

On Short-wave

SPLENDID RECEPTIONS

DIFFICULTY OF SECURING DATA

Mr. F. W. Sellens, Northland, writes: Reception since last writing has been very good on the short wave from most stations heard, but on several evenings static was too bad for listening.

Saturday, April 7.

2XAD came in at splendid volume and modulation. As is usual on Saturday afternoon the Palmolive people were responsible for the musical programme, the station closing down at 8.30 p.m. (our time). As an experiment, I took the speaker to the telephone and rang up 2YA, where it was heard strongly and clearly enough, so they said, to re-broadcast after being amplified.

3AR, a Canterbury amateur, was heard testing at good strength.

JOAK was on the air again on about 56.5 metres this time; the short-wave call sign was not heard.

6AG, Perth, announced that he is testing on most evenings after 11 p.m., West Australian time, but sometimes from 6 p.m. or 6.30 p.m. till 7 p.m.

RFM put on some very good music.

Sunday, April 8.

3AL and 3AR, both of Ashburton, were testing early in the afternoon. When 2XAF was first tuned-in, organ music was being relayed, and later on dance music from Albany, New York, was enjoyed. They signed off at 11.58 p.m., E.S.T. Reception was very good speaker strength.

Monday, April 9

On tuning-in for 3LO's regular Monday morning transmission at 5.55 a.m. it was announced that 3ME, the Amalgamated Wireless Company's experimental station, was testing. The test sounded like driving nails; that was all that could be heard. At 6 a.m. they "changed over" to 3LO, who put on a good gramophone programme lasting till just after 8 a.m. Reception was excellent, but fading was bad at times.

Just prior to 3LO starting, 2NM—call not heard, but on his wave-length was transmitting some sacred music; afterwards he was apparently re-broadcasting 3LO, Melbourne, as on tuning from one to the other the same items were on, but the English station got very weak as time went on.

At 2 p.m. I tuned-in 2XAD, who were then relaying the "Atwater Kent Radio Hour." Two songs, "Little Boy Blue" and "Love's Old Sweet Song," followed by the Atwater Kent Orchestra were the concluding items of the "hour." After asking for comment on the programme and giving the names of the artists for next Sunday's "hour," it was announced that the programme would be continued from New York. A sacred drama was heard from here, representing the Crucifixion and afterwards the Resurrection. The title of next week's play is "The Feast of Belshazzar." The station closed down at 11.47 p.m., E.S.T.

Tuesday, April 10.

RFM in the evening had a lot of talk, as usual.

2HM, New South Wales, came in very strongly, talking to 4NW, Queensland.

Wednesday, April 11.

Just before 5 a.m. on about 47 metres "Achtung! Achtung —" was heard, followed by a few words, and then nothing else but noise.

PCJJ was at its best; reception was quite good, speaker volume.

5SW started with Big Ben, followed by a talk by Mr. — Robertson. They were not so loud as of late. During the evening static was too bad for listening.

Thursday, April 12.

5SW started with their station announcement: "This is 5SW, of the British Broadcasting Corporation, Chelmsford, England. You will now hear the clock from London." After Big Ben struck 7 p.m., Lord — spoke under the auspices of the League of Nations of Canada. Musical items followed, and later on a football talk was given with advice about practice, etc. At 7.15 a.m. the wireless orchestra commenced the evening's musical programme.

About 10.45 p.m. on about 67.5 metres a station which I took to be RFM was heard. The voice was similar to the regular speaker, but as the wave-length was different than usual, and I did not hear the call, I could not be certain. Static was too bad to listen more than a few moments.

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RADIO HOUSE,

165 Victoria St., HAMILTON.

Friday, April 13.

PCJJ was again very good; they carried on till 6.35 a.m., when the Dutch National Anthem concluded the programme.

When first tuning in 5SW when they were testing with 2XAD, a musical item was on the air from the latter station, and heard quite well from 5SW. As 5SW and PCJJ were both transmitting at the same time, I compared the volume, and found that the Dutch station was at least three times as strong as 5SW. The modulation of both was very good.

