

THE NEW ZEALAND

Radio Record

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PROGRAMMES.

In another column a miscellany of views and information is given upon the question of programmes. The one major set of facts brought out in the recent discussion has been the financial comparison available as between the Australian stations, with their individual programmes, and New Zealand with a much smaller revenue on which to maintain four stations and provide four programmes. Reasonable listeners will agree, we think, that the only sound policy for whoever is operating the broadcasting service to pursue, is to require the cost of operation to be met out of current revenue—the capital investment being limited to the provision of adequate plant to broadcast the programmes. The growth of revenue stimulated by the provision of modern stations in all four centres has now reached the point when, provided that support is maintained, the best local artists can be secured for broadcasting. This was announced as being the policy in July last and the intervening months have seen the application of the policy in the different centres. While this policy has undoubtedly satisfied a growing circle of those who appreciate good music it would seem to have still left unsatisfied a section of listeners. While it may be recognised from the outset that complaints will never be eliminated, for tastes and periods of mental growth are so widely different, the complaint of any material section is entitled to analysis and consideration. The complaint of the Auckland meeting in the final analysis was at the lack of variety in the artists rather than in the lack of merit of those artists. In a small community the provision of 260 evening concerts (apart from Sundays) in a year will be recognised as involving the reappearance of many artists before the microphone. Certainly the circle of performers should be made as wide as possible of those possessing the requisite talent and, moreover, those who do appear must be encouraged to widen their repertoire as much as possible. Even then, the same voice is bound to become too familiar to habitual listeners. On this point the suggestion is made in two quarters that those who listen regularly night by night are bound to become nauseated or to suffer from musical dyspepsia. It would, we imagine, be the same were the performers Madame Melba or Caruso. Recognising this disability, however, it should be the company's objective to continually widen the circle of competent performers—and the part of helpful listeners to encourage new performers to come forward—loath though some of them may be to face the exacting audience apparently comprised in the radio family. Any with the talent, however, may now have the consciousness that the market is available for them and so be encouraged to persevere. In this way alone radio will be serving a very useful purpose.

In connection with the complaint that the same voices are heard too frequently it must also be borne in mind that artists of the calibre chosen require a period of engagement and such contracts must be fulfilled. The suggestion made also that the fees paid artists should be made available to the public is hardly tenable as a business proposition, for reasons that are discussed in the miscellany referred to.

Readers will find a detailed analysis of a typical week's programme as given by 2YA that is published elsewhere of very great interest. It shows that there has not been an undue preponderance in time given to classical music. It is a fact that individual pieces of such music run to length as compared with music in other fields just as it takes rather more words to develop a religious theme than a pointed opinion but, in totality, on the facts given there does not seem to have been an undue preponderance and, as correspondence shows, the appreciation for this class of music is of growing volume. On the basis of the time-table published our readers are welcome to the hospitality of our columns to say of what we have too much and of what we have too little. How can the time allocations be bettered?

COMPLIMENTARY DINNER

RADIO PRESIDENT FAREWELLED.

On the occasion of his departure for a twelve months' trip abroad, Mr. J. H. Owen, the popular president of the Wellington Radio Society, will on Wednesday evening be given a complimentary dinner by the members of the executive of the society, representatives of the trade, and the Broadcasting Company. Mr. Owen has been a most enthusiastic and capable president, and has done a vast amount of work in the

cause of radio. In his tour abroad he will be specially interested in radio services, and his impressions will undoubtedly be of value on his return.

CONGRATULATIONS

"Quite the best thing we have had from 2YA in this line for a long time" was the enthusiastic comment over the telephone by a group of interested listeners in respect of the item 2BAD, given by Mr. Walpole and party on Friday evening last. The dialogue work was outstandingly good, and the humour bright and clever to a degree. Congratulations to Mr. Walpole.

Brilliant Orchestra Arranged for 2YA

LEADING WELLINGTON TALENT UNDER BATON OF MR. GEORGE ELLWOOD

It is now announced that a studio orchestra of the best talent in Wellington will soon be performing at 2YA.

For months past a trio, consisting of three great artists whose superiors have not been heard in New Zealand, has been providing music for listeners, and the engagement of a full orchestra can be said to mark very auspiciously the new radio year, which commenced with the renewal of licenses on March 31.

The proposed orchestra will be a brilliant combination as it will consist of the leading instrumentalists in Wellington. Players who have had great experience and who are at the top of the tree in the musical profession have been engaged. The leader will be Miss Ava Symons, one of New Zealand's most brilliant violinists, and the conductor will be Mr. George Ellwood, who has had considerable experience in orchestral work in Belgium where he led some of the finest orchestras.

The personnel of the orchestra, which will commence at 2YA on May 1, will be announced later.

