

THE NEW ZEALAND Radio Record

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

P.O. Box 1032.
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WELLINGTON, JANUARY 6, 1928.

THE NEW YEAR.

The year which has closed has been a momentous one insofar as broadcasting in the Dominion is concerned. It has indeed been so outstanding that the timorous are inclined to the belief that there can never again be such a year.

The present is perhaps an opportune time to study the position and discuss the possibilities of making 1928 our record radio year. There are now practically 40,000 licenses in New Zealand, which means that out of every 100 homes, approximately 15 are fitted with wireless. Surely this would indicate that a splendid field exists here for the sale of radio apparatus in all its forms. There is now such an excellent price range among radio products that a set of some description is within reach of the average home. The results of the present year will rest largely on the efforts of the radio dealers.

The latest returns show that Canterbury and Otago are in a very poor position in the radio field, the combined licenses in these two districts not equalling those of the Wellington district alone. The South Island is indeed a wonderful field for the enterprising radio dealers, and many thousands of licenses should be taken up there during 1928.

Our advice to "Make this a Radio Christmas" was so widely and successfully applied by the trade generally that we have no hesitation in urging that the policy be now continued, and that dealers concentrate in making 1928 "A Radio Year." We in New Zealand are happily situated in that there is a very considerable section of the community which can well afford the exceedingly modest luxury obtained by the purchase of a radio set. Thousands are thinking of radio, and it is for our dealers, through constructive sales policies, to boost radio and bring the prospects up to the point of making purchases.

FROM THE PRESSMAN'S VIEWPOINT

THE HUMOUR OF POLITICS

Few pressmen in New Zealand can claim longer acquaintance with the Parliamentary Press gallery than Mr. Chas. E. Wheeler, who has had many unique experiences during the time he has been "listening-in" to the oft times dreary programmes provided by our legislators. Naturally enough he has become intimate with many of our legislators, past and present, and has amassed a fund of good stories regarding Parliament and its procedure. Recently Mr. Wheeler gave some interesting addresses on the methods under which Parliament works, and these were so popular with listeners that he was asked to draw upon his humorous Parliamentary experiences for the benefit of the unseen audience of 2YA.

The first of his chats on the humour of politics was given on December 22, and those who heard it will certainly be "on the air" for the subsequent instalments.

Mr. Wheeler explained that while he would endeavour to raise a few laughs at politicians, he did not wish to convey the impression that they are humbugs. He simply laughed at them because they are so very human and he likes 'em.

By way of putting himself in the politician's position he told a story against himself. General Booth, father of the present head of the Salvation Army visited New Zealand and was duly interviewed by pressmen. He answered all their questions, and gave them a good "story" full of interest. Finally the old General, with a twinkle in his eye, asked the pressmen: "How much of my time have I given you, gentlemen?"

"Half an hour, and we are very much indebted to you, General" was the ready answer.

"Then you won't mind giving me ten minutes of your time?"

"Certainly not—delighted!" answered the unsuspecting scribes, whereon the General went down on his knees, invited his visitors to do the same, and then he prayed fervently for a long ten minutes for the newspapers, and the newspapermen of New Zealand!

Radio comes into the political field, and the first sign of fun with the loud-speaker was in Liverpool some years ago, when an immense meeting in the open was addressed by Lloyd George, with the aid of microphones and loud speakers. Having completed a point, Lloyd George looked for the next lot of notes but could not find them, so he remarked to himself: "Where are those blessed free trade notes?" There was a huge roar of laughter from the crowd, as the amplifying devices had sent out to the furthest extremities what seemed to be a shout from Lloyd George: **Where are those blessed free trade notes?**

Beware of a pause in public speaking—someone may fill it in awkwardly for you.

Once in our House of Representatives, a very slow speaker stopped for

an appreciable time while he fumbled around for more notes. Ten seconds under these conditions seems like an age, and during this silent moment an Irish member rose to a point of order:

"Mr. Speaker," he said, "I want to know—will all this soliloquy be recorded in Hansard?"

From a good collection of "bulls" the following recent one by a Southern member was extracted: In a debate on religious education he told his astonished colleagues: "Most members of this House are either fathers or mothers."

