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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24.

CONSERVING THE FUNDS OF LISTENERS.

In another column we publish an important article traversing at length the issues involved in the refusal of the authorities governing the Band Contest in Christchurch to permit broadcasting of the contest on the ground that they objected to giving the Broadcasting Company "something for nothing." On this point, Mr. Harris, general manager of the company, has made a public announcement as to the company's attitude to the suggestion which has now been made from a number of quarters that payment should be made for the privilege of broadcasting events of interest to the public. This attitude is apparently based upon the idea that the company is a wealthy private body, which has unlimited sums at command. That idea is wholly erroneous. The company is not engaged in the unchecked private exploitation of the public purse. On the contrary, it is a public company operating a public utility under very close and strictly observed government regulations. It is providing a public service and utility in respect of which it is accorded certain fees from those enjoying and appreciating the service. It is thus very directly a trustee for the wise administration of the sums made available to it. With its revenue it is required to operate four stations and provide suitable musical and artistic programmes thereat. Unlike certain privately-owned stations in other countries, does not secure revenue from the sale of advertising time. In the interests of listeners themselves that avenue is barred, and dependence for financial support placed upon the fees of listeners. With a sum, which, even with the recent accretion of strength, due to the greater popularity of radio, is infinitely smaller than that with which Australian stations operate but one station, the company has managed to provide a series of excellent programmes from four stations. Very little reflection will show listeners that programmes can improve only as finance improves for the payment of high-class artists. If the money required for the employment of artists who give their time and talent for the special purpose of broadcasting is to be diverted for subsidising relays of public performances, then disaster looms ahead.

Listeners must appreciate the point that it is their money that is at stake, and that the company in their interests is adopting the only policy possible for making that money go as far as it should in the service of listeners. Although the broadcasting of public events entails the provision of expensive relay lines and the employment of special operative staffs as well as maintenance of the general service, the Broadcasting Company announces itself as at all times ready to give that service free of charge where functions are of sufficient public interest. But where the function is being held for a purpose quite apart from broadcasting, and where it's being broadcast involves the authorities concerned in no extra expense whatsoever, the company lays it down that, having regard to the interest of listeners and the wise expenditure of the moneys made available by them for the provision of programmes and supplementary service, it cannot see its way to introduce the system of payment. This attitude is sound, and, will, we are satisfied, be endorsed by every listener who gives a moment's thought to the problem. With hundreds of sports meetings held annually—horse racing, athletic meets, cricket matches, football matches, tennis matches, etc.—all of public interest—and with payment to one involving payment to all, an impossible situation would be developed.

But apart from that angle, it is interesting to make a momentary comparison with the situation of the general press. Since the growth of a general public press the practice has grown up of affording all possible facilities to its representatives for collecting news and "broadcasting" the result. The press is universally operated for private profit, but it is recognised that it is serving the public by disseminating news, hence the practice of freely according it the privileges required. The revenue derived by the Press from the collective sale of the news it secures free by grace of the public, is infinitely greater than that accruing to the Broadcasting Company from its listeners for the service they desire. But no outcry is levelled against the Press, or demand made for fees from it—and rightly so, for the Press confers as great an advantage as it receives. Publicity has a cash value and, as the general manager rightly pointed out, it is not the Broadcasting Company which receives "something for nothing" but the entertainment which is broadcast—and it receives free of charge the boon of publicity. We are sure we have said enough to convince listeners that in taking up the attitude it has, the Broadcasting Company is wholly guarding their interests, and conserving their funds for the betterment of the service for which it is only right that payment should be made. Only by efficiency and economy, will the company be able to expand its service, and it should be the object of all right-thinking listeners to support the company in this policy.

It is to be noted that the Broadcasting Company does not take it on itself in the slightest to say to any organisation that it should permit its meeting or function to be broadcast. That is entirely their own affair, and their decision is final, and not the subject of complaint from the Broadcasting Company. The purpose of the general manager's explanation has been, we take it, to correct the attitude of mind revealed in the explanation given by the band authorities. It is their business to say "yes" or "no," but when reasons are given they may fitly be the subject of criticism and correction on our part.

