

On Short Wave

A BIG NEW STATION

50,000 WATTS FROM
AMERICA

Mr. F. W. Sellen (Northland) writes:—I have not been able to devote as much time as usual during the past week to the short-waves.

Saturday, April 14.

The afternoon concert from Schenectady usually heard from 2AD was put on by 2XAF. The programme was again supplied by the Palmolive Company. Reception was very good, especially toward the closing time.

In the morning, I tried for 5SW, but apparently they were not on the air at the same time as usual. RFM was heard for a short time late in the evening. At 11.35 p.m. 2XG gave us some of his usual "Write down Long-fellow," etc.

2YG, Sydney, was testing, and was received at good volume and modulation; he was relaying 2BL for a time. 5LH, 5DX, 7CW, and 3KR, Australian and Tasmanian amateurs, were heard on telephony.

PCJJ was very weak when they commenced their early Sunday morning transmission, but no doubt increased in volume later on.

Sunday, April 15.

Dance music relayed from Albany, New York, was heard from 2XAF till 4.31 p.m.

Monday, April 16.

2NM was just audible before 6 a.m. transmitting some organ music. After this, the carrier only could be heard. 5LO were very good from 6 a.m., but fading was bad. RFM had plenty to say in the evening, but not any music while I was listening.

Tuesday, April 17.

5SW started at 6.30 a.m. with a talk after Big Ben had struck.

Wednesday, April 18.

PCJJ was very good, both in volume and modulation. Just before 6 a.m., a few names were called, listeners who had sent reports from various parts of the world, my name being in the list.

Big Ben was heard at 6.30 a.m., followed by "5SW calling, on 24 metres"; then "Davenport calling." A talk was then given on "Pigeon Raising or Pigeon Racing." Musical items followed. 7CW was heard during the evening. This Tasmanian amateur comes in very strong.

Thursday, April 19.

5SW started their transmission with a talk as usual after Big Ben struck. 5DX, or, as he announces 5DonX, was the only one heard on the short time while I was listening during the evening.

Friday, April 20.

5SW and 2XAD were testing, giving reports of reception, discussing programmes, etc.

PCJJ was again very good till they closed down at 6.35 a.m. with their National Anthem.

5SW started again at 6.30 a.m. RFM was received very weak during the evening.

In the March issue of "Modern Wireless," just received, are particulars of a new, powerful short-wave station of 50,000 watts. The call is 3XN.

This station, which is owned by the Bell Telephone Laboratories, New York, only operates once a week; this will be from 4.30 p.m. till 8.30 p.m. New Zealand time, on Saturdays. The wavelength is not announced.

When this short-waver gets going, it should be easy enough to pick up here. P.S.—I saw Mr. Harris during the

week, and he thinks a line to my home will be a good idea, so he is going to have it put in for a short period at first to try out, but, in my opinion, these short-wave rebroadcasts, which at present are experimental, will be a part of our regular programmes in the near future.

I can see in this new station—3XN, mentioned in my notes—a means of filling in a gap somewhere between 4.30 and 8.30 p.m., which is usually the best time for reception from New York.

Another Enthusiast.

S. Saunders (Wellington).—Further results on short-wave band.—April 11, 1928: PCJJ, 32.2, came in at good strength; 5SW also at good phone strength. Talk on "Girl Guides" and usual concert. 4PJ, Brisbane, put over some good records; also 2RV, Sydney, both very plain. At 9.30 p.m. got a station putting over a play, people laughing, band pieces, "Valencia," and Sailor's Hornpipe. Could not get call sign.

On April 13, 1928, PCJJ and 5SW both came in well.

April 14, 1928: WGY, 2XAF, usual programme, Wurlitzer Organ items and singing. Announcer spoke about North Atlantic flight; got amateurs of RB and TNW, Hobart.

April 15, 1928: 3AR and 3AL, Ashburton, Station 2MB (2FC), 2BL, WGY, 2XAF, National Broadcasting Company, Wurlitzer Organ and Dan Mammel's Orchestra at De Wetzler's Hotel, New York, very clear. People in hotel heard talking and laughing, good programme; signed off 4.35, New Zealand S.E.T., 12.44. Got station at 7.10 p.m. on about 60 metres; man mentioned people of New Zealand. Also at 10.0 p.m., got station on 65 metres, orchestra with lot of flutes, and a man sang. Could not get call signs, too weak.

