

THE NEW ZEALAND Radio Record

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THE WONDERS OF WIRELESS.

The advances made in the technical perfection of radio have followed so closely upon the heels of one another that the capacity for wonder has become almost satiated, and one is prepared to accept everything as it comes as inevitable and in the due order of things. From this attitude there is required some little incident to thrust the real wonder home to the mind of the immense progress being made while we carry on our daily work. Such a thought-provoking incident is revealed this week by Mr. Sellens, the well-known Wellington short-wave enthusiast, in his record of having heard, on Saturday morning, a telephonic conversation between Britain and America so clearly as to follow the sense and text of the conversation. The feat of hearing either station concerned separately is no new one, and amateurs in New Zealand have already conversed with both countries. But there is something in the incident of New Zealand, twelve thousand miles from Britain, quietly listening to the very words of converse with America, which grips the imagination. The wireless telephonic service between U.S.A. and England has been operative for some time and there is now talk of extending the direct service from the United States to European countries. The beam service for commercial purposes has proved so efficient as to imperil the old cable services, and some combination and compromise for mutual good seems the obvious outcome. So far New Zealand's volume of business has not induced beam development, but a co-ordination of the services indicated would open to us the facilities and advantages of the Australian beam station. The world is hastening on all sides towards closer associations and quicker communications. The new service may be resisted in some parts by entrenched interests and may not at first receive that welcome that it should, but there will be no gainsaying the demand for progress. All aspects of radio in their quickened service to the public demand consideration; those semi-public bodies who, as yet, are loath to open to the newcomer those facilities which the Press, the first servant of the public, at first won tardily, and now hold as a privileged right, will inevitably yield to the public desires, and through radio the public will have at command the resources of the world for the speedy transmission of thought and the acquisition of news. Television, too, is coming, and with it the wonders of wireless would seem, for the moment, to be exhausted—unless then begins the big scale transmission of electrical energy without wires? Where will the end be?

RENEW LICENSES NOW

AVOID THE APRIL RUSH

SPECIAL FACILITIES OFFERED.

It is not generally known that arising out of last year's experience, and the congestion that was created after March 31st in the renewal of licenses, the Postal Authorities have arranged that radio listeners' licenses may be renewed from now on. This enables listeners to avoid the rush and delay that otherwise would take place if all waited till the expiry of their licenses at March 31.

Already, a number of listeners are taking advantage of this service, and "getting in early" by arranging their licenses for the year 1928-29. This is a very wise procedure.

Listeners, who are taking out new licences in the period between now and March 31, can also arrange for the payment of the license for the period 1928-29. This is a definite advantage as all motorists and others who have experienced the inevitable congestion attending the renewal of period licenses, know. The Department is to be congratulated upon this business-like course, which should certainly be a material help to the public.

Dealers in their contact with listeners, can help their clients and the Postal Authorities, too, by passing on this news and recommending early attention to the matter of next year's license. Some dealers make the practice of attending to the license on behalf of their clients, and this is a course certainly to be commended. It is practised by motor car firms, as they have found from experience that it is a courtesy appreciated by their clients. Time is a valuable factor with most people, and the provision of a supply of forms on dealers' counters and if necessary, slight assistance by them in the filling in of the required details and subsequent attention on behalf of their clients to the payment of the license, is a facility that is appreciated. The absence of such attention on the part of some dealers, leads, in many cases, to neglect on the part of a listener to take out a license for some months with a large number of people, this obviously means a considerable loss of revenue to the Broadcasting Company, and a consequent restriction of their ability to give listeners service. In the general interests of radio, therefore, it is important for it to be made easy for the public to pay license fee and for the radio trade to co-operate in the collection of those fees.

