

Programmes Continued

8.33: Flute solos—Mr. W. Hay, (a) "Romance" (Freund Fritz), (Mascagni); (b) "Sylvia" (Pizzicati), (Delibes).
 8.40: Soprano solo—Miss Marjory Miller, A.T.C.L., "The Rosary" (Nevin).
 8.44: Cornet solos—Mr. Fred Fox, (a) "Rule, Britannia" (arr. Hartmann); (b) "The Lost Chord" (Sullivan).
 8.52: Baritone solo—Mr. F. R. Hawker, "Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind" (Sargeant).
 8.56: Flute solo—Mr. W. Hay, "Chant du Soir" (Speelman).
 God Save the King.
4YA DUNEDIN (463 METRES)—SUNDAY, JANUARY 29.
 5.45 p.m.: Children's song service, conducted by Big Brother Bill, assisted by the Choristers of St. Paul's Cathedral.
 7.0: Relay of evening service from St. Paul's Cathedral (Anglican). Preacher, Rev. Canon Nevill.
 8.10: Relay from St. Kilda (weather permitting) of concert by the St. Kilda Band. Conductor, Mr. James Dixon.
 9.10: Close down.

Summer Time and Broadcasting

CORRESPONDENTS' DIVERSE VIEWS

Our invitation to readers, particularly country readers, for their views on the effect of "Sidey" time on radio reception bids fair to draw some interesting letters. Below we give the first instalment, and expect a further interesting collection next week, from which some general conclusion may be drawn.

"The Worst Thing Ever."

F.J.M. (Pahiatua). Just a line in reference to "Sidey Time." I consider it the worst thing that could have happened as regards radio reception. I have a "Browning-Drake 5" and I can assure you it takes me all my time to hear 8YA at 8 p.m. "Sidey Time." Goodness knows how country chaps with two or three valve sets get on. In fact there are five people I know who are talking about "chucking" radio up. It takes a real good set to pick up 8YA and 1YA in daylight. I have tried quite a number of sets and I can assure you that the average five valve set will not pick up the two above stations in daylight. Of course I am referring to country places only. It is one thing to be under an aerial of a broadcasting station and another thing to be about a hundred and fifty miles away from a station. 2YA, of course, is as far as power goes, but there are times when we want 1YA or 3YA programmes instead. How does the two or three valve chap get on then at anywhere up to 9 p.m. with not only the musical part, but the news and market reports; for instance 8YA's stock report which, of course, interests the farmer mostly. My slogan is down with "Sidey Time," not only me but 90 per cent. of radio people here. Thanking you for your invitation for readers' views.

Hope it is Cut Out.

R.S. (Hastings). Your reference to "Sidey Time" in this week's issue of the Record, prompts me to write and say I have every sympathy with the country listeners-in. I know that I do not derive half the pleasure from my set as formerly. I hope that "Sidey Time" is cut out.

Local Conditions Blamed.

S.J.T. (Hillgrove).—As a country listener, I would like to express my disagreement with the letter from "A.R." in this week's "Record." If "A.R." cannot get daylight reception from Dunedin, Wellington, or Christchurch, then there must obviously be some local condition which militates against radio reception. In any case, when signal strength is so weak that daylight reception is impossible, then it would be spoiled practically every night by static, to a great extent. The same thing applies to Australian stations, also, at this time of year, "Sidey Time" or otherwise. In regard to 4YA and the small number of licences, the Broadcasting Co., while citing the immediate increase in Wellington and Christchurch on the erection of modern stations, apparently, for some reason peculiar to itself, refuses to admit the existence of the same thing occurring at Dunedin. Dunedin has not, and

never has had, a station comparable with any of the others. Here (50 miles away), while the volume is ample, the quality is so poor compared with the other stations, that we seldom listen to 4YA at all. There has been a slight improvement lately, but only slight.

Reception is Affected.

A. Dawe (Featherston).—You asked in your last "Record" what effect the daylight saving has on reception. Well, I must say that to-night is perfect, as I am at present listening-in to 1YA at 8 p.m., and it is very good. Christchurch and 2YA always comes in good, and clear, but 1YA is off and on, kind of the way, but Australian stations are poor—very poor at times. To-night 2BL Sydney is fair on the headphones. 9 p.m. My set is a five-valve, but I must say we would get far better results if we had this hour taken off. For myself, I should like the ordinary time.

A General Supporter.