On Monday morning, April 16, 1928, 2LO, Melbourne, came in good strength. The latter part of the programme was spoilt by persistent howling. April 17, 1928, 6.30 till 8.30 a.m., got station on 17 metres (about). Talk on "Negro Race," orchestra jazz music, two ladies sang Charles Dickens's sketch, "Lady Reciting." Xylophone solo, Wurlitzer organ going strong when I shut down; could not get call sign.

On April 18, 1928, got WGY again, put over fine programme. P. A. Ralph's Orchestra played items, also Wurlitzer Organ, organist Gordon Baldwin. After 12.0 p.m., New York time, switched over to Buffalo Theatre, Symphony Orchestra, operatic items, and also dance orchestra (Nat. Holmes's); altogether a very enjoyable programme. Closed down 1.1 a.m. S.E.T., 5.30 New Zealand time.

On April 19, 1928, 5SW was on the air. April 20, 1928, PCJJ, Holland, came through at good strength. 5SW was also on the air that morning. The Chelmsford Station has not been coming over too good this last morning or two, a bit on the weak side. Perhaps some of your readers could identify those stations I got and could not get call signs for.

P.S.—I might mention that I got 3LO, Melbourne, on a Crosley Pup one-valve last night at 11.0 p.m. I put that down to my good earth system. It came through fair phone strength, about R4.

Successful Reception.

J. A. Huxtable (Mount Eden, Auckland).—Often when reading your paper in the short-wave columns I find much to interest me, as from time to time some eager registers another short-wave station, and through the reports being published in the "Radio Record" with detail particulars, I have been successful in logging RFM, ANE, and PCJJ. Now it is up to me to add my experiences. About six weeks ago, Sunday, at 4 p.m., New Zealand time, I cleaned up a series of messages being sent out from the Westinghouse Manufacturing Company's station, Ontario, Canada, to the isolated people in Labrador. The following Sunday I searched, but failed to locate it again, but was successful in getting WGY, and on the last three Sundays this New York General Electric Company's station; I have received just as clear as I get IYA on crystal reception. A fortnight ago I kept a pencil and paper and dotted down each item as Mr. Barnes announced; since, I have posted the programme to WGY for confirming.

Last Sunday I heard the entire dance music programme relayed from the Rainbow Dance Room, Hotel Van Kel, Albany, New York. "Where we dance by candle light" (so said the announcer). Anyone knowing the

whereabouts of — Hill, a motor mechanic, whose motor has just died, notify WGY, New York.

To-day it took me quite an hour to clean up the reception. The announcer gave the station call as 2XAF, relaying dance music from the Crystal Dance Room, De — Hotel, Albany, New York.

Items: "One More Night," "Mary Ann." The dancers sang the chorus.

My request: "Leave My Baby Alone."

"There is always a way to remember, But I can't find a way to forget The man that helped the band."

By request: "Whispering," "My Buddy."

Signed off at 4.33 p.m., New Zealand time.

This company, I think, controls four more stations. Their wave-length is 31.4 metres.

Announcing is of no importance to this station, for while jazz music is being played often the announcer hurriedly makes the announcement, and I could not get the name of the hotel. The drummer always seemed to be prominent just at the critical moment.

WMAK, WGY, 2XAF, are three of their calls. If any reader knows anything of the method adopted by the General Electric Company of New York's stations I should be pleased to hear, as I am inquisitive.

Our Mail Bag

(Continued from Page 13.)

would not go so far as to say that they have reached perfection as regards the programmes. As for "Satisfied's" little joke about the oxiophone, a thing which exists only in his, evidently, rather limited imagination, I think it was rather crude and even a little vulgar coming from one who has such refined tastes.

Hoping that "Satisfied" will now be sporting enough to sign his own name to any reply he should think necessary to make to this.

Artists Wanted.

Robert Radford (Johnsonville): In a recent issue of the "New Zealand Radio Record," April 6, 1928, page 5, in the top left-hand corner, I noticed an article headed, "Artists Wanted," and the leading phrase ending as follows, "Where are the new performers?" Would you grant me a small space in your "Record" by saying that the Broadcasting Companies of New Zealand ask for new performers in the hope that they will not come forward.

There are good singers in the Wellington district who have had years of first-class training and who have entered their names in the "book" and have been told they will be called upon, but that is months ago, and they are still waiting, and they will have to keep on waiting, for the simple reason that the broadcasting stations have got their own concert parties, and the said parties mean to stick to the radio—just glance through the weekly programme. So before amateurs can become perfect in the art of broadcasting they ought to be given a chance, and then perhaps they will receive the encouragement mentioned in your article.

Doug's Queries Answered.

