

THE NEW ZEALAND Radio Record

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

Printed Tuesdays to permit of effective distribution before the week-end, with full copyrighted programmes for the succeeding week. Nominal date of publication Friday.

LITERARY MATTER.

All literary matter and contributions must be addressed to the Editor. If the return of M.S. is desired, enclose Id. stamp.

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Rate of Subscription: Single copies, 3d.; Annual Subscription (if booked), 12/6, post free; normal rate, cash in advance, 10/-, post free.

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

P.O. Box 1032.

WELLINGTON.

WELLINGTON, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28.

Next week's programme from 2YA marks the inauguration of the Broadcasting Company's policy of improvement. The company has shown a consistent desire to effect betterment as its income permitted, and with the growth of listeners following on the opening of 2YA, is now in a position to embark upon a policy of steady improvement. The first stage of that reorganisation is now effected, and the result will soon be apparent to listeners. Broadly speaking, the policy covers the employment of the best possible professional talent on a permanent basis, to be supplemented by others as proof of merit is given. The engagement of the outstanding instrumental trio comprised in Ava Symonds, Gordon Short, and George Ellwood, for regular performances was in itself an important move, but that is now supplemented by the formation of a number of professional high-class quartets. These will appear on different nights, when they will be responsible for a major number of items on the programmes, both collectively and individually. The benefit of regular engagements along these lines lies in the fact that encouragement will be given to consistently add to the repertoire available. Special efforts are in hand for the provision of new music, and the advantage of permanent groups is that necessary study can be given to the consistent expansion of the range of songs available.

This policy was outlined by the Director of Music, Mr. W. J. Bellingham, some weeks ago in our columns. It is in essence the policy that has been applied by the picture theatres in relation to their orchestras. Through the encouragement given by permanent employment, the number of skilled musicians has been greatly enlarged over the last ten years, until now, the bands of skilled musicians employed by outstanding theatres give performances that are most attractive, and in themselves constitute no mean draw. The same encouragement will now be possible in relation to concert items and concert performers, and there is no doubt that the claim made some little while ago that the Broadcasting Company was the greatest employer of concert talent in New Zealand will be more than justified. The benefit of this development will not be felt immediately, but will be progressively experienced over a number of years. The value of such an assured market for suitable talent is immeasurable, and will give encouragement to ambitious talent to perfect itself for public performance. The importance of a market in the development of talent is shown by Australian experience in contrast to that of New Zealand. There is no reason to suppose that the average Australian has any greater musical talent and ability than the average New Zealander, but the fact that the Australian broadcasting stations have had a wider range of talent to draw from for their performances is due very largely to the fact that ambitious Australians have had a ready market for their talent in the theatrical companies organised regularly in Sydney and Melbourne. After a training to qualify for a position therein, and possibly a tour of New Zealand, much of this talent reverts either to private employment, or undertakes teaching, or enters the bonds of matrimony. In either case, it provides a reservoir of talent which has no equal in New Zealand, simply because of the lack of a ready market for the efforts spent in training. The Broadcasting Company now provides such a market, and the effect will be felt in a steady raising of the standard and broadening of the field of opportunity.

Next week, too, marks the inauguration of the Children's Session on a major scale. As indicated earlier, this is being developed to include performances by the children themselves. The efforts of the organiser have been met by an encouraging response from the teachers and pupils of local schools, and interesting and meritorious chorus and individual work will be going on the air. This harnessing of youthful enthusiasm in the cause of broadcasting is all to the good, and immediately raises the standard of the children's session to a very high level.

The reorganisation effected by the initiative of the Broadcasting Company should satisfy all listeners. It may be taken as a very definite proof of the value of the system installed in New Zealand, namely, private enterprise under Government regulation. There is no question that broadcasting is a public utility of very great value, and all associated with it—the listener, the trade, the operating company, and the supervising Government—are concerned to secure the best possible results. The results that now are being secured prove, we think, the soundness of the policy laid down by the Government originally, that the best service would be derived from a blending of private initiative under regulations imposed in the public interest. The art of the showman must be sought to continually interest and appeal to listeners with new features and new developments, and the mentality capable of that is unquestionably most responsive to private control with its encouragement of enterprise and initiative. We are satisfied that the standard now being set will leave nothing at which to cavil by those who seek high-class public entertainment in addition to the news and educational service by means of lectures, stories, etc., that can be given by broadcasting.

FROM AUSTRALIA

MARKED APPRECIATION

INTERESTING COMPARISONS.

