

# SHORT-WAVE NOTES

## A GOOD WEEK'S WORK

### WEDNESDAY MORNING THE BEST.

Mr. F. W. Sellens (Northland) writes:

There has been some more English-American two-way telephony during the week, but not so good as last reported.

On Saturday afternoon, January 21, KDKA were relaying some music from a theatre, but reception was very weak. RFN was heard during the late evening.

KDKA was weak again on Sunday afternoon. 2XAF was also weak just before closing down at 5.30 p.m., when they were just audible on the speaker. 3AU, 3AJ, 4AB, and 2AQ of New Zealand, and RFN were also heard.

On Monday morning from 7 till 9 a.m., 3LO Melbourne, on 32 metre, gave their usual weekly test programme which was excellent speaker strength and very steady. KDKA was weak at 7 a.m., but after 3LO closed down, they were quite good on the speaker. During the evening 2LG, Goulburn, Victoria, and RFN were both well received.

Tuesday—both morning and evening, static was too bad for short-wave listening. I don't think static is heard so often on the short-waves as the broadcast band, but it makes plenty of noise when it does come.

At 5.50 a.m. on Wednesday a violin solo was heard from 5SW, Chelmsford, at good 'phone strength, then, "Hullo, 2XAD, 5SW calling. You are a little bit weak and fading a little. Would you like another gramophone record?" The same record was then played again. This time volume not quite as good. Reception was quite good, except for short jerky modulation. "Hullo 2XAD. That's better now! Alright—another record." Tried 2XAD but could only get the carrier wave fairly weak. At 6.15 a.m. 5SW were giving some figures, but were getting too weak to understand what they were about.

The queried Dutch station on 42 metres was heard again, but modulation still too rough to hear call. ANE on 31.96 metres with 2 of audio was as loud as I get 2YA with crystal, and 1 of audio—some station is ANE. A xylophone item at 6.38 was very good. The station calling "Au Japanese" was also heard call "Alloa—" "Alloa—" different foreign names following each Alloa."

PCJJ started at 6.30 a.m. at weak 'phone strength, and getting weaker as time went on. A morse station spoilt reception. At 7.40 a.m. both PCJJ and 5SW were only just audible.

2XAF were tuned in at 5.59 p.m. broadcasting the St. Buffalo Symphony Orchestra. They asked for request items for next week and the week after. The programme was being broadcast through four stations—WGY, WDL, WHA, and WMHA.

In signing off at 6.40 p.m., the announcer said: "We are signing off for the four stations and wish you good night or good morning, as the case may be." All was clearly heard on the speaker.

2LG, Goulburn, and "An Japanese" were heard later on in the evening.

On Thursday evening RFN was tuned

in just after 2YA closed down, when some very fine music was heard. On their first harmonic of 30 metres, reception was also very good, but, of course, not so loud.

ANE was again on the air on Friday morning, with their usual gramophone programme and talks. Reports were asked for, to be addressed to "Officer in charge, Radio Service, Bandoeng, Java, Dutch East Indies." The next transmission, it was announced, would be on Saturday, January 28, at 12.40 till 14.40 G.M.T. on 17 metres (early on Sunday morning here).

PCJJ started their test transmission at 6.28 a.m. with the Dutch National Anthem. This, and a next item or two, was fair speaker strength, but interference by morse spoilt reception. Volume gradually decreased, and at 7.30 a.m. the carrier wave only was audible. The same applied to 5SW, Chelmsford. After 2YA closed down on Friday evening, RFN was tuned in and then RCB8, Buenos Ayres was heard talking, fair 'phone strength, but not so clear as he might be. It was only because his call was repeated several times, that I was certain who it was.

I was not up early enough on Saturday to hear much of 5SW. At 6.15 a.m. he was talking, but not strong enough to understand. There was not any sign of 2XAD.

Wednesday morning appears to be the one to get up early for something to hear.