SPORTING

NEXT WEEK'S BROADCASTS

RACING—TROTTING—BOXING.

Saturday, April 7: Auckland Racing Club's Easter meeting at Ellerslie, 1YA; Metropolitan Trotting Club's meeting at Addington, 3YA.

Monday, April 9: Auckland Racing Club's meeting at Ellerslie, 1YA; Canterbury Jockey Club's Easter meeting at Riccarton, 3YA.

Tuesday, April 10: Canterbury Jockey Club's meeting at Riccarton, 3YA.

Wednesday, April 11: Metropolitan Trotting Club's meeting at Addington, 3YA.

Saturday, April 14: Boxing contest, Griffiths v. Gillespie, at Drill Hall, Dunedin, 4YA.

(By courtesy of the respective committees).

AUCKLAND RACES

PERMISSION TO BROADCAST

The Auckland Jockey Club's Easter meeting on April 7 and April 9 will be broadcast, permission to give a running description having been granted by the club to the Broadcasting Company.

COMING WEEK'S REVIEW

(By "Audio.")

For the week commencing April 7 there will be plenty of sporting broadcasts to satisfy the most fervent fan.

Commencing with Easter Saturday, a description of the Auckland Racing Club's Easter meeting by station 1YA. This meeting is one of the features of the A.R.C.'s calendar, and the racing is always of a particularly attractive nature. The principal event on the programme is the Easter Handicap, of one mile, in which a very fine field has been entered. Present indications point to the winner and runner-up in the Thompson Handicap—Joy King and Bright Glow—as being particularly hard to dispose of. Other interesting events on the programme are the Brighton Hurdles, the Great Northern St. Leger, in which Sattap will probably be a runner, and in whom northern sportsmen will see a vastly improved horse from the Great Northern Derby. There is also the Great Northern Oaks, for three-year-old fillies, and the Great Northern Champagne Stakes, in which a much improved two-year-old, Episode, will this time meet the best of his age in the dispute for two-year-old supremacy. Episode will encounter most opposition from Raasay and Prince Humphrey.

Trotting.

For those who prefer the sport of trotting, on the same day station 3YA will broadcast a description of the Metropolitan Trotting Club's meeting from the course at Addington. This programme is sure to be very attractive, as the fields are very large, and contain representative horses from all parts of the Dominion, prominent visitors nominated being Padlock, Nelson Fame, Jewel Pointer, and Peterwah; in addition all the best of the local horses have been accorded a nomination, and so there is every reason to believe that the club will number another successful meeting to its already large number.

On Easter Monday the Auckland meeting will conclude, and the Canterbury Jockey Club will commence their Easter meeting at Riccarton, where the chief race of the day, the Easter Handicap, of seven furlongs, has drawn a high-class field of acceptors. On the same day the Champagne Stakes, for two-year-olds, will be run, together with an attractive programme of minor events.

The only attraction on Tuesday will be the description of the second, and final, day of the C.J.C. meeting, when the chief attraction is the Autumn Handicap, of one mile and a half. The Challenge Stakes, weight-for-age, will also be invested with more than usual interest, owing to the presence of that great horse, Reremoana, whose success in races of this character has

CO-OPERATION IN RADIO

COMPANY AND LISTENERS

FORMATION OF SERVICE COMMITTEES.

Some months ago a plan was formulated to the general manager, Mr. A. R. Harris, in respect to the relations between the public and the Broadcasting Company, and the first step was taken in Christchurch. This took the form of a conference, with the various religious bodies and the subsequent setting up of a committee, which now controls all matters relating to the broadcasting of religious services. This committee is working admirably, and the time has been deemed opportune for the further unfolding of the company's full policy in regard to public relations. A public statement by the general manager, as published in the last issue of the "Radio Record," has outlined the whole policy of the company in regard to co-operation between the company and listeners in respect to programmes and reception. The next step of the company has been the conference with the religious bodies in Auckland and the setting up of a committee there.

Following that, a similar conference of representatives of musical societies is to be held in Auckland for the purpose of forming a musical and dramatic committee. The opportunity thus offered to all music organisations for co-operating with the Broadcasting Company in the fostering of their aims will no doubt be keenly availed of. Radio must inevitably become the most direct, popular, and efficient means of providing public entertainment. Public entertainment must be built up on good music and drama.

In Auckland invitations to a conference have been sent to the following societies:—Auckland Lyceum Club, Bohemian Orchestra, Royal Auckland Choir, Glee Club, Repertory Society, Choral Society, Aeolian Orchestra, Gramophone Society, Society of Musicians, Savage Club, Orphans' Club, Amateur Operative Society, Athenian Club, Philistines' Club, Madame Irene Ainsley's Operatic Society.