ARCHITECTURE

An interesting series of lectures on architecture is being given from 2YA by Mr. Stanley W. Fearn, A.R.I.B.A., F.N.Z.I.A., M.I.S.E. Mr. Fearn was born at Woodford, Essex, England, in May, 1887, and was educated at Woodford College and Bancrofts School,



Woodford. He commenced the study of architecture in London as an articled pupil in the office of Mr. F. Lindus Forge, and emigrated to New Zealand in July, 1911, was engaged as chief assistant to Messrs. Hoggard and Prouse, and has since been practising in Wellington, with the exception of the war period. Mr. Fearn acted for two years as chairman of the Wellington branch of the New Zealand Institute of Architects, and is a member of the council of that body. He also trained Mr. A. D. Connel, the first colonial to win the Rome Scholarship in Architecture. He was recently awarded the Atkins gold medal for architectural design, the award being made by a Jury of Award appointed in London by the Royal Institute of British Architects. This is the first time this medal has been awarded. He has carried out work all over New Zealand, including (in conjunction with Mr. S. Natusch) the Wellington court at the New Zealand and South Seas Exhibition.

Listening-in on the Old World

ENGLISH-AMERICAN CONVERSATION OVERHEARD

The remarkable experience of listeners-in on a two-way telephone conversation between England and America was enjoyed by Mr. F. W. Sellens on Saturday evening last. The conversation could be reasonably followed by Mr. Sellens—as is described in the accompanying notes—and the feat must be regarded as outstanding.

Mr. Sellens in his weekly report says:—

I have received advice from Messrs. Philips, lamps that PCJJ will be testing on their old wavelength of 30.2 metres on Wednesday and Friday morning from 6.30 till 9.30 a.m., New Zealand summer-time. This will be too late for good reception this time of the year. New Zealand and Aussie amateurs on short-wave telephony are still conspicuous by their absence, except an odd one or two.

On Saturday afternoon KDKA was heard, but was very faint. During the evening RPN put on some very fine music. KDKA and 2XAF were both weak on Sunday afternoon, the former being the best, but spoilt by morse interference. 3AJ, Rangiora, was testing, and RPN was on the air in the evening. Monday morning at 7 o'clock found 3LO, Melbourne, giving their usual weekly test programme. KDKA was also heard early transmitting musical items from their studio. This station has been heard on several Monday mornings recently, so they are evidently transmitting on 26 metres early every Sunday afternoon, Eastern standard time. 2LG, Goulburn, Victoria, and RPN, were heard during the evening.

RPN was the only short-wave station heard on Tuesday evening.

On Wednesday morning I was well repaid for getting up early, receiving music from the four corners of the globe. ANE, Java, on 31.86 metres, was the best yet, both in volume, modulation, and steadiness. The programme consisted of gramophone records and talks in Dutch, also some announcement in very good English. As on a previous occasion, he read a long list of persons who had sent reports. He also said that the next transmission would be to-morrow on 15.93 metres, at 6.40 till 7.40, G.M.T.

Another station (Dutch, I think), on about 42 metres, was tuned in at fair 'phone strength, but too mushy to understand much. Once he said in English, "Here is short-wave station —," but I missed the name or call letters. He finished about 6.15 a.m.

A little later, on about 22 metres, a voice was heard saying, "I don't really know the name of that myself," in a Yankee tongue, but was too weak just then to get any more. I then discovered 5SW was on the air, saying "Good-night, 2XAD," and then something about next Friday, apparently in reference to a talk I had not heard—but I am after them on Saturday morning. After saying good-night, he says, "As we say in England—Cheerio," followed by a hearty laugh. They then went off the air. I then went back to the station on 22 metres and found it to be 2XAD at much better volume, and giving musical items, but not any reference to 5SW.

PCJJ was forgotten till 7 a.m., when they were heard, but very weak. At 7.30 Big Ben was heard on the 'speaker with 3 of audio through 5SW, followed by "London calling" and "We will continue our talks on —," but could not understand any more.

COLOSSAL BROADCAST

AUDIENCE OF THIRTY MILLIONS.

Early last month the New York "Times" announced "A quadrilateral hook-up whose four corners are to be New York, Chicago, Hollywood, Cal., and New Orleans will 'unite the entire nation in one radio studio,' at which more than 30,000,000 persons will listen in next January 4, according to M. H. Aylesworth, President of the National Broadcasting Company.

