

Our Mail Bag

Appreciation of Carnival Programmes.

Listener (Christchurch).—As I have written a number of letters criticising certain parts of the radio programmes, may I also be allowed to say a word of sincere appreciation of the splendid service put on the air during carnival week in Christchurch by Station 3YA. The description of events, the information, and the music have all been splendid and most enjoyable. Especially has this been so with regard to the morning, or breakfast sessions, and if it were not for the fact that it might appear greedy, I should like to express the hope that we may be given further similar sessions in the future.

Programmes Appreciated.

J.H.N. (Pukehuia, N. Wairoa).—I feel that I must, like many more, write and tell you that I highly appreciate the efforts put forth to make the "Radio Record" a pleasure to look for each week. I have a 5-valve King Neutrodyne, which gives a very creditable account of its possibilities. I have also a short-wave adapter and already have received PCJJ (Holland) 30.2 metres on the loudspeaker. Band music could be distinctly heard 8 feet away, but for speech had to come close to speaker, which is a 8000 ohms Brown (Sovereign type). I much enjoy the children's sessions of the different stations, and am pleased to see the Uncles and Aunts, etc., put enthusiasm into their work, which I am sure all us older people admire them for. The programmes of music, etc. each week are a credit to all concerned.

The Bagpipes Wanted.

Mrs. "Berhampore Highlander" writes.—Please do not think that I am going to criticise your programmes. Most decidedly I am not, as I can assure you that I appreciate nearly every item that comes through. Being a Scot, ye ken, I would like to suggest that, to my idea, and probably to many hundreds, the programme could be improved every few weeks with a wee bit skirl on the pipes. You have a number of Scotch items every now and again, and very good they are, but the "Real Mackay" has only been on once, and it was worth waiting up all night for. I am sure that many of your listeners would make it a special night.

Reception of Test.

E.C.S. (Tapanui).—Re test broadcast by 5SW, Chelmsford, Essex, England, Sunday, November 6, on 24 metres.

As the announcer of the above station continually asked for reports on reception, I am sending this, trusting it will be of service.

I tuned in about 8 p.m. Sunday, and listened continuously till midnight. The reception during that time was wonderful for clarity and volume, coming in at good loudspeaker volume on 3 valves, and quite loud on 'phones with 2 valves. Amongst the things the announcer asked comments on was whether the transmission came through

well enough to be listened to with enjoyment as a musical entertainment. I certainly did hear, even though it was mainly a programme of gramophone records. I consider that a first-class programme could be listened to with great enjoyment under the same conditions. The reception here was about half as loud again as PCJJ Holland. The station closed for about fifteen minutes from 9.50 to 10.5 p.m. Opening again, they gave the following records:—Nos. C1285, 4434, 4456, 4468, broadcast record, 146B, 146A, 4468, broadcast record 169A, 169B, short talk on broadcasting.—9242 (AX2535)—(A5486) 4409. Lecture from British Broadcasting Company Handbook on Empire broadcasting, 4460, continuation of lecture, K05319, continuation of lecture. Time midnight.

I tuned in again this morning about 6.30 a.m., when, till about 7.45, the reception was even better than before; but from then on the signals seemed to get gradually weaker. Could still get the wave about 10 a.m., but hardly loud enough for reception of programme. Taking it all round, the reception was astoundingly clear, the announcer's voice coming through almost as clear as from the local stations. I certainly hope that a regular service will soon be inaugurated.

Silent Day At 2YA, Wellington.

(To the Editor.)

Vita Brevis (King Country): All listeners-in will admit the staff at 2YA require and deserve a well-earned holiday once a week. The necessity, too, for overhauling the station machinery is also recognised. There is, however, another aspect to the question. Now that summer time is not a myth, but a reality, we, in parts "far from the madding crowd" seldom get good reception before 8.30, except from 2YA, and might it not be possible to arrange a short news and report session, say, from 7 to 8 on Wednesday? If this could be done, and only a small staff would be required, it would be a great boon to country listeners-in, and the extra expense would be negligible. I might say, too, that we in farming districts would be satisfied with one report of prices of stock, produce, etc., whereas at present we get sometimes three or four reports from different sources, all virtually similar. The price of butter in London does not alter because it is reported through three or four firms, nor does the price of stock in Masterton. Again, prices from £5 to £9 is just as and more brief than £5, £6, £6 10s., £7, £7 10s., £8, and £8 10s.

