

Our Mail Bag Continued

Country Reception.

W. H. Potter (Horahora).—One hears much adverse comment on 4YA, and perhaps a lot of it is justified. I operate a "Record" Browning-Drake four, and can generally raise 4YA on the speaker, using only three valves. Last Tuesday, between 8.45 and 9.15 p.m., 4YA band music came in at good speaker strength on three, whilst reception from 1YA and 2YA was not as good as usual. The modulation of 4YA seems cloudy or blurred, I have noticed.

3YA is my best station for purity of tone and clarity. 2YA is the loudest at night, usually, with 1YA and 3YA about equal strength, dependent upon conditions, of course. Fading in experienced with all stations, although not necessarily affecting each one at the same time—often when one station has faded out I have tuned in another at full strength. A peculiar, intermittent distortion takes place in reception from 1YA, generally during both day and night transmissions—1YA is good during daylight hours; 2YA at good 'phone strength, with occasional volume sufficient to operate the speaker. 3YA and 4YA are absolutely missing during bright daylight. My receiver is located about 300 yards from the powerhouse and transformer substation, and 50,000-volt transmission lines are quite close. The set uses a "B" eliminator, and the earth is anything but a good one (in shingle and sand), yet results seem remarkably good, considering local interference, due to power mains and screening by trees and lines.

Some of the Australian stations are frequently heard at good strength as early as 9.30 p.m. even now—2BL has been the best lately.

Daylight saving has proved a boon to the city and country day workers, and is, I think, greatly appreciated. Radio reception has been upset by daylight saving to a certain extent, and country listeners with mediocre sets do not appreciate it. Radio listeners are in the minority, and although it is agreed that radio has been adversely affected by summer time, it is a small argument against the benefits received by the thousands of business and work-people throughout the Dominion.

The Sunday afternoon programme from 1YA is greatly appreciated, and the Sunday evening transmissions from all stations is good now, and would be still further appreciated if the stations carried on until at least 10 p.m. The cutting-out of the silent day, and the commencement of day sessions 10 to 11 a.m., and 12 noon to 2 p.m., are something we are looking forward to.

Uncle Ernest Lauded.

"Appreciation" (Manawatu) writes: "I would like to write a few lines of appreciation in reference to the Sunday evening children's session from 2YA. Uncle Ernest, with his little group of singers, does much to teach my children their religion. Out in the country we have no Sunday Schools, and the kiddies are generally left to read Bibles and story books. But now, thanks to Uncle Ernest and his never-failing energy, we have a first-class Sunday School in our own home. The conductor of this session understands children perfectly. He tells the right stories, has the right hymns sung, and speaks to the young people in language they can understand. Good luck to Uncle Ernest!"

Sidey Time No Good!

E. A. Hammond (Hikurangi).—I was very interested to read the remarks on "Daylight Saving" in a recent issue of the "Radio Record," and seeing that you are asking for opinions on the question, particularly from the country people, I should be glad to let you know how we are affected by it. In the first place, I may say that I am a cow farmer in an isolated district, situated twenty-two miles by bridle track to the nearest railway station. From a cow farmer's view, to my mind, at any rate, the idea of Daylight Saving is the essence of madness, although I quite realise it must be very nice in the towns. Now, if a cow farmer works strictly to Sidey's Time, even in mid-summer, he must rise before daylight in the morning, and can a man persist in doing that sort of thing in the very longest days of the year, and still make it appear as if his mind is evenly balanced? In many cases, no doubt, the farmer is forced to observe "Sidey's Time," while there are others who are able to dodge it. I am one of the latter, but still there is a catch in it too, for, as the Broadcasting Company, of course, observes the new time, the result is that we miss the first half of the evening's programme, and which, to my mind, is the most important, all the news items. I have never yet heard the news items since Daylight Saving came into force, and it was for the news and market report, principally, that I had the 5-valve set installed, although I also thoroughly enjoy the musical programmes as well. It is hard to estimate the boon that a wireless set is to a back-block settler, and can he be blamed for wanting to have all he can get out of it. To the town people, no doubt, the farmers stand against Daylight Saving, appears selfish, but there are two sides to the question, and it means inconveniencing the principal industry of the country, for the sake of providing more time for recreation in the towns. Without Daylight Saving the towns have ample time for recreation compared with the farmers in the country, particularly the dairy farmer, whose sole amusement, in many cases, is the radio set, and now that we have to do without, or without the best part of it, at any rate. It took Mr. Sidey eighteen years to get the scheme working, if in that time he had had eighteen days on an ordinary farm in mid-summer, he would then have realised what Daylight Saving would mean to

the dairyman. However, there it is, and as long as it is law we will have to put up with it, but if Mr. Sidey would care to have a holiday next summer, I would be very pleased to accommodate him for a week or two, I would willingly observe his time for a while then.

