

THE GROWING MENACE OF "BLOOPERS"

HOW CAN THE NUISANCE BE SUPPRESSED?

Interference from oscillating sets is reaching a high pitch in most populated centres of New Zealand, and the suburbs of Wellington are by no means immune from the trouble. There are newly-installed sets that whistle continuously for a half-hour on end, others that mop up all before them, and blanket signals completely out with the effect of intense fading. Then there are countless specimens of the wrist-developing variety that work their sets on and off the edge of oscillation for an hour or so, never tiring of trying to catch another few notes of music from that distant but elusive station. One wonders whether these operators would change their ways if they only could know how they mar the enjoyment of so many of their neighbours. We have one thing to be thankful for here in Wellington—it is hardly possible to oscillate on 2YA's carrier, and therefore that station's programmes are enjoyed to the fullest extent.

The present inferno of oscillation after 10 p.m. and on silent nights will automatically militate against the proper increase in the number of licences. Any person who cannot tune in a main station of New Zealand or Australia without creating a disturbance is committing an offence against all other listeners around him, and causing unnecessary irritation. In many cases the offenders are well-known to the neighbours, but owing to the danger of creating bad relationship, nothing is done to remind the "bloopers" of their sins. Official action of some kind is very necessary to abate the nuisance. The present behaviour of the one and two-valvers is such as to ensure a demand for an early curtailment of their ruthless and persistent interference.

Owners of sets, large or small, should make a point of getting instruction from a technical friend as to the method of tuning-in without, or with the minimum of, oscillation. All listeners should recognise that it is only by the polite use of the ether and consideration for the rights of others, that broadcasting can become the useful and entertaining medium that it has set out to be.

RADIATION

ADVICE FROM MR. BILLING.

A talk by Mr. Preston B. Billing, delivered through Station 2YA, upon radiation covered the following points of interest to listeners. "It is unnecessary to explain what is meant by the term radiation—we have all experienced its effects from time to time, much to our disgust. You have often listened to a fine broadcast item and been enjoying it when all of a sudden Mr. Squealer arrives and completely mars the remainder of that item and very often the whole of the items for the evening from that particular station. Nor does he confine his attentions to the one station, he seems to be like some of our American listeners endeavouring to let as many stations in a single evening as he possibly can. You know the game or have read it—he totals up the aggregate mileage of the stations heard and as long as his mileage for the evening exceeds that of his nearest competitor he declares himself the winner. It is small wonder with operators such as this in our midst that we can hear anything decently at all.

"These howls or squeals which are heard from your loudspeaker are caused through nearby radiating receivers. It is hard to lay down a specific distance over which one can hear this form of interference, but it does run into miles and that with very simple apparatus can give us quite a deal of annoyance.

"This radiation is occasioned by certain types of circuits in receiving sets and also by improperly handled receivers and those which have been imperfectly neutralised.

"I would suggest first of all that receivers of the Armstrong type (that is the three coil, double and single circuits) be discarded. Possibly the parts could be used in an improved and more tip to date set, preferably with one or more stages of neutralised high frequency amplification on the Hazeltine principle.

"If it is not possible for one to do this a cheaper way would be to convert it to a Browning-Drake or else add a stage of high frequency on the lines suggested. In any case it is nothing short of criminal for parents to allow their children to operate a receiver of the type mentioned (Armstrong). Perhaps there is a young boy in the family who is being encouraged to do his own constructing and operating, there is nothing wrong with this provided the parent or perhaps a helper who really understands radio can assist by seeing that the right type of circuits are being used, and who will also see that the neutralising process if the receiver is of the neutralised type, is correctly carried out. This adjustment should be made at a time when as little interference as possible will be caused to listeners.

"The neutralising process is a fairly complicated one for one who is inexperienced, and I am not going to take up your time with a technical talk as to how it is done. Instead I am going to explain as simply as possible how you

can tell if your receiver is radiating or not. If you have a friend who lives close handy you could arrange to carry out a test on these lines. Arrange to listen on the same wave-length with both receivers at a predetermined time, each man operating his receiver to get the most out of it, and notice if any whistles are picked up at a certain spot on one or the other of the sets. It would be better if one set were set to a wave-length such as Christchurch, for instance, both listeners then retiring to the home of the other listener, to proceed to fish about on this wave-length and notice if any whistles are picked up, use headphones and listen very intently, if no sounds are heard it is safe

WHO HOISTED THE FLAG?

There is a little flag flying at the top of one of the wireless masts at 3YA and, like the pips in a pear, no one seems to know how it got there. Some one of course does know, but he did it darkly at dead of night and the result of his antics was only apparent in the morning. No doubt the escapade was the outcome of a silly bet and it will be just as well if no one attempts to emulate it. The height is 154ft., and there are no landing nets or spring mattresses at the base, only hard ground. Also, the police will take an interest in future proceedings.

to presume that the receivers are reasonably free from any tendency to oscillate.

