

MAORI LIFE AND MUSIC

UNIQUE ENTERTAINMENT

RELAY FROM OTAKI COLLEGE.

December will be ushered in with a unique and most attractive radio entertainment—the relay of a concert to be presented at the Maori College at Otaki.

This college claims to be the oldest of the present existing schools of New Zealand. In the year 1840 a young missionary, Hadfield (afterwards Bishop Hadfield) landed at Otaki and established a mission, and a mission school. The school has had a continuous existence from that time, and is still doing very good work amongst the Ngatiraukawa tribe of the district. Amongst the early teachers of the school may be mentioned Archdeacon Samuel Williams, who afterwards, on the invitation of Sir George Grey, left for Hawke's Bay to establish that great school for Maori boys, Te Aute College.

The earliest record of the deeds of the school's old boys goes back to the Maori war in the Tauranga district. Henare Taratoa, although fighting against the Queen, had been so impressed with the teaching he had received that he stole out of the pa at night, through the British sentries and forces and back again, to bring water—for a wounded English soldier who had fallen at the entrance to the stockade. A memorial tablet exists to his memory in Lichfield Cathedral, put there by Bishop Selwyn.

The school will be assisted in their concert by members of the Old Boys and Girls' Association. All taking part have at one time or other been scholars at the school.

The first quarter of an hour is being devoted to the old style of Maori entertainment. Visitors arrive and the "powhiri," or dance, of welcome will be given. A speech of welcome and a song or "patere," will follow. The visitors will reply with a different kind of song—a "waiata." A haka will conclude the item. In the "patere" and "waiata" will be heard the ancient music of the Maori, restricted in range, but rich in half and quarter tones. This section is arranged by Messrs. Rehua and P. Rikihana and Mrs. U. Taipua. The school will sing several of the more modern Maori songs, and a number of boys, mostly Cook Islanders, will give instrumental items.

Of the individual singers members of the Tahiwi family are the most prominent. Miss Weno Tahiwi, who sings "Home, Little Maori, Home," is a member of the school staff as is also Mr. P. Tahiwi, who sings "Waiata Poi." Mrs. Rori, who sings "Ah! Though the Silver Moon were Mine," is a member of the same family, and so also is Mr. Kingi Tahiwi (tenor). The last-named is the chief interpreter of the Govern-

STATION 4YA

CHILDREN'S SESSION

The interesting developments in the children's sessions, foreshadowed recently by the Radio Broadcasting Company of New Zealand, Ltd., are taking rapid and effective shape at the four stations. The principal of the company's children's department (Mrs. Hall) is now in Dunedin, and beneficial alterations and extensions of the children's sessions at 4YA will take place almost immediately.

The policy is for the children to entertain themselves. Each session has its programme of vocal and instrumental items similar to the adult session, but contributed by children. Headmasters of 18 schools in Wellington, approximately 12 schools in Christchurch, and many Auckland schools, have promised assistance. In Christchurch the Cathedral Grammar School is lending its choristers. A special feature is the children's song service each Sunday, to which are invited the choirs of the different Sunday schools. In the northern stations this has proved a most popular feature.

The company's plans for 4YA include all these features. The hour of the children's session will be from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., instead of 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. as before. The alteration will permit of younger children listening in, and will bring 4YA in line with the three other stations. The children's sessions at 4YA will be increased to three in number. Big Brother Bill's session will be Tuesday night as usual: "Auntie" will take charge of the Friday night session; and Big Brother Bill will conduct the children's song service every Sunday from 5.45 p.m. until 6.30 p.m. At this session children will gather at the studio to sing hymns, and simple Bible stories will be told. These changes will become effective as from December 2, 1927.

A further item of news interesting to "listeners-in" is that a regular news service will be broadcast each operating night, excepting Sundays. The service will include a short lecture on some interesting and helpful topic, and will be on the air from 7.15 p.m. until 7.45 p.m.

Mr. Curry, who has been assisting in the announcing from 3YA, has been transferred to 4YA, in accordance with the Radio Broadcasting Company's policy of developing the Dunedin station.

ment Native Department in Wellington.

The above-mentioned singers, together with H. Mahima, who sings "Homing," are all very well known locally, and in Rotorua, where they were connected with the choir and with concert work. All the others taking part are members of the School Association, which has taken upon itself the duty of preserving the Maori language dances, arts, and games.

Our Mail Bag

Sunday Concerts.

Metre: I wish to place on record my appreciation of the concert broadcast from 2YA, though I think a few more light items than we get at present would not be amiss. I read your "Mail Bag" with interest, and in connection with the Sunday night concert I am of the opinion that it would be a pity to eliminate them. I listen each Sunday, and, contrary to "Listener, Christchurch," I find nothing "questionable" about them. Most people I know derive a lot of pleasure from these relays. I suggest to "Listener, Christchurch," that he exercise radio's special privilege, that is, to switch off after the church service. His feelings will not then be hurt by the innocent pleasure of the multitude, and, moreover, he can observe all the "silence" he desires.