### An Inquiry.

G. C. McDiarmid (Hamilton): Your short-wave column every week is very much appreciated. Can any of your readers tell me the identity of this station: I got a foreign station last night, January 20, on about 40 metres. Picked him up first about 10.45 p.m.; giving some speech, and then he announced very slowly, but static was so bad that I couldn't get the call sign, although he repeated the call a good many times. Sounded like 3 - - K, and I could get the word radiotelegraphs once or twice.

### Half-an-hour Later.

"Worker" (Newtown) writes: "I arrive home about five every evening and miss the afternoon sessions. A number of friends have been talking it over with me, and they all agree that the half-hour at the beginning could be easily placed at the end of the session. Half-past three, I believe, is the conventional time for paying social calls, and so afternoon tea parties would not be in any way disturbed. There may be other difficulties in the way of such an arrangement, but I feel sure that the Broadcast Company, which has always been agreeable to putting into practice any reasonable suggestion, will not entirely ignore this mild proposition."

### The Children's Session.

"V.R." (Kilburne) writes: "During tea-time, my children are always interested in their special session, and follow the stories and birthday greetings eagerly. It keeps them quiet, so I have no fault to find with the wireless accompaniment to my meal. But I may say that Auntie Dot and Uncle Jasper, with their light banter and jollity, provide for both adults and children alike. My children's open delight in Uncle Jasper's bogus attempts to repeat Auntie Dot's 'tongue twisters' and their glee when Auntie Dot becomes so cutting is great to see. I wish these two every success, and trust they will continue to carry on in the same way as they have been doing."

# GREAT RESULTS

## GOOD AERIAL MAIN SECRET

### IN FAVOURABLE LOCALITY.

Norman B. Bull (Gisborne).—I notice on many occasions reports sent in by listeners who have picked up an odd American station or so. I thought it may be of interest to readers to know of the results that are obtained by the writer in this district.

Gisborne is well suited to reception and some excellent records have been put up in this district by Mr. Ivan O'Meara on short-wave work.

On the broadcast band overseas reception is also remarkable. The writer lives seventeen miles out in the country away from all interference. The set in use is a single control 6-valve operating on an aerial 12 feet high.

On Sunday, January 1, 1928, the following American stations were picked up from 6.30 p.m. onwards, all on the loudspeaker with volume that could be heard, without exaggeration, 100 yards from the loudspeaker. KFON was heard on that evening a quarter of a mile away. CNRV Vancouver, KFON Long Beach, KFX Portland, Oregon, KGO San Francisco, WBBM Chicago, WJBB Florida, WREN Kansas, KOA Denver, Colorado, KFSD San Diego, KFJY Iowa, KFWB Los Angeles, KFI Los Angeles, KFWM Oakland, KNRC Santa Monica, WDAE Tampa, Florida, KGW Portland, Oregon, KFRC San Francisco, KHQ Spokane, Washington, WBBH Chicago, KNX Los Angeles, KDKA Pittsburgh. (Apparently on high power, for volume was tremendous).

Last evening, as an experiment, Mr. Ivan O'Meara and the writer hooked an 8-valve on the same aerial and earth. KFON was tuned in at 8 p.m. simultaneously on the two machines, using two cones, and the volume obtained was enormous. It was certainly impossible to stand alongside the speakers, and Mr. O'Meara was of the opinion that it would have been possible to clearly hear it over a mile away.

WDAE Tampa, Florida, which one of your correspondents states he heard recently, can be received here practically every evening. On the evening when he was transmitting the "Tom Cat" concert as mentioned by you, we had the same station loud enough to be heard over 100 yards from the speaker. Mr. E. R. Boucher, of Auckland, was present with Mr. O'Meara at the time. On that evening most of the above stations mentioned were picked up and they can vouch for the results obtained.

Last Monday week, with Mr. O'Meara, we tuned in WGY on high power for a quarter of an hour. Many of the stations we have written to for confirmation. Numerous others were heard at different times, all on the speaker, but we have not troubled to note them all, as they are so numerous.