"At that time Will Rogers, acting as master of ceremonies in Hollywood, will introduce Al Jolson in New Orleans, Fred Stone in Chicago, and Paul Whiteman and his orchestra in New York. The nation-broad programme will utilise the National Broadcasting Company and the American Telephone and Telegraph Company facilities and will serve to introduce the advertising of new automobiles.

From 7.50 till 8.20 p.m. Wednesday evening I got the previously announced transmission from ANE on 15.93 metres, music and a lecture being heard at good 'phone strength, but very unsteady and hard to hold on account of body capacity due to such high frequency. This is the shortest wave station I have heard on telephony. 2AP Wairoa was heard later in the evening.

On Thursday evening 4AF Gore; 2AP Wairoa; RPN Russia, and 4NW (Queensland, testing with 2BU, Wellington, New Zealand. (Not in my call book.)

ANE was heard again on Friday morning from about 5.45 a.m., quite good, but not so loud as Wednesday. They closed down about 7 a.m., after their usual programme of music, talks and request for reports.

An announcement was made that the next transmission would be from ANH on 15.93 metres on Saturday, January 21 from 12.40 till 14.40 G.M.T.

The foreign (thought to be Dutch) station on about 42 metres was again heard, some music this time, but too weak and mushy to get their call.

PCJJ started at 6.30 a.m., but was too weak to understand any announcements. At 7.30 the carrier only was just available.

Big Ben was heard very faintly at 7.30 a.m. through 5SW, but nothing further, except very faint talk.

On Saturday morning I found 5SW and 2XAD carrying out a two-way telephony test from about 6 a.m. Only odd words could be heard at first, but by 6.15 a.m. most of the English side of the conversation could be heard and parts of the American by listening to 5SW. Tuning to 2XAD, the reverse was the case, but signals were the stronger from England i.e. quite fair 'phone. The following is a sample of the talk from the English side: "At Big Ben a microphone is inside a football and stays there all the time." "How are you getting on with PCJJ these days?" (Answer not heard.) "This circuit is as good as the Rugby circuit has ever been." "I am going to put out a call some day—CO., ABC. Ha! Ha!"

Then came something about "Wednesdays and Fridays programmes from you to us." "Can you give me any idea of the power you are using at 2XAD?" The reply was asked to be repeated, as 5SW could not get him at first, but I think he said, "7 Kilowatts." Another time he (the Englishman) was reading a report of reception from 2XAD spread over a period—"Signals strong, fading, slow and regular, modulation good, lady talking in studio, etc., etc."

The queried foreign station on 42 metres was good 'phone strength again this morning, but still too mushy to get call.

P.S.—It appears this week that it is a case of "the early bird catching the worm." The most interesting reception being in the early morning.

"The huge network is termed the greatest mechanical achievement in radio telephony. Its cost will be more than 1,000 dollars (\$200) a minute for the hour's amusement. The fees of the four artists amount to more than 25,000 dollars (\$25,000), the telephonic and mechanical facilities are costing more than 35,000 dollars (\$7,000), and the station time is estimated roughly at 7,600 dollars (\$1,520), according to the announcement. The total cost is believed to be the largest amount ever spent for a radio entertainment.

"Thirty-three stations are to be linked up for the programme which will be accomplished by special telephonic circuits using 12,000 miles of telephone wires.

"Three transcontinental circuits are to be used. One will serve the broadcasting stations, the second will transmit the contributions of the four performers to New York where they will be transmitted to the broadcasting station circuit. The third circuit will be for emergency purposes in case the weather affects the second."

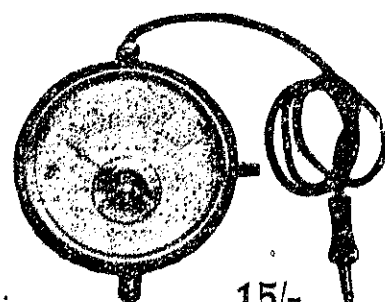
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