"You can also ascertain by touching the aerial wire with your finger. If the receiver is radiating there will be a noticeable plip when the finger both touches and leaves the aerial wire. There is of course a difference between signal interruption and the foregoing test. Do not mistake one for the other. I trust you will let my remarks sink in. It concerns you and the other fellow as well. Do make an honest endeavour to keep this nuisance down. With the advent of more receivers there is the possibility of still more trouble being experienced. The cost of converting that old set to a modern one is not big and will give the builder or owner a good deal better entertainment and in addition he will be blessed by all his neighbours." (Loud applause from all sufferers).

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INTERESTING LECTURE

MR. RAYNOR WHITE.

One would think there was little association between music, geology, and astronomy, but such are the things that interest Mr. Raynor White, who, as an organist, is frequently heard from 3YA, and who will shortly be heard in a different role, that of a lecturer. It is not to be wondered at that in a city of churches, such as Christchurch, there should be some notable organists, and one who stands prominent is Mr. Raynor White, of Trinity Congregational Church. But one might expect that from a man whose ancestors for hundreds of years back have been organists and musicians. For generations the name of White has been associated with Tewkesbury Abbey, Gloucestershire. One of the famous organs in the Abbey is the identical instrument beloved and played upon by Milton nearly three hundred years ago. This organ is still in order and is an exceedingly interesting instrument. Mr. Raynor White has played on this organ, on which so many of his predecessors performed. As might be expected, the first tutor Mr. Raynor White had was his father,



who, after leaving Tewkesbury, held several positions as organist and choir-master in Yorkshire. At seven years of age Mr. Raynor White was a chorister, and when 16 was appointed organist and choir-master at St. Oswald's, Thirsk, Yorkshire, and received advanced tuition from Dr. Crowe, of Ripon Cathedral, and lessons in organ playing and harmony from Mr. H. P. R. Walton, who is now one of the world's greatest organists.

Mr. Raynor White enjoys the fellowship of the London College of Music. As far back as 1893 he gained a first-class certificate as an organist at York Organ School. He also held a bandmaster's certificate, and certificates from the Royal Academy and Trinity College. A brother of Mr. Raynor White is principal of the Doncaster College of Music.

As a conductor and choir-master, Mr. White has had much experience. He has conducted in Glasgow, Leeds, York Minster, and for thirteen years the band of the 19th Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment was under his baton. Mr. White and his Orpheus Orchestra regularly played at parties, balls, and fetes at Knaresborough Castle, Viscount Lascelles's seat.

Since coming to New Zealand Mr. Raynor White has held appointments in Wellington, Auckland, and Christchurch.

But it is not only in music that Mr. White is interested, or interesting. He is well versed in geology and astronomy. He was a member of the Yorkshire Boulder Committee, under the presidency of Professor Percy Kendall.

Mr. White will shortly be heard as a lecturer at 3YA, he having consented to give talks on geology, migrating birds, and reminiscences of his musical experiences. Listeners will find Mr. White as good a lecturer as she is an organist.

Mr. Raynor White will be next heard at 3YA on Friday, October 21.

NEW AUSTRALIAN
STATIONS

A HITCH REPORTED.

Something like a hitch appears to have occurred in the arrangements by 8LO, Melbourne, for the erection of four 5000-watt relay stations in Victoria. A Melbourne writer says:—

"Following upon the announcement that the technical officers of the Postmaster-General's Department are considering plans for determining by experiment the best positions for relaying stations in Victoria, and that there is a possibility of the Federal Government controlling these stations, the following statement was made by Mr. W. T. Corder, the general manager of 8LO, Melbourne: '8LO Melbourne intends to proceed as far as possible with its plans for relaying in the country. We indicated to the Postmaster-General's Department some months ago that we desired to provide four relaying stations—one near Maffra, one near Wangaratta, one near Bendigo, and one near Hamilton. After the publication of the report of the Wireless Commissioner, we repeated our application for licenses to erect and operate these stations, and are now awaiting an answer. If we obtain the licenses to put in the stations, we intend to go right ahead with the work and have the stations in operation with as little delay as possible. If the Government decides to build them itself we will have to abandon our plans as they now exist, and consider our position under the altered conditions.'

NAURU HEARS 2YA

APPRECIATION FROM 2400 MILES.

"K.W.T." (Nauru) writes:—

"You may be interested to know that the programmes broadcast by your station have been received here in splendid strength, and I must also congratulate you on the quality of your programmes.

"We have here a Marconi YC3, 4 valve, wireless telephony and telegraphy set used by the Commission for daily communication with Ocean Island by speech or morse. A 3-valve amplifier and loudspeaker is also available if required.

"Unfortunately, we cannot use the set for receiving broadcasting on week days, as an Electrical Dust Precipitating Plant (60/100,000 volts) sets up violent interference. However, on Sundays and occasional week days we can listen in.

"Last night the band concert you broadcast was received here perfectly, and we were sorry when you closed down. In my opinion, the notes of the piano being played were heard here quite as loudly as one would expect to hear them if seated in the rear of the hall where the concert was held.

"I quite look forward to hearing you again next Sunday night. Other stations received here are 8LO, 8AR, 2BL, 2BC, 4QC, 1YA and Tokio (Japan).

