

# List of Stations Available to N.Z. Listeners--Full-Wave Battery Eliminator--Valuable Hints for Beginners



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## London Successfully Re-Broadcast by 3YA Epoch-Making Event in World Radio

Broadcasting history was established in New Zealand on the night of Friday-Saturday, November 11-12, by the successful rebroadcast by 3YA Christchurch of the short-wave transmission on 24 metres by 5SW, Chelmsford, of the celebrations in connection with Armistice Day. The celebrations were broadcast in three sessions, the first being that of the service in Canterbury Cathedral, which was receivable in New Zealand as from 11.15 p.m. to 11.45 p.m. Friday evening. This was followed by the organ recital at St. Mary Le Bow at 1 a.m. to 1.30, and then by a ten-minute address from the Director-General of the British Broadcasting Corporation. These two sessions were successfully re-broadcast by 3YA.

The third feature in the day's celebrations in London—that of the "Daily Express" Remembrance Festival in the Queen's Hall on the evening of Armistice Day, due in New Zealand at 8.30 to 10.30 Saturday morning, was wholly unsuccessful, so far as adequate reception was concerned, by any of the Broadcasting Company's stations, and so far as we know at the moment of writing, also by any other receivers in New Zealand.

The result was not unexpected by the engineers of the British Broadcasting Corporation, who announced beforehand, in line with the results secured by the careful tests carried out for the preceding week, that they anticipated that the first two events would be received satisfactorily, but that they had doubts as to the successful reception in New Zealand and Australia of the Queen's Hall celebrations, on account of the greater period of daylight through which these waves would have to pass at the reception end. These expectations were justified by the outcome.

Gratification, however, can only be expressed at the very successful outcome of the efforts of the Broadcasting Company of New Zealand to pick up the earlier sessions. The rebroadcast of the service at Canterbury Cathedral was wholly successful, and it was no doubt with a great deal of satisfaction that the announcer at 3YA was able to say: "You have just been listening to a rebroadcast of 5SW, Chelmsford, which has been broadcasting the Armistice Day Remembrance Service at Canterbury Cathedral. Station 3YA is now closing down till 1 a.m., when the organ recital at St. Mary's Le Bow will be rebroadcast."

### WELLINGTON RECEPTION.

Reception in Wellington of the Canterbury Cathedral service was not so good as that experienced in Christchurch. At Mr. Sellens's residence, where the writer listened, the earlier part of the service was received at 'phone strength, but from the period of "The Last Post," sounded after the two minutes' silence, reception improved sufficiently to lift it on to the loudspeaker, where it was possible to maintain it at weak strength till the end of the service. The service was of a most impressive character, and the intoning by the congregation of the Lord's Prayer could be heard with effect.

### THE ORGAN RECITAL.

Reception of the organ recital at 1 o'clock in Wellington was even better again. At the conclusion of the musical programme 5SW announced: "Calling Australasia, 5SW, Chelmsford, calling Australasia. This is —, Director-General of the B.B.C. I hope you can hear me, at any rate as well as we have heard you on some recent occasions. It is unfortunate that the experiments provide little hope . . ." (a few sentences were then lost, but the words "short-wave transmission" were heard, after which these words: "We shall naturally endeavour to improve on to-night's transmission.")

The speaker's further remarks were recorded as follows in shorthand, so far as they could be heard:—

"I am taking this opportunity of speaking to listeners, not only in Britain, but in every part of the world. We have celebrated Armistice Day here, have . . . British Commonwealth of Nations have . . . It is inevitable that in such a war . . . —and so a new conception of world peace . . . That movement will necessarily grow from one generation. Real progress has been made, which is a matter for pride, and exemplifies that effective co-operation of the British Commonwealth of Nations of the world may yet be realised . . . and in this country. World's broadcasting . . . broadcasting services of the world are correspondingly great. I am sure our listeners here in the British Isles . . . —and I send greetings to all those thousands of listeners overseas, and particularly to those in Australia and New Zealand . . . and the Malay States . . . hearing this transmission will be particularly interested. It is thrilling to hear you speak, and we hope you can hear us speak too."

The station announcer then said: "This is 5SW, Chelmsford. 5SW, Chelmsford, is closing down now until 8 o'clock this evening."