Listening in (Ohakune). Your correspondent, 100 miles from Dunedin, who condemns summer time, makes, in my opinion, one great mistake. Many opponents of reforms die hard, and those of summer time are no exception. I have heard of one farmer who has sufficient imagination to tell us his cows give less milk under summer-time milking. Instead of setting out to blame summer time for all the ills we have, let us start by trying to discover any other reason. I have no tickets on summer time, but I believe it has come to stay, as many who were absolutely against the innovation are now right out for it. I speak principally of farmers. I care little for or against summer time, but I know it is responsible for our set failing to get much that we did get over the air two months ago, and I wrote to you, Sir, a few weeks ago, pointing out that as we were now unable to get any news from any stations except Wellington that it would be a great boon to listeners-in if 2YA would arrange to be on the air on Wednesdays from 7 to 8, as that being silent day for 2YA we in the backblocks were that day without anything on the air till about 9 o'clock. Dunedin station should, and I felt sure will, be improved, but your correspondent must remember conditions play a big part in reception. We are 200 miles from Wellington, and get that station any time it is on the air, but we have a friend near Te Kaiti who gets very poor reception from Wellington, but gets Auckland and Christchurch at 3 in the afternoon. Last winter we got Dunedin splendidly, and we hope to do so again, but as you ask for suggestions I would again say give us 2YA on Wednesdays from 7 to 8, and we in this part will have little to complain about.

Our Mail Bag

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J.M.S. and F.S.—You have not signed your name to your letter. You are each entitled to your opinions as to the merits of the respective orchestras, trios, etc., but other people are equally entitled to theirs.

Children on the Air.

Still Learning: In the "Radio Record," just to hand, I find several correspondents are complaining about the children's session, that it is mainly sloppy, sickly stuff. Now, sir, let me tell these people the children must be catered for, and what is sloppy and sickly to one is sugar to another, and when the jam is put on too thick for me I switch on to some other station. I might say I am old enough to remember the seventies, and I now spend two or three hours every week listening to the children's sessions, and though I agree with one correspondent, that Uncle Sam is on his own, I maintain that several other Uncles and Aunties are excellent in their work. Let me advise your critics to listen in on Sunday evening's children's sessions, to Wellington, Christchurch, or Dunedin, and I guess they will be rewarded. As for children not wishing to hear other children singing and reciting, I do not agree with that claim, and, again, if you do not put on children, where are you to get sufficient adult talent to keep the station open? In conclusion, let me say I have learned a lot through listening to Uncles Sam, Ernest and Sandy, and to Aunt Dot, and others. But do not curtail the children's sessions. P.S.: The remarks about the announcers are unworthy of notice. I notice at times that the announcer's voice gets a bit tired, and no doubt at times they are glad when 10 o'clock comes, but who would blame them? Taken all round, the announcers are a fine lot.

An Old Hand's Views.

Sir,—We read some complaints from listeners about the programmes, but I state that there is not one broadcast company in the Southern Hemisphere which has made more progress than has the N.Z.R.B.C., and is there any other station which can put on a better programme during the children's session than does 3YA? We have more variety and better programmes during this session than I have ever heard any station in Australia put over. I can remember 2BL when they used to be called 2SE from the "Daily Guardian" newspaper office, and I heard 2FC when they first started on 1100 metres, and I have seldom heard a session which can equal that of 3YA. No, Mr. Editor, listeners cannot grow. Ask any old hand who has been at the game for four or five years, and I think you will find he is very enthusiastic about the progress made by the company. The evening sessions are a credit when one considers the limited talent available in New Zealand. One thing I would like to suggest is what about an afternoon programme during Sunday. In the winter months I am sure country listeners would appreciate it.

Radio Sunday Sessions.

Satisfied (Ohakune): I wish to express my appreciation of the programmes put on lately on Sunday evenings, after church, particularly at 2YA and 4YA. I like band music, but the semi-sacred concerts now being given are a great treat, and though I am not a wowser I hope these will be continued, and the secular music kept for during the week. In my opinion the Broadcasting Co. are giving us great value for our money, and in the music, vocal, instrumental, band, and choral items, together with talks, market reports, and news, and a host of other incidentals, there is enough on the air to satisfy the public, no matter what their taste may be.

P.S. We listened on Tuesday till midnight, and were very disappointed that 2YA did not get on the air on Wednesday to tell us about the missing airmen, but instead we had to wait till 7.15 Thursday night for the news over the air.

Christmas Programmes Appreciated.

B. C. Horton (New Plymouth): Just a line to express appreciation of the Xmas broadcast from 1YA, Auckland. The items on the air during the week were of a high standard and good variety, and must have pleased the majority of listeners. The main feature was the duration of the broadcast, and it was very gratifying to be able to use the receiver during most of the day and evening. This is what makes radio worth while, and should have greatly impressed intending purchasers, and I hope the time is not far distant when we can look forward to the stations starting at midday. In my opinion it would be better to be on the air from 12 till 2 each day than as at present from 3 till 5. The former time would enable more listeners to use their sets and also for dealers while the streets are busy. The "Radio Record" is also appreciated, and is a very interesting publication.

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AUSTRALIAN WAVE-LENGTHS

PROPOSED ALTERATIONS.