Why is it that radio set owners make such a fuss about putting a little distilled water in their storage "A" batteries; and yet willingly and religiously remove the floor boards from their automobiles once a week and put water in their car batteries, although they have almost to tie themselves in knots and stand on their heads to do so? A radio storage battery can be ruined just as quickly and thoroughly as an automobile battery if it is not given a drink occasionally.

SHORT-WAVE NOTES

MR. SELLENS' REPORT.

Mr. F. W. Sellens, of Northland, Wellington, writes:—My list of stations on short waves for the past week is not a large one, but includes the new B.B.C. station, 5SW, Chelmsford, both testing and on their first Empire broadcast.

On Friday evening, November 4, 6AG, Perth, gave some good musical items and announced that he is testing almost every evening from 6.30 o'clock West Australian time (10.30 p.m. for New Zealand summer time). KDKA and 3AJ were both heard on Saturday afternoon, and in the evening RFN transmitted some enjoyable musical items, while 7CW was heard testing. Later on, about 11.50 p.m., 5SW, Chelmsford, England, was picked up on a wave-length of 24 metres. The transmission consisted of gramophone records—the maker's name and number of record being given and sometimes the title. The only announcement heard was: Hullo! Hullo! Hullo! 5SW, Chelmsford, testing. Hoping to hear some notice of further tests, I listened till 2.30 a.m., getting a complete log of all records, names and numbers at loudspeaker strength after the first half an hour.

On Sunday I tuned 5SW at about 3 p.m. and listened till 6 p.m.—most of the time on the speaker. During this time, besides the usual call and name of records, the announcer, who was a different one from the earlier part of the transmission, called several friends in different parts of the world, hoping to see them again soon, etc., and in several instances sending Christmas greetings.

Just before retiring at 10 p.m., I listened again for a few minutes, but 5SW was getting very weak. Again in the morning at 7.30 a.m. he was only just audible. KDKA and 2XAF were both heard on Sunday afternoon, the latter at good strength. A short wave friend said he heard 2XAF re-broadcasting 5SW, which was received louder than direct from Chelmsford.

On Monday evening RFN put on some good orchestral music. 2SS, New South Wales (another to the list) and 3AJ were heard on Tuesday evening.

On Wednesday evening 3AU was the only station heard. This amateur was again heard on Thursday working 2RC. 6AG and RFN were also heard. RFN was at its best on Friday evening.

While waiting for 5SW on Friday, a station on about 100 metres was heard. "Perth" was a part of the call, so it was probably 6WF.

From 11.15 to 11.45 p.m. the service from Canterbury Cathedral was heard. The latter portion on the speaker. All that was said could not be clearly heard, but the service could be followed quite well.

The organ recital from St. Mary Le Bow came through quite good, as did the ten minutes' talk by the Director-General of the B.B.C. nearly the whole of the speech being heard.

Although these proceedings were fairly well received, the volume or clarity was not quite as good as during the previous week-end when 5SW was testing. This probably would be on

account of the items being relayed from places at a distance from Chelmsford.

The Saturday morning remembrance festival was a failure as far as Wellington was concerned. At 8.30 the carrier wave was heard, but not a suggestion of speech or music. I heard more howling valves on the short waves on this occasion than ever before, spoiling both their own and other listeners' chances of reception.

During the latter part of this (Saturday) afternoon, KDKA was good. They were relaying a programme from the Georgian Room of the Westinghouse Hotel.

A song by Carry O'Brien was announced to have never been broadcast before.

"RADIO RECORD" SHORT-WAVE ADAPTER

J. W. V. Masterman (Taupoana, Hawke's Bay) writes: The short-wave adapter which was described in the "Radio Record" (August 19 and September 16) brings in Russian station at loudspeaker strength (heard 20 yards away). He has a nasty habit of knocking off for 15 minutes. Started about 9.10 p.m. Saturday night, 5th instant. May I suggest that instructions, say, about 20 minutes', be given on short-wave every week, or a page in the "Radio Record" be set aside for same?

[We recognise the growing interest in short-wave work, and will give as much space as possible to help. Our adapter has already proved itself very useful, and further articles will follow. —Ed.]

REDUCED POWER

FOR KOA, DENVER.

A sweeping shake-up in the operation of eleven broadcasting stations in Denver and vicinity was ordered by the United States Federal Radio Commission to take effect on November 1. The changes were decided upon in the hope of clearing up congestion of the wave bands in the mountain regions.