This policy of forming various committees will have the effect of interlocking the operations of the Broadcasting Company with the aims of local organisations.

been one of the features of the racing season.

Wednesday, the concluding day of the M.T.C. meeting at Addington, will provide an end to the racing and trotting activities for the week, and again a great day's sport is certain.

Boxing.

The many sporting activities will conclude on Saturday night, when station 4YA will broadcast a ringside description of the featherweight contest between Gillespie, the champion of Australia, and Griffiths (of Dunedin). Boxing enthusiasts are being well catered for from Dunedin this winter, as in addition to this contest, arrangements are in hand to broadcast a description of the bouts between Gillespie and Leckie (the New Zealand champion) on the following Saturday, and further bouts between Leckie and Griffiths and Australia's best. At present there is a regular Australian invasion in boxing circles, and all the best Australian lighter weights are at present in the Dominion in search of contests. The chief reason of this is the remarkable performances of Johnny Leckie, of Dunedin. Leckie has already beaten two of the invaders, Melton, at Wellington, and Green, at Napier, and before these lines appear in print will have met Harley, of Melbourne. There is no doubt that Leckie is one of the greatest products of the New Zealand ring, and listeners will appreciate the opportunity of hearing accounts of these bouts from the ringside. There is not likely to be one dull moment while Leckie is in the ring, and we feel sure that, in the hands of a very capable announcer at Dunedin, these fixtures will lose none of their thrill over the air.

For those who have not tried to hear 4YA lately, it might be as well to mention that this station is now being heard at good strength throughout the Dominion, and one recent report from the Somerset stated that 4YA had been heard when 2800 miles off the New Zealand coast.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

THE AUCKLAND MEETING.

In the "Auckland Pictorial News" appears the following summary of comments upon the recent meeting of listeners. The original writer gives it the heading "Much ADO About Nothing." We have not space to reproduce all of the comment, but the major points made are treated in detail to reach the conclusion indicated in the title:—

People of every conceivable taste hold licenses, and to please one hundred per cent. of these is a sheer impossibility. What does the average man in the street know about copyrights and their ever-growing entanglements? What does he know of the jealousies, pettinesses and fermentations of a crowd of musicians? What does he know of the worries of emergency supply? What does he know of the endless patience needed to get the right people to lend assistance? It is not an easy matter to keep twenty different programmes going every week for fifty-two weeks in the year. Our country is comparatively small, and on account of its distance from populous centres we have a strictly limited number of capable performers in various branches of entertainment.

My firm belief is that some listeners try to digest too many programmes, and as a result suffer from a form of musical dyspepsia. It would be better to limit their programmes to three evenings a week, which is not ruinously dear at a penny a day.

The extension of hours is of questionable benefit, especially on Sundays. Whilst by no means a Puritan, I think that our Sunday should be very jealously preserved, because it would be a sorry day for New Zealand if Sunday were to become the ghastly affair it is on the Continent and in certain parts of America. In these places it is, for some, simply one more day in which to pursue the will of the wisp of pleasure that the most determined pursuers assuredly never catch, and for others a seventh working day.

Television Really Asked For.

The complaint that programmes lack variety is accounted for by the fact that in an isolated small country like New Zealand it is not possible to provide electric thrills and startling surprises and novelties for six nights in the week. The demand for plays, whilst quite a cheerful suggestion in itself, is not an easy one to satisfy. Acting for stage presentations which are seen by every member of the audience, and acting to an audience which witnesses neither characters nor action, are two radically different things.

Any prominent member of the Little Theatre Society will freely admit that the medium of broadcasting for actors is about as difficult as it is possible to conceive. A new technique is immediately called for. Nothing short of an absolutely revolutionary advance in the science of television will place wireless in the unique position of being able to portray vaudeville acts, circuses, spectacular pageants and moving pictures. This would bring in its train a new breed of wireless "croakers" demanding an extra dimension maybe.

More Tailors From Tooley Street.

The charge that the Broadcasting Company lacks good intention hardly holds water in the light of its latest policy announcement, and when the present standard of programmes is contrasted with what was offered twelve or eighteen months ago, such contention falls to the ground.

The crowning sin of all seems to be that the company does not publish a balance-sheet and pool a portion of the Auckland license fees to be administered by the more or less expert committee of amateurs who would select all the artists. The Hon. Nosworthy, M.P., is the best man to see about the first proposal, while the second idea is not lacking in audacity. No other single public or private service could take the suggestion seriously. The carrying into effect of any such impracticable scheme would result in chaos. The chronic nuisance in broadcasting is the "howler." The "howler," like the poor, being always with us, must be endured, but should not be permitted to let us forget the many-sided and solid benefits of present-day broadcasting in New Zealand.

Three hundred listeners attended this meeting, and presumably prior engagements claimed the attention of the remaining 14,000.