Double Aerials.

T.B., Lower Hutt: When reading this week's issue of your most helpful paper I came across an error re double-wire aerials. "Switch" says that they will not give better results than the common or garden single-wire variety. I beg leave to differ with him. He may have got his information on very good authority, but the best authority is your personal experience. I had a single wire and got fair results (the longest I could possibly get was fifty feet), but on erecting a double wire, four feet apart, my reception was very good. Perhaps "Switch" would say that conditions had improved, either at the stations or in the air, but I made the change-over at night during a concert, and you couldn't doubt the improvement. Just a word or two about the concerts at 2YA. I think they are just fine, but I agree with "Grandma." Petone, it would be a real treat if the Symons-Ellwood-Short trio could give us some old songs and popular numbers. Surely the few people who understand high-class music are getting the monopoly. I have never noticed the least sign of fading from 2YA.

The Racing Broadcasts.

"Sport" (Wanganui): The racing broadcasts at the recent Cup meeting were not up to the previous standard, a standard which had left ample room for improvement. I notice in this morning's paper a protest from the Church, and if broadcasts are not improved these protests are going to have an effect, because so many more of the listeners-in will be indifferent as to whether they are cut out or not. You must interest the person who is not particularly interested in racing and this point should be borne in mind when considering my suggestions.

1. From the time he switches in, 5 minutes or more before the race, the announcer should keep talking until he switches off. There were far too many "gaps in the air" last week.
2. Repeat the horses, riders, positions at post, order of favouritism, colours, and any comments as to what went well in the preliminary, etc., and keep on repeating the horses and riders, or some comments till the race starts. On several occasions, I had three or four friends in the house to hear a race, the band would be playing, it would stop, after a wait we would be told that the tote had closed, and possibly the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd favourites mentioned, then a long wait when you were not certain whether you were still on the course or not. The next you would hear would be "They're off." No chance for each one of us picking a horse against each other. Everyone who listens has not a race card.
3. After the race, give some brief comments on the race, and how the unplaced horses ran. This was done sometimes, but not often.
4. After giving the starters and riders, there is no harm, to my mind, in the announcer briefly reviewing the field. It will also give him some food for comment when he switches on again before the tote closes down, as to why his prophecies have or have not been fulfilled.

It must not be forgotten that many listeners-in are not especially interested in racing, but nevertheless any race or contest can be made interesting to the listener-in, if the announcer goes about it in the right way.

Your sports announcer is excellent on football, and quite alright in describing the races, especially the trots, but failed this last meeting in giving the detailed information and comments necessary and essential to make the broadcast interesting to others than those keenly interested in racing.

I trust this attempt at constructive criticism will be received in the right spirit, as my only wish is to improve the sport broadcasts so that their popularity will be the cause of a shower of protest if there is any organised attempt to stop them.

Comment on Programmes.

J. B. Doyedale: I feel, in view of the criticism that frequently appears of New Zealand wireless programmes, that I must write to say how I appreciate these programmes. It is hard to say which of the three stations I prefer, but I think I am most often listening to Auckland or Christchurch. There seems to be less jazz noises and more music from these two than from Wellington. If I had any complaint it would be that there is too much of these noises. The bleating of saxophones I cannot stand. But I realise that some people enjoy this kind of thing, and I am content to close down on Saturday nights when it begins, though sometimes I wish that one of the three stations would continue with music. The afternoon concerts from Auckland are very enjoyable, and always include very good records. I never miss Mr. Bell's reading at 4 p.m. if I can be at home for it. I must thank him for those. Though I have read many of

the selections. I thoroughly enjoy listening to them again, and I hear him perfectly. Wellington I don't worry about in the afternoon, except sometimes on Tuesdays, as there are ladies' lectures and jazz orchestras which don't interest me.

At night, Christchurch is perhaps my favourite. I think the opening chorus or song is a very good innovation, and I always try to tune in for it. The operatic selections and songs there (as elsewhere) are much appreciated. I wish we could have more of them.

This place must be very well situated for reception, as I seldom notice any fading from Wellington or any other New Zealand station, though sometimes Wellington is blurred or distorted. My set is a five-valve, and I have to work on only four valves for the N.Z. stations, 1, 2, and 3YA, in the evenings, as they are too loud with five valves. Besides, the Australian stations, I frequently listen to KFON, California, from about an hour before sunset, on the loudspeaker. There is another American about four points below KFON on my dials. I would like to know what it is. I have never heard this station call.

One suggestion I would like to make. It is about the weather report. This appears to be very elusive, and often I miss it altogether. Could it not be given as near 9 as possible? Sometimes about 9.10 I switch over to another station in hopes of getting it, and probably miss it at both Christchurch frequently omits it altogether.

In conclusion, I add my congratulations to the New Zealand Broadcasting Company, and hope they will carry on as they are doing. Their fare is a great boon, especially to us who live out in the country. P.S.: I have picked up a station, 2ZF, Palmerston North, several times. What is this station?