Listener: In last week's issue of the "Radio Record" I noticed a few queries from "Doug." Perhaps the following may be of some assistance to him. In cases where he has quoted figures, such as 20—60, I take it the 20 is on the left-hand dial, and 60 on regeneration condenser.

Whistle on 96 is evidently 7ZL, Hobart.

Whistle on 20 is probably 3DB, Melbourne, on 255 metres.

Whistle on 30 is probably 2UW, Sydney.

Whistle on 64 is evidently 2GB, Sydney on 310 metres.

He heard whistles on 20 and 30 at 1.30 a.m. That would be midnight in Australia. I have heard stations like 3DB and 2UW working until well after midnight.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS

B.C.H. (Wellington): "Before closing I should like to say how very much my Hubby and I enjoy 2YA sessions. We get a great deal of fun and information from them, and fully appreciate all the radio people do for our amusement and entertainment. We have been intensely amused at the criticism you all get from time to time, but we are happy to note that it doesn't disturb our serenity. You evidently understand human nature. I believe it was Lady Astor who once said, 'If some people were given the best seat in Heaven they would complain there was a draught.' Personally, I should imagine it would be very, very difficult to estimate the amount of good radio does and can do, both now and in the future. It should prove a great blessing."

A.D.A. (Brisbane): "And now I have to give you the palm for having the best concert, or whatever you like to call your effort. I thought that our little bit of mud would be able to give the best turn-out seeing that we have more to choose from, but I must say you beat us."

4YA NOTES

(Continued from Page 7.)

be a splendid concert. The artists will be Miss Winnie McPeck (contralto), Miss Madge Yates (soprano), Mr. Charles Edwards, Mr. R. B. MacDonald and Mr. E. G. Bond.

An interesting address on "French Literature" will be given at 7.30 on Saturday by Dr. G. E. Thompson.

For Thursday even a comedy programme has been arranged, when good

DX WORLD'S CHAMPION

HAS HEARD 746 STATIONS

Mr. G. B. Van Buren, of 125 Ronada Avenue, Piedmont, U.S.A., has logged 746 broadcast stations, and he is now recognised as the world's champion broadcast listener.

Mr. Van Buren writes:—"John buys a radio set and he wants distance. It makes little difference about tone quality or volume. What he demands is the satisfaction of listening to the announcer on a distant station's programme. Tom demands a set with the avowed understanding that he is no DX hound (long-distance listener). He wants quality on locals; even usually he becomes an ardent worshipper of that great god DX, whose most devoted slave he will have the honour of being. This has resulted in a demand for the high-class receivers which we have on the market to-day—a radio that gives distance, tone quality, volume and selectivity."

Radio brings so much entertainment, education, amusement and enjoyment into the home, the camp, the speeding auto and train and everywhere man goes, it does not seem possible that anyone should be without a radio. Not only has radio brought us all of these things, but it is keeping the public posted on civic and international affairs throughout the world every hour.

Receives Many Inquiries.

I have been the recipient of hundreds of telephone calls and a mass of mail from all parts of the country—some from our foreign cousins as far west as Hawaii, all of whom requested me to tell more about my DX reception and further details about the equipment I utilize.

The fact that I have become the accepted world's DX champion is due, in large part, to the fact I am a crank on antenna systems. I am satisfied only with the best aerial and the best ground obtainable. Too many fans overlook this great importance. The proper grounding of the radio set is so important that you cannot afford to overlook it; in fact, it is more indispensable than the aerial.

Perfect Earth Necessary.

"If you wish to get results from your radio receiver you must have a perfect radio receiver you must have a PERFECT ground. Outside of the radio receiver itself, the ground is the most important, yet it is sadly neglected by countless fans. Local as well as distant reception depends upon an efficient pick-up system. The power that reaches the aerial from the broadcasting stations is so small that a little resistance prevents the station from coming in on the loudspeaker."

"The water-pipe ground, the gas-pipe and the steam-pipe, are merely hitching posts for electrical devices such as the electric light and telephone. The gas-pipe should never be used. Pipe grounds are known to run many feet before coming to earth contact, and they therefore do not make a true earth contact. Pipe grounds will average a resistance of from 1000 to 3000 ohms and even higher. Even when a ground clamp is attached at a distance above the ground, the intervening length of the pipe acts as a resistor. The steam radiator and its connecting pipes are not grounds for radio receivers by virtue of the fact that rubber gaskets are used to prevent the escape of steam. A good ground must have a positive earth contact, and be of low resistance. The grounds which I have just mentioned are of extremely high resistance."

Poor Earths.