Not Wanted Next Year.

M.C. (Feilding): I do not think the majority of country listeners will want Sidey time next year. We have a five-valve, and reception is generally good, especially Wellington. The trouble is that by the time we come in for our evening leisure the radio concert is about half over. The children's session, and news and reports, are just wasted. The children naturally miss their hour, and the men folk are fairly disgusted at getting no news and reports. We are quite satisfied with our reception of all stations, but are very dissatisfied with Sidey time. I hope the time will soon come when a Sunday afternoon session will be given from 2YA. I am sure such a session would be greatly appreciated by all country listeners.

Daylight Appreciated.

Mrs. H.E.A. (Taranaki): Personally, we really enjoy Sidey Time. From the start, everything seemed to run along just as before. We live in the country, five miles from school, post office, and telephone, and in the wet weather even have to use chains on our car to get anywhere. The Sideyised time certainly cut us off from the usual Australian concerts, and unless we specially desire it, we never hear Australia now. All the same, we very much enjoy the daylight after tea, and we have Wellington when we are inside, the point which does really annoy us is your silent day, and when we change over to the old time there are heaps and heaps of cold, wet days and nights to listen in, and we, for one household, will be glad of the lovely daylight spent outside when we had the chance.

Less Candlelight (Birkenhead, Auckland): Having worked on the land here over twenty years, with three years of listening, I can assure you the present arrangement is very satisfactory, and all here hope Sidey will live for ever, even admitting our reception of distant stations is weak at the earlier stage and Sydney quite impossible during these months. The rule here is start at day-break regardless of the clock, and we are ready for bed two hours after sunset. In previous years we closed down at 9 o'clock, now we listen till 10. Another important point: we are far near enough to the city for some of the household to work there. They were not ready for bed at 10 o'clock nor breakfast at 5; now they are, and there is much more harmony. Town friends calling at 9 p.m. when the farmer and his family were returning to rest is now a thing of the past. They don't call at ten.

Not Approved.

W. A. Davison (Awatunui): "What do country listeners think of Sidey time?" The answer depends entirely upon the occupation of the listener, or what is meant by "country listener." If he is a farmer, then the answer is emphatically "No good." He not only cuts out all Aussie stations, because of the late hour imposed by Sidey time, but he also invariably misses the news, shipping, and market reports from New Zealand stations. The farmer has an inherent desire to work whilst the sun shines, and when he returns to his home of an evening and tunes-in, he always hears, "The next artist to entertain us will be a soprano solo by So-and-so"—this item well on in the programme. If every listener-in were employed but eight hours per day then it would be a bloc vote for Mr. Sidey. Sidey time has had an influence on the sales of radio plants, as several who might have purchased have said to me that the hours are late enough now, without having further inducement to keep later hours. Since the adoption of summer-time I have only once altered the dials of my five-valve set, and that was to have the pleasure of hearing once again the Cathedral chimes of Christchurch on New Year's Eve. Auckland—or its radio name should be "1YA, Organland"—is, together with 3YA, of a fading nature, and therefore very annoying; and 4YA is practically unworkable; and therefore I have contented myself with the programmes of 2YA, Wellington, and I must offer them my heartiest thanks for the very many excellent programmes put over.

Now, may I state a very remarkable coincidence. On Tuesday, January 10 (the day of the trans-Tasman flight) I was on the air during the children's session, and Uncle Sandy was saying at 6.14: "Now, children, we must hurry on with our programme, as we might have to switch over to Trentham at any moment," etc; and whilst he was saying it there came through my loudspeaker a "Tut-tut-tut-tut-tut-tut-tut-tut-tut," and it continued for nearly a minute, without any variation in tone or volume. My wife was sitting with me alongside the receiver, and when I said "What's that?" she replied, "That's strange; we have never heard that noise before." Then I said (rather jokingly), "Perhaps it is a message from the aviators which we cannot read." This incident was very real, and no mere static noises, and has never at any other time been present on my machine, and it has caused me to wonder hundreds of times since if there were any likelihood of its being such a message. If the flyers headed for Egmont, then turned south toward Wellington, they passed somewhere along this coast, and I am situated about eight miles from the coast, on the gentle rising slopes of Mount Egmont, where if their wireless messages were very weak they could have been easily received. I thank you for your very fine paper, the "Radio Record."