British First.

R. T. Marshall (Nelson): In your issue for next week I noticed a short article on a new type of valve which you say has been developed in America, but is not on the market yet. I would like to point out that a similar valve which has been developed by the Marconi Co. in England was described in "Popular Wireless" for September 3, 1927. It appears that the Marconi valve was on the English market before this date. From the description given in your article, the principle seems to be the same in both cases. This is evidently a point in which English engineers are not behind the times, and should therefore be given credit for their product.

Recharging A Batteries.

A. W. Nisbet (Pelorus Sound): Just a few lines to express my appreciation of your excellent publication and of the many interesting articles published therein, with special reference to "Megohm's" page, and "News and Notes," by "Switch." Being a "backblocks," by "Listener Megohm's" article on the "A Battery Problem," was of special interest. This article was published in answer to a query from a listener who said he had heard a broadcast on the subject, but wanted further particulars; the broadcast referred to was probably one that the writer got some few weeks ago from J.O. Melbourne, being a lecture by Mr. H. K. Love on "Battery Charging for Country Listeners." Mr. Love stated that owing to the difficulty of securing porous pots for making up the Daniel cell, he recommended the use of Leclanche cells for this purpose. The lecturer explained that the ordinary type of bell-ringing Leclanche cell was quite useless for radio A battery work, for the reason that immediately the loudspeaker is placed on this type of cell it polarises, but that a recent development of the Leclanche cell known as the Sack type will not polarise quickly, and will deliver a very fair current when used in the A battery circuit. The lecturer further stated that the

type O of this form of Leclanche cell had the following characteristics:—

Overall dimensions, 5 1/2 in. x 8 1/2 in. Weight, 10 lb. Voltage, 1.5 per cell. Vacuum discharge rate, .5 amp. Capacity, 170 amp. hours.

It was stated that this type of cell would be quite satisfactory as an A battery used on its own, but for those who already possess accumulators it was strongly recommended that this cell, or, rather, battery of cells, be floated across the accumulator circuit as explained in "Megohm's" article.

According to Mr. Love, this type of cell requires about half a pound of sal ammoniac, at 1s. 8d. per lb., to recharge, has a very low internal resistance, and is capable of giving long and efficient service without requiring more than slight attention occasionally.

Personally, I think both the lecturers quoted above and "Megohm" failed to make one point clear, namely, that this is not a method of recharging a run-down accumulator, but rather a means of keeping a charged accumulator up to strength, a distinction with a difference.

The only fly in the ointment is that to date I have been unable to locate any merchant in Wellington who stocks this type of Leclanche cell. Trusting the above note may prove of interest to other backblocks listeners.

Christmas Eve.

43349: May I suggest that it would give a great deal of pleasure if your station could arrange a special programme on Christmas Eve? What I have in my mind is that there are many thousands of elderly people in the Dominion who cherish fond memories of the old-fashioned Christmas as they knew it in England in their younger days, with Christmas songs and seasonal music usually rendered by choirs in the streets. These hands of singers always commenced at midnight with "Christians Awake," and if capable, in addition to hymns other appropriate selections, such as glees, etc., were rendered. If the suggestion is favourably received, perhaps the best time to begin would be 10 o'clock, lasting for about an hour, but, of course, this is for you to decide.—Your suggestion has been passed on to the Broadcasting Company for consideration.—Ed.

Children's Sessions.

A.F.B. (Auckland): Being a subscriber to your valuable paper, I wish to ask if it is not possible to announce when the children are having concerts at their sessions in the four stations of the company. We have a nephew who sang at the last children's concert at 1YA, and we did not know about it.—The suggestion is not practicable, nor is it the aim of the company to feature individual performers during children's hours, but rather to interest and encourage as many children as possible. These sessions will be kept as informal as possible, as they are for children, not adults, and formality would detract from their value.—Ed.

Those who are bothered by the thunderous crashes of nearby and powerful signals will find some degree of relief through the simple expedient of inserting a variable high resistance between antenna and ground binding posts of the receiving set, thus by-passing the nearby or high voltage signals more or less to the ground, according to the resistance setting, and bringing the signal strength down to within the limitations of the receiver. When the usual signals are tuned in, the weaker signals, having less voltage, are not by-passed so readily through the high resistance, it is claimed, and therefore retain most of their power. This is not a wave trap or tuning scheme, it will be noted, but just a sort of safety valve to prevent the roof from being blown off the house when extra loud signals are being received.

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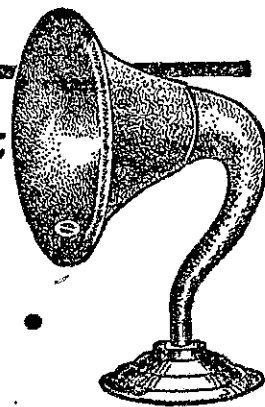
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