During the war, when the principal parties united in the National Government, the late Mr. Massey and Sir Joseph Ward were invited to attend the Imperial War Cabinet in London. They went to all official functions together—jointly representative of the Dominion. A visit to the front line in France was on the programme, and the two politicians were taken in hand by a young officer, whom they followed into a trench. It was narrow and the party walked in line, Mr. Massey following the officer, and Sir Joseph just behind.

"This is a trench" whispered the officer, and Mr. Massey, over his shoulder, whispered to Sir Joseph: "This is a trench."

Various other explanations were made very quietly by the officer, and duly whispered over the shoulder by Mr. Massey to his colleague.

By and by, after a little spell, the single-file procession resumed, this time Sir Joseph Ward next to the officer. He, too, retailed the officer's remarks over his shoulder in a whisper. At last he quietly inquired: "How far are we from the front line now?"

And the officer answered: "About two miles!"

"Then what on earth are we whispering for" indignantly asked the New Zealand politician.

"I have a horrible cold" said the young officer hoarsely.

RADIO LICENSES

NEARING 40,000 MARK

LATEST RETURNS.

The final returns for the year 1927 have not yet been completed, but according to the latest return, for the period ending December 23, 39,223 licenses have been issued in the Dominion. It is possible that the returns up to December 31 will show that 40,000 licenses have been issued.

The returns for the individual districts are as follows:—

RECEIVING-STATION LICENSES.	
Auckland District	13,321
Canterbury District	7,821
Otago District	2,120
Wellington District	14,105

Total 37,967

TRANSMITTING LICENSES.

Auckland District	40
Canterbury District	27
Otago District	17
Wellington District	51

Total 135

RADIO-DEALERS' LICENSES.

Auckland District	500
Canterbury District	297
Otago District	173
Wellington District	751

Total 1,721

EXPERIMENTAL LICENSES.

Auckland District 1

GRAND TOTAL.

Auckland District	13,861
Canterbury District	8,145
Otago District	2,310
Wellington District	14,907

Total 39,223

FLORIDA STATION LOGGED

INTERESTING AMERICAN COMMENT.

Some little time ago, Mr. Guy C. Holmes, of Masterton, logged station WDAE, Tampa, Florida, U.S.A., successfully listening to a number of the items. Mr. Holmes communicated with the "Tampa Daily Times," owners of the station, and the following interesting reference to the feat was made in that paper:—

N.Z. RADIO FANS.
NEARLY 10,000 MILES AWAY.
ENJOY THE "TIMES" PROGRAMME

"It's a long way from Tampa to New Zealand. Nearly ten thousand miles to the south-west lie these South Pacific Islands—nearly half-way around the globe—months by sailing vessel, weeks by steamer, and days by airplane. Yet, a voice from Tampa was flung out over this long gap last week in an infinitesimal part of a second by WDAE, the 'Times' radio station. And

Xmas with the Short Wave

SEASONABLE PROGRAMMES HEARD

Several highly interesting programmes were heard during the Christmas-New Year period by shortwave enthusiasts, and in his report, given below, Mr. F. W. Sellens refers to the satisfactory reception of the special Empire programme from 5SW (Chelmsford), on Christmas morning. Australia also broadcasted its fifth Empire programme during the week.

There has not been anything new to report this week, except another Japanese station, but more interesting than usual, says Mr. Sellens, in his report: On Thursday morning, December 22, at 7.30 a.m., 5SW Chelmsford was heard on their regular test. A talk was being given at first, but this was too weak to understand what it was about. RFN was the only short wave station heard during the evening. "2MR Australia" was transmitting early on Friday morning. They were putting on gramophone records and were still "on the air" when I shut down at 7.30 a.m.

At about 11 p.m. a Japanese station on about 30.5 metres was tuned in who called several times in fairly good English: "I—short wave beam station, Tokyo, Japan." The call sign consisted of four letters, the first being J, two of us were listening but the other three could not be heard clearly enough to be sure. Later on a long talk was given in a foreign language—Japanese I suppose. Not any music was heard. Volume was good enough for speaker but modulation was mushy. On Saturday at 7.30 a.m. Big Ben was heard striking 7 p.m. on Friday evening through 5SW Chelmsford. This was followed by talk which was too weak to understand. The carrier was unsteady. I was home too late in the afternoon for the "Yanks," but heard 2AY Wellington and 4AM Palmerston South calling each other and testing. RFN was on as usual during the evening.

