and by the Broadcasting Company; but it is felt that the time has arrived when an improvement can be effected by closer co-operation between the various churches and the company, and by a full and frank discussion of the problems that present themselves.

"It must be remembered that the company broadcasts under license, and that it works under certain limitations which are defined in regulations published in New Zealand Gazette No. 17, March 12, 1925, from which the following is quoted:

"29. (1) A broadcasting station shall not be used for the dissemination of propaganda of a controversial nature, but shall be restricted to matter of an educative, informational, or entertaining character, such as news, lectures, useful information, religious services, musical or elocutionary entertainment, and other items of general public interest as may be approved by the Minister from time to time.

(2) The licensee shall supervise with all reasonable care, to the satisfaction of the Minister, the matter broadcast, and shall carefully select the matter to be broadcast, in order to give effect to the requirements of this regulation."

"Subsection (2) throws upon the Company the onus of supervising the matter broadcast, and the Company therefore must exercise control to this extent, and those who are privileged to use the broadcasting service should accept their responsibility in conforming to the requirements of the regulations.

"There are many denominations in New Zealand, most of whom desire to have their service broadcast. The question then arises as to the proportion of broadcasts to be allotted to each. As a basis some suggest the numerical strength of each denomination as disclosed in the census; others the number of churches; others again consider strict rotation, to be followed without regard to census statistics.

"Objections can be raised to all these suggestions, and when a decision has been reached there still remains the question of practicability. Many difficulties arise when a service is to be relayed from a church. For instance, the acoustic properties of the building itself may be such that a satisfactory broadcast is almost impossible, the internal arrangements in the church, such as the seating of the choir, the relative positions of the choir and organ, and the positions taken up by the officiating clergyman, may present problems, for all these matters bear important relationship to the success of a relay. These difficulties may be overcome to some extent, though not entirely, by the use of several microphones—in some cases as many as five have been used for one service.

"It is held by some that many of the difficulties may be overcome by broadcasting a special service from the studio, a plan which has already been adopted with great success at one of the stations in regard to children's services. The following advantages are claimed:

- The service can be made undenominational and suitable for all listeners;
- The possibility of outside interference is obviated;
- The broadcast is under the direct control of the station staff, and therefore placings will be correct and transmission balanced;
- The order of service can be made more suitable than the ordinary church service for broadcasting;
- The time may be arranged so as not to interfere with the services of local churches.

"This last claim is based on the contention that when a service is relayed some people who otherwise would go to church stay home and listen, but that if it were from the studio and after the conclusion of the local church services, these people would attend church, and would then go home and listen to the studio service, which would be supplementary and not substitutional.

"The objections offered to the studio service are:—That it is not a church service, that it lacks the church atmosphere, which cannot be reproduced in the studio, and that listeners who are church members and are unable to attend their church do not hear the service they desire.

"These are some of the questions which arise when broadcasting of church services is considered, and it is hoped they will be fully discussed at the proposed conference to be held between representatives of the churches and the Broadcasting Company with a view to closer co-operation."