TACKLING HOWLERS

ACTION IN VIEW

WELLINGTON AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MOVES

A special committee meeting of the Wellington Society was held on Thursday last, when among other matters the tackling of the "howler" nuisance was considered.

The Wanganui Society asked the local society to request the Band Contest Committee at Christchurch to permit the Broadcasting Company to broadcast the week's proceedings at Christchurch. As a definite refusal had been decided upon by the Bands Association, it was considered useless sending on the request, as much as the society would like the contests broadcast; further, time was too short to do any good.

The Howler.

The meeting was called to discuss two important matters: "Howling" valves and membership.

The secretary reported that the general manager had stated that the company would be glad to consider the broadcasting of approved matter, calling upon owners of one and two valve sets, and certain other forms of receiving sets, to desist from interfering with listeners who have provided suitable sets for "receiving" long-distance stations. Certain sets have their limitations, and it is unreasonable for listeners to expect to hear distant stations unless they provide the correct and non-interfering type of receiver which is necessary, without interfering with neighbours.

The society is determined to assist as far as possible to reduce this form of interference to a minimum; and asks listeners, dealers, the Broadcast Company, and the "Press" to join in the "attack" upon the incessant "howler."

The hon. secretary reported having made arrangements for short special messages to be given by an expert when the time was ripe.

Success of Maori Pageant.

The committee passed a unanimous resolution congratulating the company for the splendid Maori Pageant recently broadcast.

It was noted with pleasure that 2YA will broadcast more light orchestral music shortly, and when possible continue broadcasting until a later hour on Sunday nights.

The society considers Sunday night is a very important night for listeners, in that most set owners are able to devote the Sunday night to listening; and the committee has appealed to the Broadcasting Company to concede this point. The main trouble appears to be, says the committee, difficulty in obtaining artists on Sundays, but the society states they would prefer selected gramophone records in preference to closing down early.

A letter from the company's general manager stated that only lectures of wide general interest and other spoken matter of an entertaining nature will be broadcast after 8 p.m. As far as possible the musical programmes will not be interfered with.

More Members Wanted.

It was decided to make a big effort to enrol more listeners as members, and the hon. secretary was empowered to make certain arrangements with a view to strengthening the society, it being considered that the society has, and is still doing, good work in the interests of listeners, and broadcasting as a whole.

It was resolved that new members joining after this date on payment of their subscription (5s.) would remain financial members until the end of April, 1928; the current year closing April 30 next. In future, special instructive and entertaining evenings will be provided by the society for members.

Co-operation Planned.

The committee recorded its appreciation for the opportunity of meeting the general manager (Mr. A. R. Harris) and Mr. Bellingham (musical director) recently in Wellington, when various important matters were discussed. The society, although desirous of having the silent night eliminated, realises that to duplicate the staff in order to provide nightly transmission is hardly possible just yet, owing to the heavy expense incurred in running four stations, but hopes as the numbers of licensees grows further improvements will be possible.

The society recorded the fact that the company, through the general manager, stated that everything possible was being done to give listeners a good broadcast service.

Society Matters.

The hon. secretary asked the committee to provide an assistant hon. secretary, owing to the large amount of work which the society had to handle. The president and members said they all appreciated highly the enormous amount of voluntary work done by the hon. secretary, and it was decided that Mr. G. W. Morgan—one of the committee—should act as assistant hon. secretary. The hon. secretary's address is: Amateur Radio Society, Wellington, Box 303.

The last conference held in Wellington decided that official correspondents should be appointed by each society in New Zealand, and such correspondent would keep in touch with kindred societies. With this end in view, Mr. Morgan was appointed by the Wellington Society as official correspondent to the Wanganui and Hawke's Bay Societies.

It is requested that all other societies throughout New Zealand notify the Wellington and every society the name and address of its official correspondent. This intercommunication between societies is to facilitate the work of each society.