A radio fan at Nundah, Brisbane, Queensland, who has a six-valve neutrodyne and fifty feet of aerial and listens in to the concerts from New Zealand stations while 4QG is broadcasting market reports, etc., writes a very interesting letter concerning 1YA, 2YA, and 3YA, and the Australian stations. We make the following excerpts:—

"I have been receiving 2YA for some time now, though I still have a little trouble in bringing them in at good strength owing to our local station, 4QG, being only five miles distant, and also working on 385 metres. 4QG is, as you know, a 5000-watt station, and it causes many radio experimenters very much worry because it wanders. That is to say, it doesn't stay on 385 metres steadily, but varies above and below a good deal. Probably this has something to do with my receiving 2YA at less strength than 1YA and 3YA.

"For the past week or more 3YA has been coming in at very fair loudspeaker strength, and we can all hear everything in the other rooms of the house. On several occasions I had a window open behind the speaker, and some friends heard the orchestral music a quarter of a mile away, and they asked where the music came from, because no Australian stations were starting their evening programmes so early. I thought it quite a joke. Still, you can tell how well 3YA has been coming through from that, I think.

"As regards fading, well, it seems to depend a lot on the nature of the climatic conditions between us. At times all three stations fade right out, but generally on such nights the main southern stations like 2FC, 2BL, and 3LO do the same, or nearly fade right out, and these stations are only half the distance and are all 5000 watts each.

3AR Melbourne is a 3000-watt, but does not usually come in here any better than 3YA, and 3AR fades more often and as far as any at times. No Australian "B" stations come in as clearly and consistently at the same time by the clock as your two stations 3YA and 1YA, and quite often 3YA tunes in equal to 2BL (Sydney) and 3LO (Melbourne) at the same time in the evening.

"To-night is a wonderful night, and all three—1YA, 2YA, and 3YA—are coming in very clearly, and 3YA and 1YA are as loud as 2BL, Sydney, with no fading worth mentioning. 2YA came in well, but still not as good as the

LYALL BAY SCHOOL ON 2YA.

The Lyall Bay School Choir (conductor Mr. H. G. Hall), is to supply the items for the Children's Session of 2YA on October 27, filling the hour from 6 to 7 p.m.

others. Earlier in the evening I tuned in 3YA and was listening to the band playing "The Indian Love Lyrics," and later turned the dials up to 2YA and couldn't make out why that station was playing the same music. I turned back to 3YA and suddenly realised one station was rebroadcasting the other. I cannot tell which was being rebroadcast, as they both came in very clearly, so you have me beaten.

"I should like to compliment the Broadcasting Company on their stations and to wish my many friends in New Zealand the best of luck."

Praise From Ballarat.

Another writer says: "Though you have never asked for any reports from listeners, while I was listening to you, which I do nearly every night, I thought you would like a true and concise report on your excellent transmissions. Being the first in Ballarat to go in for radio, and having built every type of set going, and picked up every station in Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, Philippine Islands, KDKA, Pittsburgh, 2FL, California, and the Russian short-wave station, I thought it would interest you to know what we think of your fine station in Ballarat. . . .

I may state I am a radio dealer, so I have plenty of visitors to hear your station, and the praise you get from them all is what prompted me to write to you."

Praise for 3YA Items.

"We had great pleasure in listening to the programme which you broadcast from the theatre to-night. We received it with good volume and clearness. The Municipal Band is a credit to your town, and if ever I have the luck to go to New Zealand I shall go and hear them. —An appreciative Tasmanian."

A schoolteacher at Cooyar, Queensland, writes: "We were able to follow every word of Miss Dunn's recitation. Please convey to her my compliments on her very distinct pronunciation. (I wish she could give my pupils at school a few lessons in pronunciation.) It's no good my trying to single out any special item, because all were very good. I myself consider the programme equal to any of the Aussie stations."

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CARNIVAL WEEK OPENS

NEW ZEALAND CUP AT RICCARTON

The Christchurch racing carnival opens at Riccarton next week-end with the N.Z. Cup, which will be run on Saturday, Nov. 4. From 11.30 3YA will be on the air and 2YA will rebroadcast.

The racing will be described by the company's official announcer, Mr. A. R. Allardyce, who will also, every evening, commencing on Friday, give a talk on the prospects for the next day's racing.