This letter is written mainly to show what can be obtained on a good machine using an efficient aerial away from all interferences. The tubes used are all of the tenth ampere type with 110 volts radio freq. and 135 volts audio plate potential, using wet B batteries. It is not freak reception, for any night when atmospheric are not bad anywhere up to thirty American stations can be received on the loudspeaker with good volume.

Mr. O'Meara's name is proof of the authenticity of these statements, of the strength of the signals received and the number of stations heard.

As a matter of fact, last evening KFON, when broadcasting an organ recital, was probably 25 per cent. louder in volume than any of the New Zealand stations at 7.30 p.m. Modulation was perfect.

The most nerve-racking ordeal one can experience nowadays is when endeavouring to extract musical entertainment from 4QG, Brisbane. This great station was exceptionally popular among New Zealand listeners in by-gone months, but for several weeks past the Brisbane station has sounded like a wild-cat fight.

## Valley "B" Battery Eliminator



### MODEL 40—1 to 7 Valves

This HT Power Unit suits all Radio Receivers of 7 Valves or less. Supplies all plate current. Is equipped with Standard Raytheon BH Valve.

Apply for full details to Sole Wholesale N.Z. Distributors:

Teagle, Smith & Sons Ltd.

Dept. "R,"

270-8 WAKEFIELD STREET, WELLINGTON.

# SPORTING BROADCAST

We have received a letter from a sporting enthusiast severely blaming the Broadcasting Company for not paying a money consideration to the Wellington Racing Club for permission to broadcast its recent racing meeting. As we understand the position, the question of a money consideration was not the issue in the Club's refusal, but rather the idea that broadcasting affected the Club's business.

We have no desire to thrash this matter which is really a matter for the club itself, but we mention it only to invite consideration on the part of this correspondent of the fact that there are hundreds of racing meetings held in New Zealand throughout the year, and that payment to one would involve payment for the same privilege to all other sports bodies, football clubs, etc., so creating an impossible position, and no fund, however big, could stand the drain. This assumes, too, that the Broadcasting Company is in the position (which is not the case) to pay for the news which the newspapers receive free of charge, and indeed with every facility placed at their disposal for the collection of same. Our whole public atmosphere has been built on the principle that "news" is free, and we can see no reason why a different principle should be introduced in Broadcasting.

Consideration of these points will, we think, show that the Broadcasting Company has taken the only possible stand in offering to broadcast race and sporting results freely where permission is given by the authorities concerned. In the absence of that permission, the Broadcasting Company does not wish to obtrude into a field where it is not wanted, but it stands ready to give the public the service the public desires. By so doing it can render a service greater than any individual newspaper, and it is for the public and the people concerned to say whether that service is desired. The revenue of the Company is amply taxed in providing the distributive broadcasting service and the payment of the artist's employed.

# Our Mail Bag

## Gramophone Items Appreciated.

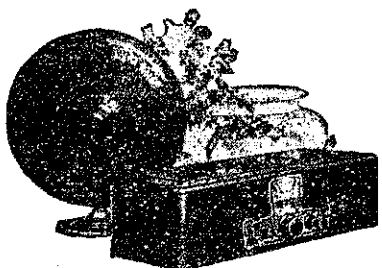
"Tiffin" (Island Bay) writes: "My family and I enjoy the afternoon gramophone sessions from 2YA more than we do most of the evening sessions. The world's best artists and orchestras, after all, are on quite a different plane from that of our own amateurish performers. Most of New Zealand's premier artists leave the country as soon as they can. Without prejudice, I might suggest that just a little more trouble might be given to the choice of the items. Popular numbers are quite all right, but when they are 'popular numbers' of the previous year they are apt to lose much of their interest. For instance, when I hear a new record—a good one—I promptly mail an order for one, but these old 'done-to-death' items prove only irksome to the listeners. I see no reason why records should not find a place in the usual concert sessions—no one can deny that they are quite as clear over the air as the ordinary studio broadcasts. Careful choice, should, however, be given to the same."