TRANS-TASMAN FLIGHT

RADIO TRANSMITTER INDISPENSABLE.

Experts have agreed that the trans-Tasman flight should not be attempted without a radio transmitter being carried on the aircraft. The transmitter, they say, should be able to keep in shore, and a competent operator should accompany the aircraft.

As far back as three years ago in connection with the air mail service of the United States Post Office Department, there was designed an aircraft transmitter and receiver for use on the mail planes. The transmitter of this equipment put approximately 200 watts into a trailing wire aerial. The power for the operation of the set was obtained from storage by the engine of the plane. These batteries operated a high voltage dynamotor, which supplied high voltage direct current power for the operation of the transmitter.

The set consisted of three major units, the transmitter, receiver and control box, together with a number of auxiliaries. The equipment was designed so that it would be advantageously installed in the fuselage of the plane, and so that maximum accessibility was given to the operator. The planes which used the sets were built to carry the pilot only, and it was necessary to develop and design this equipment so that it could readily be operated by the pilot without interfering with the navigation of the plane.

FLYING ABOVE THE FOG

AEROPLANE PILOTED BY WIRELESS.

The degree to which the standard Marconi wireless apparatus used on Imperial Airways machines flying between Croydon and the Continent is relied upon is shown by the experience of Captain A. S. Wilcockson, an Imperial Airways pilot who, on Saturday, November 21, flew a Handley Page Rolls Royce aeroplane from Paris to Croydon above a fog bank which obscured the ground practically the whole of the way. In spite of the denseness of the fog Captain Wilcockson completed his journey in 2 hours 25 minutes, which is a good average time for the trip from Paris to London. When he started from Le Bourget at 8 a.m. visibility was about 1000 yds., and the weather report gave fog for over most of the route except for patches of clear weather near the French coast and at Biggin Hill. Five minutes after leaving Paris Captain Wilcockson found himself in dense fog and had to rise 2000 feet to get above it. At this height the aeroplane was flying in bright sunshine and continued to do so for the greater part of the journey. It was, however, necessary to fly entirely by compass bearing. The pilot asked for several bearings and positions from Croydon during the journey and these brought him in on a direct line to the Croydon Aerodrome. There was one break in the fog, about 10 miles from Croydon, which enabled the pilot to recognise the ground and corroborate the fact that he was on the right bearing. The fog then closed in again, and in his own words he "dropped right on to the aerodrome."

In an interview Captain Wilcockson said that this was one of the worst fogs he had ever experienced, but he had no doubt during the whole journey that he would get through in comfort as his past experience with his wireless apparatus had given him confidence that he could navigate on bearings through the fog however dense it might be. "I had no difficulty at all in keeping in communication with Croydon at any time whether I was in the fog, above it, or when coming down to the aerodrome, but it would have been impossible to have made the journey without wireless," Captain Wilcockson said. "The apparatus I was using was the ordinary A.D.6 apparatus, and not any new or special apparatus, as has been reported."

There were five passengers on the machine. They had a very happy and comfortable journey, and were quite thrilled with their novel experience.

A UNIFORM LICENCE

Many people have argued that the owner of a simple crystal set, which costs £2 or £3, should not be required to pay the same licence fee as the owner of an £80 or £90 super-het. A first glance there appears to be some logic in the argument, but apart altogether from the fallacy which is observed after a careful study of the matter, the fact remains that there are considerable difficulties in the way of arranging for differential licences. The question has been raised in every country where licence fees are collected, and it has been proved that the administrative difficulties of the people who sell the licences and collect the fees would be too great, and a common licence fee is essential. There would be no means of determining, unless at considerable expense, whether the correct licence was obtained, or whether a valve licence would be obtained when the crystal set owner changed his set to a valve set. Consequently the uniform licence is not likely to be changed.

A Canadian radio journal, finding that a great number of Frenchmen in Canada are wireless fiends, have printed half of their paper in English and the other half in French.

The Children's Corner

By "ARIEL"

"Jeff and Toby"



—S. P. Andrew, photo.