MR. SIDEY TO EXPLAIN SUMMER TIME

Summer Time Bill comes into operation on Sunday, November 6. On the eve of that notable happening (Saturday, Nov. 5) Mr. T. K. Sidey, M.P., to whose long-sustained and persistent efforts is due the passing of the law, will speak from the studio of 2YA. Mr. Sidey is especially desirous that the farming community should hear what he has to say, but his remarks will, of course, be of interest to all classes. Mr. Sidey will speak at 8.30 o'clock on the evening of Saturday, November 5.

LONDON ON THE LOUD-SPEAKER

GOOD RECEPTION ON PCJJ RELAY

Mr. F. W. Sellens, of Northland, reports most interestingly as follows:

The past week has been of special interest to short-wave listeners.

On Friday evening last, October 14, 6AG and RFN were both heard, the former being spoilt by noise.

2XAD, KDKA were both at good strength on Saturday afternoon, and 2XG was heard testing. 3AQ, 2AU, and 1AI, all New Zealanders, were on the air on Sunday in the afternoon. KDKA and 2XAF both were quite good speaker strength during the latter part of their programme, the former signing off at 11.14 Eastern Standard time, and the other at 12.1 Eastern Standard time.

Early on Monday morning, while waiting for 2ME, through 2FC, to commence their second Empire programme, I heard 6AG carrying out a "duplex telephony test" with Java. Through listening to this I missed the opening of the Sydney programme, but held them from about 5.20 a.m. till 6.41 a.m., when they signed off. The programme consisted of vocal and instrumental items and greetings from prominent Australians to well known men in Great Britain.

A similar programme was heard from the same station from 6 to 7 the same day. During the transmission they stated that cablegrams had been received saying that the morning's broadcast had been well received in Britain except for fading.

Later on the same evening, 6AG, Perth, was heard at his best, and 2-Taradale was logged.

On Wednesday morning PCJJ was on the air as usual in good form. Early in the programme Mr. den Hertog, the Australasian managing director for Philips, spoke to his friends on this side of the world. After calling a few personal friends, he announced that PCJJ would be on the air Tuesdays and Thursdays as usual from 18-21 GMT till the end of October, after which they would close down for about six weeks for reconstruction. He also stated that this station intended to relay at least a part of the Olympic Games in 1928. Mr. den Hertog further said that they would relay the London programme from 18-19 GMT (6 p.m.—7 p.m.) for the benefit of Australian listeners.

At 5.30 a.m. N.Z. time, Big Ben was heard striking 6 o'clock. I believe this is the first time that this famous clock has been heard in New Zealand. It was not heard during the previous relay from PCJJ, of which I got a complete log.

After the clock striking, "London calling" was heard, and the announcement that the London Radio Dance Band, directed by Sidney Firraan, would give some fox trots. This class of music was on till 5.58 a.m. at good loudspeaker strength.

At 5.59 the Greenwich Time Signal was given, which consisted of a long whistle, finishing with a series of dots, the last of which is exactly 6.30 G.M.T.

(6 a.m. N.Z. time). After this the weather forecast, news bulletin, sports, theatrical, etc., etc., was given. From 6.15 to 6.30 a.m. the Davenport Quartet gave some musical items, and at 6.30 a lecturette was commenced on Poland, when PCJJ returned to their studio, thus completing a very enjoyable hour back in London. Reception was splendid.

During the evening I logged four new stations on telephony—all Australian amateurs, 7AQ Hobart, 2VW and 2RB, of New South Wales, and 4QR, of Queensland, each in the vicinity of 32 metres. 6AG was also conducting his usual test.

Tuesday and Thursday evenings I was not listening. RCB8 (Buenos Ayres) and RFN were heard at good volume by friends on Thursday evening.

AVOID TREES

AFFECT RADIO WAVES.

New Zealand listeners who have their aerials erected near trees should make every endeavour to erect their aerials well above the height of the trees, for it has been proven that trees deviate radio waves.

The tentative conclusion that trees cause deviation of wave fronts prompted the United States Government Bureau of Standards to focus its direction finder around a tree in an open field. While the transmitting set, located a number of miles away, at the Soldiers' Home, was sending on wave-lengths of 400 and 1400 metres respectively, there was a negligible amount of distortion, either directly in front or behind the tree. However, when the loop aerial and receiving set were placed to the right or left of the tree the intercepted radio wave deviated as much as five degrees. The tree involved in this test was only 40 feet high, which factor prompted the Government investigators to assume that greater distortion would be caused by proportionately larger trees.

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