"Interred Ford radiators, wash-boilers, dead B batteries, and other metals, are resistances, detrimental to good reception. They should not be used—they cause a loss of radio frequency currents, and these RF currents are very small at their best. What we do get we wish to conserve in every way possible and avoid losses, therefore getting away from resistance prevents loss. In other words, you MUST have a ground of the least possible resistance, making a true earth contact, and the lead-in being as short as possible."

"For a ground connection I am using what is known as the permanent radio ground. This is a chemical ground, and it gets me away from the out-of-date pipe grounds which are, as I have said, no more than hitching-posts for telephones, electric lights, and other electrical contrivances. This most marvellous invention was developed by C. H. Preston after many years of experience, and he has devoted his life work to lines of communication in a period of over twenty-five years of

humour, not necessarily Scottish, will be broadcast. Miss Roma Buss, Miss Billie Lorraine, Mr. Billy Gav, Mr. Percy James, Mr. Jack McNeil, Mr. J. McCaw, the Two Blue Ducks and Pastor W. D. More will contribute.

An excellent concert programme is scheduled for Friday evening at 4YA. A number of old favourites are to be sung—"The Admiral's Broom," "The Diver," "Linden Lea," "Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep," "Mountains of Mourne," "The Harp that Once," and others. Dunedin's fine artists contributing will be Mr. Bert Rawlinson, Miss Flora Williamson, Mr. Neil Black, Mrs. D. Carty, while flute and piano selections will be played by Mr. Charles E. Gibbons and by Miss Alice Wilson respectively. Savoy dance music will follow the studio concert.

The week-end concert will be up to the usual standard of 4YA's best. Miss Molly Vickers, Miss Agnes Guy, who will sing mezzo-soprano and soprano solos, Mr. Arthur Lanley (baritone), Miss Eva Judd (violin), Miss Muriel Caddy (piano) and Mr. P. J. Palmer (cello) are contributing.

wireless, railroad, and commercial telegraphy. This ground has been installed very recently on station KNX, and other installations are to be made very soon on KFWB, and a broadcasting station, which is soon to be under construction in Oakland. I think I have dwelt enough on the subject of grounds, and I hope this information will prove of value to all of you, as it has been my good fortune at one time to experience and personally wage a fight against counterpoise, even going so far as to mention the history of this "artificial ground," where and how it has been used in commercial radio work. Therefore I am greatly interested in a ground which gives true earth contact, which was sadly needed.

Describes His Earth.

"I shall give a brief outline of this earth. The earth is a copper cylinder containing eight different chemicals, which, when buried in the earth, permeate the adjacent ground, making positive contact and rendering high conductivity. That the chemicals contained within the instrument cause a spongy mass of copper growth within and without the container and collecting its own moisture, clearing up the radio frequency waves and thus permitting a clean, clear signal to be intercepted, is due to the chemical formula which neutralises the action of the sulphate upon the copper container, and rather than eat away the copper, as is the natural tendency of blue vitriol, it preserves the copper in its original state, which is, indeed, an accomplishment. This ground increases its efficiency with age."

The Aerial System.

"Now comes my aerial system. A dirty, rusty and corroded antenna, improperly insulated and erected, is a feature which should not be overlooked. The resistance in the aerial is a factor which must also be very low. To get down to low resistance, experts have developed a new wire, which may be used in single strand or in a cage-type aerial. This copper wire embodies a silver plate surface, as silver itself is the best known conductor to radio frequency signals. A gold-plated surface over the silver prevents corrosion, as it was found that silver-plated wire, when exposed to certain weather conditions, corroded, thus reducing the loss of signal strength. The name of the new wire, Gossico, was coined by using the first syllable of the name of each of the metals employed—gold, silver, copper."

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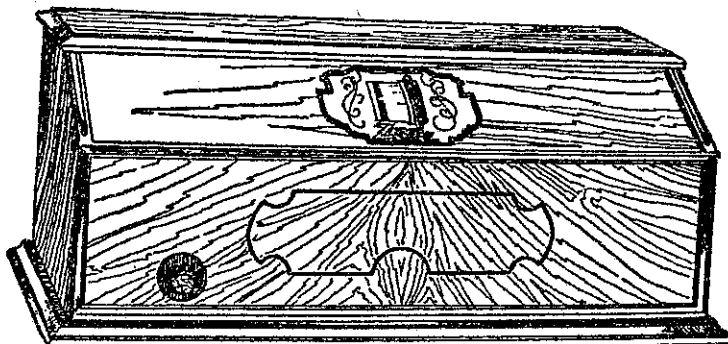
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