The most important change was that affecting station KOA, Denver (often heard in New Zealand), which was authorised to continue broadcasting on its present frequency of 920 kilocycles, but to use a maximum power of 5000 watts only between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., reducing this to 2500 watts between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m.

"The commission fully recognises the admirable service rendered by station KOA, and the desirability of giving this station greatly increased power if its transmitter is moved," the order said, "but holds that the location of its transmitter in relation to the residential sections of Denver is not such as to make the use of more than 2500 watts at night in the public interest."

Seeing that the power of KOA has been reduced by half for night transmission, the big Denver station will be heard less frequently in New Zealand nowadays.

THAT RUSSIAN STATION

The Siberian station RFN runs regular transmissions nearly every evening on 60 metres, commencing about 10 p.m. (New Zealand time). Nearly all announcements are made in Russian.

A very strong harmonic of this station may be heard on 30 metres, and this is often mistaken for some other station. This explains the mystery station on this wave-length, about which many persons are talking. Numerous talks are given, with classical music and song numbers interspersed. The station may be brought in at good strength on a three-valve short-wave set.

NOT FOR LARGE BATTERIES

It is not a good plan to use a large lead-acid filament battery in conjunction with a trickle charger in the filament circuit of a radio receiving set. A battery having a rated capacity of 100 ampere hours or more should be charged by a regular large-size battery charger, such as a Tungal or Rectigon. These will recharge the battery at a rate of 3 to 6 amperes, depending on the type used, whereas the average trickle charger provides a charging current of 0.35 to 0.7 amperes. If a 100 ampere hour battery is used with a trickle charger, and the battery once allowed to become completely discharged, there is little likelihood that the trickle charger will ever have an opportunity to fully recharge the battery, unless the receiving set is not used for quite a long time.

ESPERANTO

Lesson XVII.

(To be broadcast from 2YA on November 24, from 7.34 to 7.59 p.m.)

Bonan vesperon, Sinjoroj kaj Sinjorinoj. AFFIXES. The following 28 suffixes and 7 prefixes should be carefully studied, since innumerable words of the finest shade of meaning can be formed by their aid: in fact, the affixes are the ground work of the language.

AC—denotes contempt: hundo, a dog; hundaco, a cur.

AD—denotes continued action: labori, to work; laboradi, to keep on working.

AJ—denotes something made from, or having the quality of what is mentioned: frukto, fruit; fruktajo, jam.

AN—denotes an inhabitant, member, adherent: asocio, association; asocio, a member of an association; Kristo, Christ; Kristano, a Christian, ano, a member.

AR—denotes a collection of what is mentioned: fadeno, a wire; fadenaro, a bunch (collection) of wires.

BO—denotes relationship by marriage: filino, a daughter; bofilino, a daughter-in-law.

CJ—these letters added to the first few letters of a masculine name make it an affectionate diminutive: Vilhelmo, William; Vilejo, Willie, Bill. For feminine names add NJ instead of CJ: Mario, Mary; Manjo, Molly.

DIS—denotes separation (as in English): doni, to give; disdoni, to distribute. EBL—denotes possibility (English -able): porti, to carry; portebila, portable. EC—denotes abstract quality (English -ness): bela, beautiful; beleco, beauty.

Bonan nokton al ĉiuj.

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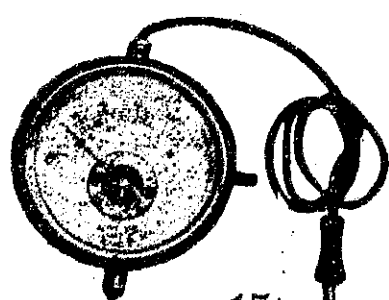
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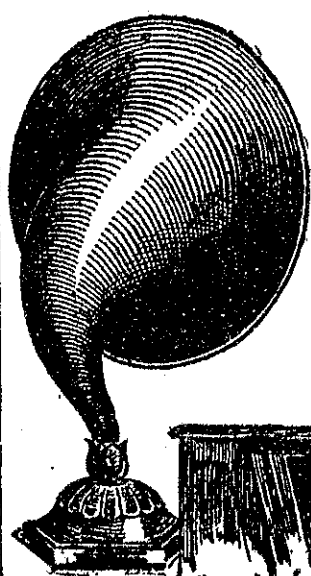
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