Yes, boys and girls, here are the two newest radio entertainers, "Jeff and Toby." They are linking up with the 2YA family circle. We are pleased to introduce them to you, and you, we feel sure, will be glad to meet them. Funny looking chaps, aren't they? But wait till you hear them! "Jolly" isn't the word for them: they are just bubbling over with fun—and they simply love all the kiddies of New Zealand. Uncle Jeff is a musician to his finger tips. He's a very busy man, but for many years he has been giving his spare time—and often time he couldn't spare—to doing all in his power to make boys and girls happier. Now,

thanks to the wonder of wireless, he is seizing the larger opportunity afforded by radio to help brighten the lives of the thousands of young people who listen-in to 2YA. His chum, Uncle Toby, is just as keen as Uncle Jeff. You may depend on it, he'll do his best to send you to bed in the best of good humour, for he is himself what is called a born humorist, and really believes that there's nothing so good as a jolly good laugh. You'll find him funny, and delightfully entertaining. Uncles Jeff and Toby are out to do their very best for you, and we feel sure you will all appreciate their efforts.

A GOOD GAME

This is a splendid game to play at a party. Boys and girls having long noses will score every time! Take sides, as for any other game, and arrange two rows seated on chairs opposite one another. Place on the floor standing upright, the outside covers of two safety match boxes. The boy or girl at the end of each row has to kneel down and, without touching the match-box, fix it on his nose. He, or she, then tries to fix it on the end of his next-door neighbour's nose. He, or on all down the row, without touching it with the hands, of course. If the match-box falls to the ground, the child who drops it must go down on his knee and get it fixed on his nose again at the beginning. The side who manages to get the match-box to the end of their row first wins the prize.

CHILDREN AT 2YA

Toby and Jeff, comedy entertainers, will again appear on Monday. They will have a fund of amusement for the children. Birthday greetings will be sent—there will be songs, sketches and dialogue.

Tuesday again brings Uncle Jasper's hour. During this hour, Mr. Frederic Bentley, of the "Rose Marie" Company, will delight the little ones. Great things in store for all!

On Thursday, Uncle Sandy will be with us for one joyous hour. Birthday rhymes—stories—jokes and songs.

On Friday? Why, Uncle Ernest's night! You are assured of an excellent hour. Yes, he has a merry troupe of followers to assist him. They will serenade you all.

The hour of amusement on Saturday is left in the hands of Aunts Gwen and Dot. At 6 p.m. they will lift the curtain and allow you to peep behind.

ANSWERS TO HIDDEN PROVERB.

1. A
2. Rolling
3. Stone
4. Gathers
5. No
6. Moss.

A TRICK TO TRY

Place your hands together and hold a penny between the tips of your two third fingers—those next your little fingers. Now bend your two middle fingers so that the two knuckles touch, while the other fingers and your thumbs are touching tip to tip. The trick is to part the two fingers holding the penny, so that it drops, without parting the knuckles of the two bent fingers the least little bit. This is not nearly so easy as it sounds.

What is the difference between King George and the North Star? Nineteen shillings and eleven pence three-farthings, because one is a sovereign and the other a far thing.

A certain little girl called her mother into the garden to watch her turn somersaults. "Sometimes I do somersaults, and sometimes wintersaults," she said. "What is a wintersault?" asked her mother. "A somersault backwards," was the reply.



UNCLE JASPER, OF 2YA.

—S. P. Andrew, photo.

CHILDREN'S SESSIONS AT 1YA

Monday.—Cinderella and the boys of St. Joseph's Orphanage, in choir items and solos.

Wednesday.—Uncle Tom will have a party at the studio. All the guests will give an item as well as Uncle Tom.

Thursday.—Camp fire stories from Peter Pan. The Boy Scouts' orchestra will be present and will give items.

Friday.—Nod to-night. Songs and recitations from cousins. A sketch by Cinderella and Cousin Anita, a Luna Park episode.

Saturday.—Cinderella in charge. Dialogues, songs, and recitations from cousins; answers to competition; a talk on the life of Charles Dickens by Mr. D. Faigan, M.A.

Sunday.—Children's song service conducted by Uncle Leo, assisted by scholars of the Beresford Sunday School choir.

A BIRD'S BEST

It wins my admiration,
The structure of that little work—
A bird's nest.
Mark it well, within, without,
No tool had he that wrought,
No knife to cut, no nail to fix, no glue to joint.
His little beak was all.
And yet how neatly finished!
What skilled hand, with every implement and means of art,
And twenty years' apprenticeship to boot,
Could make me such another?

S.O.S

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