### THE EVENING PROGRAMME FAILS.

On the occasion of the British evening transmission the conditions for reception in New Zealand were not good. On tuning in at 8.30, New Zealand summer time, the carrier wave of 5SW could be detected, but the interference of howling valves was very marked, and no clear-cut vestige of sound of either speech or music could

be detected, nor could any rebroadcast, if any such were attempted, by either New York, Schenectady or Australian stations, be secured. Some experienced operators think that, if the howling valves had been absent, some part of the transmission might have been secured. On the occasion of the 24-hour test from 5SW a week ago, it was found that reception in New Zealand deteriorated very rapidly with the approach of daylight and its extension over this side of the world. One listener recorded reception of 5SW on that test up to 10 a.m., although at much weaker strength than had been secured earlier.

On the whole, however, the first Empire broadcast undertaken by the British Broadcasting Corporation can be regarded as having secured a very encouraging measure of success. Reception of the day sessions in London was quite good in New Zealand, but reception of the night session, which had to contend with the daylight enemy, was unsuccessful. From the point of view of New Zealand reception, the latter is most important to us, because most of the big functions and better-class programmes which would be most welcome in New Zealand naturally take place in London's evening hours.

### THE RECEPTION IN CHRISTCHURCH

#### IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY.

Crystal set users in Christchurch listened in on Friday night and early on Saturday morning to music and voices broadcast from England. It was an epoch-making occasion.

To station 3YA has fallen the honour of having been the first to rebroadcast an English station and to permit people in New Zealand to listen in to happenings halfway round the world.

Those who were privileged to listen in were elated. Many a "humble crystal set" owner must have stared agape when he realised that what he was hearing was being said in old England. It was an achievement that makes a crystal set no longer a "humble crystal set." It stands exalted now. It has heard London calling. It heard the morning service in Canterbury Cathedral, the congregation singing, the Archbishop preaching, even the two minutes' silence, then the impressive "Last Post," further singing, the chanting of the Lord's Prayer, followed by a lengthy prayer, the singing of "God Save the King," and the pronouncing of the Benediction.

It was wonderful, and listeners who

sat up late were well rewarded. As the rebroadcast proceeded reception improved. The volume was always good, but it became clearer.

The broadcast commenced at 10.45 a.m., English time, corresponding with 11.15 p.m., New Zealand summer time.

Good as this test had been, the best was to come. It was not the organ recital in St. Mary le Bow Church, wonderful as it was to hear the pealing notes of the organ.

The best portion of the test was a ten minutes' speech which reached New Zealand about 1.30 a.m. The speaker was the head of the broadcasting in Britain. From his introductory remarks: "It is the director-general of the British Broadcasting Corporation speaking," until the announcer closed down, practically every word was intelligible.

The director-general, Sir J. Keith, sent a greeting to Britons overseas, in every part of the world. A fine Armistice Day sentiment expressed revulsion against war and the view that in the British Commonwealth of Nations there was promise that the world would yet be redeemed from the shadow of war, and he believed that wireless would help immensely. The British Broadcasting Company had a motto, "Nation shall talk with nation." Radio had no frontier, no boundaries, no politics.

Sir J. Keith said it was thrilling to have heard the recent broadcast from Australia, but it could have been nothing to the thrill which a crystal set user in Christchurch experienced when he heard 5SW, Chelmsford, England.

Great hopes were entertained that the speech which the Prince of Wales was to deliver in the Albert Hall, London, would be heard in New Zealand, but this portion of the test failed. The broadcast was picked up, but not sufficiently strong to be rebroadcast, and as the day waxed the power waned till it disappeared completely.

### APPRECIATION OF BROADCAST.

G.C.H., Masterton: I would like to express appreciation of the action of the Radio Broadcasting Company of New Zealand in rebroadcasting from 3YA the initial official broadcast of the Chelmsford (Eng.) short-wave station 5SW, who were relaying from Canterbury Cathedral a special Armistice Day anniversary service, and later an organ recital from St. Mary's, London. The Broadcasting Company also deserve great credit for the very successful manner in which the rebroadcast was effected, and I am sure all who listened to 3YA last evening and early this morning will endorse these remarks. This transmission marks a new era in radio broadcasting, and after such very satisfactory results being obtained it is to be hoped that the company will continue to rebroadcast 5SW whenever possible for the benefit of those listeners not possessing short-wave receiving sets. The company can rest assured that very few listeners would not take advantage of the opportunity of listening to rebroadcasts of this nature.