## No More Sidey Time.

W. N. McNabb (Greymouth) writes: "Radio reception in this district has been vile until 9.30 p.m., and sometimes later than that. If Mr. Sidey was here he might alter his views on daylight saving. The average farmer rises between 4.30 a.m. and 5.30 a.m. What use is radio to him? He has to go to bed early; he can't be up until 10 p.m. every night for his enjoyment. I, for one, will be glad when winter comes for the sake of radio. I certainly don't want 'Sidey time' next year, and I think many country listeners will agree with me."

## Wirth's Broadcast Appreciated.

"Molly S." (Wairarapa) writes:—"Last Saturday week my family and myself listened to the Wirths' Circus relay from 2YA, and I can safely say that a more original and entertaining performance has not been broadcast from any other station in Australasia. Up here in the country, miles from any big town, we find it hard to take the kiddies to see these rare pleasures, and now, through the medium of radio and an excellent staff at 2YA, we had the circus in our own house. It's years since I saw one myself, and, though I thoroughly enjoyed both the children's and adults' sessions, my delight was nothing to that of my children. Indeed, Auntie Dot and Uncle Jasper seem to be gifted with the admirable art of seeing life with the eyes of a child. They described the animals and the scene before them so vividly that I was brought back to the sawdust ring of many years ago, and was wandering from cage to cage viewing the animals with them. We are indeed lucky to have such entertainers at our big station."

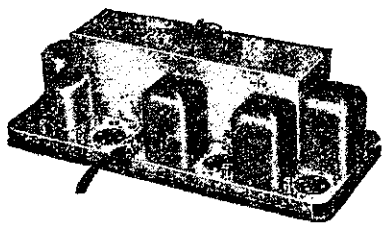


**'YOU'RE THERE**  
With a  
**"CROSLEY"**  
**BANDBOX!**

Arrange for a Free Demonstration

**L. M. SILVER & Co.**  
Ltd.

Electrical Engineers and Radio Specialists,  
30-32 TORY STREET,  
WELLINGTON.  
DISTRIBUTORS.



Shop 'Phone 22-385.

Private 'Phone 25-010.

**RADIO ENTHUSIASTS**  
THE MOST DEPENDABLE BATTERY THAT MONEY CAN BUY IS THE

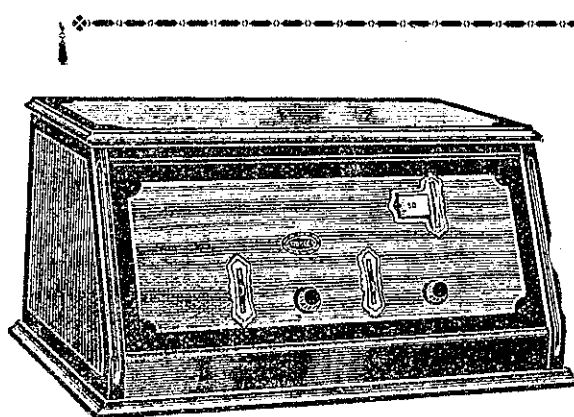
**EXIDE**

As installed at the 2YA Station, Wellington.

We have Batteries in all sizes from 9/- each.

Exide Battery users: Have your Battery charged by Exide experts. Collection and Delivery Service Daily, City and Suburbs.

**EXIDE SERVICE STATION,**  
79 KENT TERRACE, WELLINGTON.



**The Supreme**  
**6-60**  
**Crosley Receiver**

The Crosley 6-60 combines superlatively designed circuits—unique drum control, and metal shielded chassis. Many exclusive features incorporated afford latest refinements for the most complete enjoyment and entertainment. The sharpness of tuning is marvellous—the beauty of tone is delightful. You must get to know more about the wonderful 6-60. There's a Crosley Agent in most towns; if there's not one in yours, fill in the Coupon and post TO-DAY!

**Abel, Smeeton,**  
Ltd.,

AUCKLAND.  
North Island Distributors  
Crosley Radio.

Please send me a selection  
of Crosley Radio Illustrated  
Literature.

Name .....

Address .....

**PRICE**

**£38/10/-.**

Complete with Highest Grade

Accessories.

**CROSLEY**  
**RADIO**