AUSTRALIAN PROGRAMMES

2BL, SYDNEY

The following are the programmes for 2BL, Sydney (353 metres) for February 22 to 26 inclusive:—

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22.

8 p.m., G.P.O. clock and chimes; 8.1, recital broadcast from E. P. Wilk's Concert Salon; 9.0, G.P.O. clock and chimes, the Canterbury District Band (bandmaster, Mr. Stan Nicholls) broadcast from Baker's Hall, Campsie; 9.20, Win and Winkle (English entertainers); 9.30, the Canterbury District Band; 9.50, Win and Winkle; 10.0, G.P.O. clock and chimes, Broadcasters' all sports expert will talk on general sporting; 10.15, resume of following day's programme and weather report; 10.18 Romano's Restaurant Dance Orchestra under the direction of Mr. Merv. Lyons; 11.30, G.P.O. clock and chimes; National Anthem.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23.

8 p.m., G.P.O. clock and chimes, Broadcasters' Topical Chorus; 8.3, Broadcasters' Light Orchestra under the direction of Mr. J. Knight Barnett; 8.13 Miss Amy Ostinga (contralto); 8.20, Mr. Raimund Pechotsch (violinist); 8.27, Mr. Peter Sutherland (baritone); 8.34, Mr. Michael O'Connell (elocutionist); 8.41, Mr. Stan Catlett (tenor); 8.48, Miss Mary Charlton (pianist); 8.55, Miss Dulcie Starkey (soprano); 9.2, Broadcasters' Light Orchestra; 9.12, Miss Amy Ostinga; 9.19, Mr. Raimund Pechotsch; 9.26, Mr. Peter Sutherland; 9.33, Mr. Michael O'Connell; 9.40, Mr. Stan Catlett; 9.47, Miss Mary Charlton; 9.54, Miss Dulcie Starkey; 10.0, G.P.O. clock and chimes; 10.1, Broadcasters' Light Orchestra; 10.11, resume of following day's programme, weather report and forecast by courtesy of Mr. C. J. Mares, Government Meteorologist; 10.15, the Wentworth Cafe Orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Cyril Kaye, broadcast from the ballroom of the Wentworth; during intervals between dances "Sun" news will be broadcast; 11.30, G.P.O. clock and chimes; National Anthem.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 24.

8 p.m., G.P.O. clock and chimes; 8.1, 2BL dance orchestra; 9.0, Romano's Restaurant Dance Orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Merv. Lyons; 9.10, Mr. Fred Webber (entertainer at the piano); 9.15, Romano's Restaurant Dance Orchestra; 9.25, Mr. Frank Ryan (elocutionist); 9.30, Romano's Restaurant Dance Music; 9.40, Mr. Fred. Webber; 9.45, Romano's Restaurant Dance Orchestra; 9.55, Mr. Frank Ryan; 10.0, G.P.O. clock and chimes; sporting editor of the "Sun" will talk on the prospects of Saturday's racing; 10.15, resume of following day's programme weather report and forecast by courtesy of Mr. C. J. Mares, Government Meteorologist; 10.20, Romano's Restaurant Dance Orchestra; during intervals between dances "Sun" news will be broadcast; 11.45, G.P.O. clock and chimes; National Anthem.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25.

8 p.m., G.P.O. clock and chimes; 8.1, Broadcasters' instrumental trio; 8.10, vocal recital by Mr. Clive Cary, noted English composer and singer and senior professor of Elder Conservatorium, Adelaide, of Sea Shanties, with brief dissertations on the items to be performed; 8.40 Miss Ethel Friend (contralto); 8.47, Mr. Jack Win (entertainer); 8.57, announcements and weather report; 9.0, G.P.O. clock and chimes; a description of the boxing contest broadcast from the Sydney Stadium, Rushcutters Bay; 9.45, Broadcasters' Instrumental Trio; 9.52, Miss Ethel Friend; 9.59, Mr. Jack Win; 10.0, Broadcasters' Instrumental Trio; 10.16, resume of following day's programme, weather report and forecast by courtesy of Mr. C. J. Mares, Government Meteorologist; 10.20, the Wentworth Cafe Orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Cyril Kaye, broadcast from the ballroom of the Wentworth; during intervals between dances "Sun" news will be broadcast; 11.30, G.P.O. clock and chimes; National Anthem.