"The people of Wellington certainly know how to applaud.

"The distance from Nauru to Wellington is about 11 days by tramp steamer—say about 2100 miles."

FRAME AERIAL "PIRATE" TRACED

A triumph was recently scored by the British Post Office wireless van recently at Manchester. Complaints of oscillation had been received from a certain locality, and the direction-finding van was dispatched to the district, and after several bearings had been taken the disturbance was traced to a certain house. The sequel was the appearance at the Police Court of the culprit, who was fined 40s., the Magistrate remarking that, but for the fact that defendant, was unemployed, a fine of £10 would have been imposed.

5KA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

POWER TO BE INCREASED.

The small-powered South Australian Station 5KA, Prospect, has often been heard in New Zealand, and news comes that it is now to have its power increased to 2000 watts.

Station 5KA, which is situated at Prospect, South Australia, has recently been merged with the National Musical Federation, of Kithers Buildings, King William Street, Adelaide. The latter company was formed a little time ago largely for the purpose of operating radio broadcasting and television stations in the Commonwealth, and hopes shortly to make an announcement regarding their plans. In the meantime, 5KA is to be completely reorganised, with a view to providing a better all-round service. Included in the company's plans is a complete sporting service. This will include special broadcast descriptions of sporting events, and talks by leading sports authorities. The station at the present moment is working on comparatively low power on a wave-length of 250 metres. The power will shortly be raised to 2000 watts, and the location of the station altered.

There are still regions where the fear of witchcraft is not extinct, and radio comes under strong suspicion. A country school teacher in Central Europe was recently the victim of the superstitious peasantry, who associated the mysterious box with recent unfavourable weather. After breaking his windows, they fell upon the radio set and its unlucky owner, both of whom suffered considerable violence.

"FADING"

"Grid" writes: Some Wellington genius has discovered that "fading" is nothing new in connection with radio, and that the subject has been under investigation for some years. Well, now, how brainy! It will be news to that individual that "fading" is to some extent affected by local conditions at the receiving end, and by the terrain between the broadcast station and the receiving set. This is quite apart from the theory of the undulations of the Heaviside layer. In New Zealand there is much scope for investigating terrestrial effects upon "fading." The presence of mineral deposits is held by some investigators to have an effect upon reception, and to be a contributory cause of "fading."

STAR TRIO FOR 2YA

(Continued from cover.)

lets, Gerardy himself would play any other part that was missing. Happy months indeed, during which George acquired his great love for the beautiful in music, Gerardy's own fine emotional sense proving a constant source of inspiration. Gerardy then moved to Berlin, and again the trio followed for further study. After spending eighteen months in that city the Ellwoods came back to New Zealand and toured the Dominion.

In 1913 George Ellwood returned to London to play at Madam Clara Butt's great concert in the Albert Hall, which was, so to speak, the grand finale of her world tour. Unfortunately, on account of ill-health, he was unable to perform, and his place was taken by Jacques Hallmann, the great 'cellist. Recovering, Mr. Ellwood went over to Berlin, only to discover, but a few days after his arrival, that the Great War had commenced. He landed in Berlin on July 28, and on August 1 (the day of the outbreak of hostilities between Germany and Russia) he obtained his passport visa.

As soon as Great Britain's entry into the conflict was announced, on the fateful August 4, he endeavoured to leave Berlin. All routes were being monopolised for military transport, and it was not until about two weeks later that Mr. Ellwood was able to take train to the north of Germany, and there, mixing with some 4000 undesirable Russians whom Germany was sending back to Russia, he was able, without showing his passport, to board a Swedish vessel, on which he was taken to Sweden. From there he went to Denmark, and, eventually, back to England, where he entered the Guildhall School of Music for the purpose of prosecuting his studies in harmony, etc.

On the completion of this course, Mr. Ellwood again returned to New Zealand, and establishing himself as a teacher in Christchurch, where very quickly he won an enviable reputation. Amongst his well-known pupils at that time was Mr. Harold Beck, the 'cellist of the talented trio who nowadays broadcast from 8YA, Christchurch. In 1918 Mr. Ellwood once more turned his face towards Europe, proceeding to Brussels, where he commenced a course of composition, instrumentation, and conducting, with Joseph Jongen, the director of the Brussels Conservatoire, also studying singing and choir training with Maurice Weynandt.

Mr. Ellwood on this occasion remained on the Continent for nearly four years, visiting France, Holland, Germany, Italy, Belgium, and England. About two years ago he "came home" to New Zealand and settled in Wellington, where he is now well known as a teacher, soloist, and choir-master.

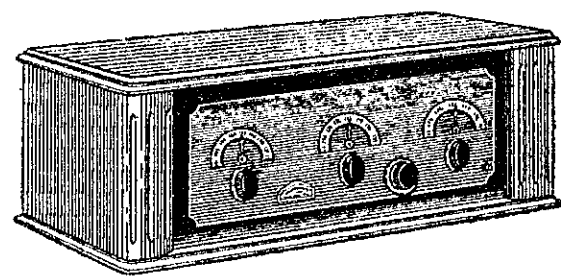


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