The regular test from Chelmsford commenced at 6.30 a.m. with the clock, followed by a talk on "Music and Theatre." Musical items were heard later.

Hard to Get Reliable Data.

The following taken from the latest issue—April, 1928—of "Radio News" (U.S.A.), shows how hard it is to secure information in reference to short-wave stations:—

"Radio stations in many parts of the world are now broadcasting on short-wave lengths (i.e., below 200 metres), but because most of their transmissions are still only of experimental nature, 'Radio News' has found it difficult to obtain, even from the stations themselves, accurate information about their operating frequencies, hours of broadcasting, etc.

"Readers owning short-wave sets are therefore requested to report to 'Radio News' any strange short-wave broadcast (not code) stations they may hear, giving the wave-lengths as closely as they can guess the figures from the dial settings, by comparing the latter with the settings for such consistent transmitters as KDKA, WGY, and WLW. These reports can be written conveniently on the backs of postcards.

"'Radio News' will publish the data it receives for the benefit of the many people who have built short-wave receivers and wish to be informed about everything they can expect to hear with them."

1YA PROGRAMMES

TWO POINTS OF VIEW.

The following letters forwarded to the headquarters of the Broadcasting Company illustrate two points of view:

The first letter says: "I must express my intense disgust at this afternoon's programme. Is it not enough to have the main portion of Sunday evening's programme taken up with religious services, without giving us a Sunday school service in the afternoon as well? I look forward to the leisure of Sunday afternoon to listen to the usually excellent selection of gramophone items. One has the pleasure of not hearing jazz and other non-musical vulgarities, even if one has to put up with so-called sacred music, some of it too sloppy to be worth hearing. Why should we be bombarded with sermons from uncultured speakers, who murder English, and who are altogether too tedious, nasal, and ignorant to be borne?"

"And now, after being told with boring repetition that we must renew our licenses so as to assist the company in putting on better programmes, you send us all to Sunday school—a place from which all sensible people escape as soon as they grow enough mind to act on their own responsibility. May I ask you rather an impertinent question? Would you, were you not engaged in working for the Broadcasting Company, elect to spend your Sunday afternoon in a Sunday school? Could anyone force you to? On the other hand, you may like Sunday school, but thousands do not."

"If this Sunday afternoon discipline is of your doing, it is on a par with the so-called literary excerpts you punish us with during the week. I know there are some people who like that mountebank Chesterton, and even adore (strange as it seems) that pious fraud Dr. Frank Crane, but a little variety could be supplied to please those who don't. When one considers the wide field of English literature, it is amazing that you should confine your readings to the garbage corner. Why not have a 'Hornet's Penny Story' now and then? Hundreds of women (and men) adore them—wallow in them, and you must try and please all those who pay their thirty shillings."

"My three children simply won't take the trouble to listen to the bedtime stories—they took a sample or two and said it was 'all rot,' telling lies about sweets in the radio cabinet, etc. I am just giving you the candid opinion of normal children (not yet in their 'teens'). It may be the opinion of other children, if one only knew. I suppose it is because they have never been to Sunday school that they can't stand sloppy rubbish and palpable lies. It is not much use parents trying to inculcate the habit of truth-telling in their children if 1YA does its best to make lying attractive."

Another Angle.

T.W.: "This is not a complaint, but an expression of appreciation of the general standard you have attained to in 1YA programmes. As the average listener does not bear in mind that all tastes have a right in claiming to be catered for, then the general satisfaction to-day is high praise."

"I am in a position to touch the pulse of the public, and there is general satisfaction. Occasionally a night is struck when we think the programme rather rotten—well, that must be the other fellow's night!"

"One of the most marked recent improvements you have made is in the reproduction of disc records. The result could not be clearer if the orchestras were playing in the local studio. For instance, 'Liebestraum' put on first item on Saturday afternoon a fortnight ago was wonderful. Records give you world range for your programmes, and now you are in the position to present the illusion of having the world's best orchestras and bands at 1YA."

SHAKESPEARE NIGHT



From 3YA on Monday, April 23, in connection with Shakespeare night, Professor J. Shelley, of Canterbury College, will deliver a paper on "The Plays of Shakespeare."