Sunday—Christmas morning at 3.45 a.m. was the advertised time for the special Empire programme from 5SW Chelmsford. I tuned them in just before this and got a strong carrier, at 5.43 a long whistle was heard, probably for tuning purposes. At 5.45 Big Ben was heard striking the quarter. I did not hear the first few words as I was called away for a moment or two. From the start till 4.15 a.m. the Wireless Military Band gave several items with "London Calling" in between. This was followed by vocal items by Miss Jessie Barker, contralto. At 4.30 a.m. Big Ben chimed and struck the hour of four. This was very good. The

volume was fairly good, modulation perfect, but reception was unsteady as is often the case with short wave reception.

On Sunday afternoon KDKA was weak. 2XAF after completing their musical programme, broadcast seasonal greetings from WGY in verse, signing off at 11.50 EST. (How's that for being exact with the time? they often give the time to half a minute). After 2XAF closed down WLW was heard on 52 metres, but they were very faint. RFN start at 9.30 p.m. with talks as usual, a woman talking was heard later.

STRANGE STATION HEARD.

A strange station on about 31 metres was heard transmitting organ and vocal items, a very strong generation hum spoiling reception. The carrier wave disappeared at 10 p.m.

On Monday morning 2FC, through 2MR, on 28.5 metres, were transmitting their fifth Empire programme. At 7.10 a.m. the Hon. R. C. Orchard was delivering an address to British listeners, at the end of which a hymn was sung, which he asked listeners to join in. This was followed by some songs by Raymond Ellis, who at the conclusion of his numbers sent greetings to radio artists in England from those in Australia. The transmission concluded at 7.35 a.m. with the National Anthem. 3LO were also putting on a programme on short wave on 20.8 metres. Gramophone records and greetings to the people of Britain from prominent Australians were given.

At 8.15 KDKA was heard transmitting Christmas carols and organ music. "Adeste Fideles," by a choir, and "The Lost Chord" on the organ were particularly good. The volume was better than it has been during the afternoon recently.

RFN started about 9.20 p.m., and some very good musical items were heard.

On Tuesday afternoon KDKA and 2XAF were both heard, but were very weak. During the evening 3BY, Melbourne, on about 31 metres, was putting on gramophone records. Later on RFN put on some more music.

SHORT-WAVE WORK.

Week by week interest in short-wave work is increasing among listeners. The excellent record compiled by Mr. F. W. Sellens has fire the ambitions of many other enthusiasts and the list of stations heard by short-wave operators is growing each week.

In view of the special interest attaching to short-wave work, we would be glad to hear from readers who "log" new stations. By mutual interchange of news and views of short-wave work, it will be possible for listeners generally to secure better results.

the operators are claiming a long-distance record for a 500-watt station.

"It was during the Tom Cat program broadcast at midnight Monday—midnight here, not there—when three radio fans in different New Zealand cities heard the boys in WDAE's studio doing their stuff—and hardly believed their ears.

"Letters, giving enthusiastic accounts of the excellent reception of the midnight program, came in from the far-away islands—and WDAE operators hardly believed their eyes. The letters came from Masterton, Matamoras, Cleveland, South Auckland, New Zealand. One from Guy C. Holmes, another from K. H. O'Halloran, and the third from George R. Munro. Apparently they suspected that WDAE men would have their doubts, and to substantiate their claims to the Tom Cat prize for the most distant listener, the letters enumerated the various numbers on the midnight program, and each urged that the prize Tom Cat be sent poste haste.

"Ten thousand miles is a long way, but if the voices rode the ether 10,000 miles west, the same sounds probably travelled the same distance east, a total of 20,000 miles, lacking just 5000 miles of circling the globe."

In your last issue I read, referring to 5SW, Chelmsford: "Those who have heard it, however, say that its signals are even louder and clearer than the signals from PCJJ." That has not been my experience. PCJJ has often been loud enough to hear all over the house, whereas 5SW at its best was only audible across a fair size room. PCJJ used to transmit at a more suitable hour for reception in New Zealand. The end of the period signals are audible here at about 7.30 a.m., and midday is perhaps worse.

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