A Melbourne writer says:—
 "There have been some references in the Press to the effect that the wave-lengths of the Australian broadcasting stations are to be altered. The basis and extent of the alteration have not been disclosed; but the Postmaster-General's announcement is of considerable importance.
 "The announcement is something in the nature of a warning that some changes will take place early this year. The need for prior notice of the change is very obvious when we read that the lowest wavelength is likely to be about 225 metres. At present it is 235 metres, and it is doubtful if many receivers—except the latest types—are capable of being tuned to anything below 250 metres.

ALTERATIONS TO RECEIVERS NECESSARY.

"The alterations will not be costly, but it will be a nuisance to owners of sets to have to get their tuning brought down to 225 metres. There is no reference to changing the upper section of the broadcasting band of wave-lengths—that is, above 650 metres—so we may assume that the authorities do not intend making any alteration in the long-wave station at Perth. The existence of that long-wave station—the only one in Australia—is rather surprising, and may have something to do with the failure of broadcasting in West Australia.

"With crystal receivers of the slider coil inductance type it will probably be necessary to rewind the coil or coils—and similarly with valve sets using fixed inductance an alteration may be necessary. With a modern efficient condenser designed to receive frequencies between 200 and 550 metres of wavelength the effect of the proposed change will be negligible.

"The best way to make sure of this is to get your dealer to test the set. If the dealer is up to date he will have a set tester or an oscillator which will enable him to generate in the oscillator a radiation of, say, 200 metres. The oscillator will act as a transmitter, and the receiver under test will pick up the 200-metres transmission if its tuning range is suitable. If not, the test will be made in 210 or 220 metres; and thus the tuning range of the receiver will be ascertained.

WHY CHANGE WAVELENGTHS?

"This question will occur to many readers, and forcefully so to those whose receivers are incapable of 'going down' to 200 metres. A little reflection will remind us that the wave-lengths as used to-day are not satisfactory. There is a crowding of the stations between 350 and 400 metres.

"The Postmaster-General's announcement refers to the Washington Confer-

ence and its decision on wavelengths. That decision apparently is guiding the authorities here in the matter. The decision was that broadcasting should be carried out on wavelengths between 200 and 600 metres, with two additional bands between 1000 and 2000 metres. The latter band was put in to meet the conditions in Europe, where there are a number of long-wave stations like Daventry in England on 1600 metres.

"The 200-600 metre band gives the set manufacturer a better chance of making efficient sets. The sets can be more compact, simpler in operation and the aerial can be smaller, as listeners know since the change to 371 metres of 81.0.

"The subject of the most suitable wavelengths for broadcasting is still one for argument, but it would be a great pity if our present conditions were to be altered in any drastic manner."

CARE OF VALVES

EXCESSIVE A BATTERY.

Present-day valves, for the most part, have so-called thoriated tungsten filaments, the action of which, even at this late date, is not fully appreciated by the average listener.

The electronic emission of the thoriated tungsten filament depends upon the presence of a layer of thorium atoms on the outer surface of the filament. It will be noted that, unlike the oxide-coated filament found in some valves, the thoriated tungsten filament is not merely thorium-coated, but it is permeated throughout its entire mass with the rare element thorium. During the normal operation of such a filament, the thorium on the outer surface is gradually evaporated, reducing the emission, rendering the valve short-lived. However, while the heat of the filament serves to evaporate the thorium particles on the surface, it is also boiling fresh thorium particles out of the mass and up to the surface. Thus the surface is being continually replenished. Just so long as the filament voltage is not increased beyond 10 per cent. above the rated value, this evaporation and replenishing process continues at an equilibrium rate, so that a constant layer of thorium is maintained on the surface.

Valves Paralyzed.

When subjected to an over-voltage on the filament, however, the evaporation becomes excessive, so that the valves accordingly become more or less paralyzed. Operating these valves at sub-normal voltages is also liable to paralyse them slowly, as the filament temperature is so low that the process of boiling out the thorium from the interior of the filament becomes abnormally retarded. Hence it is important that the thoriated tungsten filament valves be operated strictly at their rated voltage, by means of hand rheostats with an accurate voltmeter, or, better still and simpler, by means of amperites, the self-adjusting rheostats.

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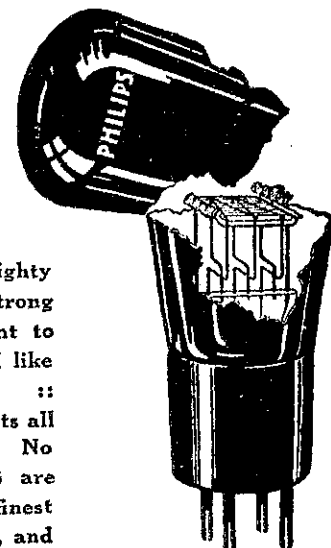
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