(Continued Foot Next Column.)

CHILDREN OF 3YA

Next week's programmes are:— Sunday.—Children's song service, conducted by Uncle Sam, assisted by the scholars from the East Belt Methodist Sunday School.

Monday.—Uncle Jack is here again, telling stories for the boys and girls—and more about the "Water Babies" for the little ones. Aunt Edna is helping with her quaint little songs.

Wednesday.—A happy hour for the children with Uncle Peter and Mother Hubbard. And another exciting experience of "Brer Rabbit." A merry band from the Somerfield School coming along to help in songs and choruses.

Thursday.—"Peterkin" and "Pollyanna" are paying a visit to the studio to-night. So look out for merry jokes and heaps of fun and laughter. Also the Waimairi School cousins in part songs, etc.

Friday.—Big Brother's night in song and story, and a happy band of young entertainers from Shirley, under the direction of Miss K. Moore.

Saturday.—Uncle Sam and Aunt May in merry mood again. Stories and music for folks for five years old to 50 years young.

APPRECIATION

In a letter signed on behalf of "Four Families and More," a correspondent in an outlying portion of the Auckland district writes as follows:—

"Many thanks we send to you for the nice sacred pieces you sent along the last two Sunday evenings. We did enjoy them. God bless you. We do appreciate your efforts to give us such pleasure, so we thought we would let you know and thank you. There were a number in our home listening in, and all join with me in thanks. We do enjoy the beautiful music and sermons."

"I am an invalid and never able to go out, and wish to thank you for the beautiful items you all give. It has been a great pleasure to me. My wireless is beside my bed. The service on Sunday night was splendid. I listened to the Maori radio pageant. The items were very clear and I enjoyed every bit of it."

"The children's session from your station is of great appeal to me and my friends, and Christchurch is fortunate in being able to 'discover' such talent as its broadcasts indicate."

Mr. H. Macintosh, chief traffic inspector at Christchurch, is to speak from 3YA on Friday concerning motor vehicle owners' responsibility and traffic problems.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26.

10.45, special news service; 11.0, service broadcast from Chalmers Street Presbyterian Church. Afternoon session: 2 p.m., G.P.O. clock and chimes, special session for children in hospitals; 2.15, H.M.V. gramophone recital; 2.45, information service; 3.0, G.P.O. clock and chimes; close down. 3.30 organ recital broadcast from Chalmers Street Presbyterian Church; 4.30, Bible class, conducted by Mr. W. "Cairo" Bradley; 5.0, G.P.O. clock and chimes; close down. Evening session: 5.45, G.P.O. clock and chimes, children's session; 7.0, service broadcast from St. Jude's Church of England, Randwick; 8.30, Broadcasters' Instrumental Trio, under the direction of Mr. J. Knight Barnett; 8.37, Miss Norah Alexander (elocutionist); 8.49, Mr. Alfred Wilmore (baritone); 8.56, Mr. Leslie McCallum (flute solos); 9.3, Miss Ada Althouse (soprano); 9.10, Miss Dulcie Blair (violin solos); 9.17, Miss Madge Clague (contralto); 9.24, Broadcasters' Trio; 9.31, Mr. Alfred Wilmore; 9.38, Mr. Leslie McCallum; 9.45, Miss Ada Althouse (flute obbligato); 9.52, Miss Dulcie Blair; 9.59, resume of following day's programme, weather report and forecast by courtesy of Mr. C. J. Mares, Government Meteorologist; 10.3, Miss Madge Clague; 10.10, Broadcasters' Trio; 10.16, National Anthem.



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