PHOTOS BY RADIO

A SUCCESSFUL TEST

The first practical test of the Cooley "Ray-foto" apparatus, a system of broadcasting photographs by radio, was made on a recent morning between 8 and 9.30 o'clock over Station WOR, Kearney, New Jersey, U.S.A., on 242 metres. One of the official observers, who intercepted the photographs on a Cooley receiver in Queen's Village, said that from his viewpoint the first test was to be considered a success.

Austin G. Cooley, inventor of the device, personally gave instructions to the observers over WOR's microphone. Fifteen pictures in all were transmitted, taking about two and one-half minutes each.

"Three methods were used in the first test," said the observer. "The first, or acoustic, where the output of a speaker connected to the 'converter' was placed before the microphone of the station; the direct method, where the transmitter was connected by wires to the converter which was worked direct from either a positive or negative film of the picture; and the phonograph method, where the picture or message was reproduced direct from that record."

Mr. Cooley issued a statement saying that the demonstration was a preliminary test.

"These," he said, "are necessary technical tests prior to the official public test, the date of which is to be announced. So far our results have been entirely satisfactory."

On a previous afternoon a picture of Mayor Walker, of New York, was transmitted from the WEAF station at Bellmore, L. I., to receivers in the WEAF studio at 711 Fifth Avenue, New York, and the home of Dr. A. N. Goldsmith at 450 West End Avenue, New York, by means of photo-radio apparatus invented by Dr. E. F. W. Alexanderson of the General Electric Company. The Cooley tests, similar to the Alexanderson tests, utilised standard radio receivers in conjunction with special facsimile transmitting and receiving apparatus in the picture broadcasts.

WHEN you are out of solder, small joints can often be soldered by using ordinary tinfoil with the usual fluxes. Care should be taken, however, to get enough foil melted down to complete the job, as owing to its lack of thickness there usually is very little metal present.

N. Z. RADIO LISTENERS GUIDE-1928-9

FOR LISTENERS AND PROSPECTIVE LISTENERS.

The need for a handy and reliable Guide for Listeners and prospective listeners has been apparent to us for some time, and the writers and experts associated with the "Radio Record" set out to compile a work specially to meet the needs of New Zealand listeners.

The co-operation of the trade was sought in making the information to be given as full and reliable as possible. This has been willingly given, and as a result we predict the work on publication will prove of outstanding value to both listeners and prospective listeners in giving them guidance in the selection and care of sets and batteries, and all other information necessary to successful and enjoyable reception.

A very wide range of information will be covered in the work, the aim having been to produce an outstanding volume.

Important Sections Will Be :

Introductory and General.

Principles of wireless, selection of receivers, operation of sets, care of batteries, valves, etc.

Servicing of Sets.

This section is particularly designed to help the amateur listener, more especially the man distant from aid. It is the work of a thoroughly competent radio expert—a member of the Institute of Radio Engineers—and in itself will be well worth the price of the book.

Short Wave Section.

A special section is devoted to short wave reception, with a special list compiled by Mr. F. W. Sellens, of short wave stations heard in New Zealand, and their hours of transmission so far as they are known.

Glossary of Wireless Terms.

This is another feature of the work that will be particularly useful and popular. A great deal of trouble has been taken to see that this list is at once complete, accurate, and prepared in a popular style. The result is a very exhaustive and useful compilation—far the best we have seen in any work.

Constructional Section.

This section represents a complete range of activity for the constructor, from the humble crystal to the extensive range of the four-valve or the great mystery and attractiveness of a short wave receiver. Every point given is backed by experience, and the fullest reliability can be placed upon all details in letterpress and diagrams.

Other Main Features Will Be :

- (1) Stations and their wavelengths available in New Zealand—comprising Australia, New Zealand, America and Canada, and in the East.
- (2) Very complete and valuable tables of valves and their uses, covering all principal known valves on the New Zealand market. Of outstanding value, not only to constructors, but to all set owners.
- (3) Special illustrations of wireless equipment.
- (4) Popular articles on Fading, Howling valves, and all aspects of Radio up to the most recent developments.
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THE N.Z.

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