

Auckland Leaders in Music Endorse Company's Committee Scheme

Comprehensive Committee Appointed by Enthusiastic Meeting

A comprehensive meeting of representatives of musical and dramatic committees was held at IYA Auckland on Friday last to discuss the formation of an advisory committee. Present: Madame Irene Ainsley (Ainsley Operatic Society), Messrs. T. Garland (Auckland Savage Club), G. T. Lee (Aeolian Orchestra), N. R. McRobie (Royal Auckland Choir), V. Trask (Athenian Club), Karl Atkinson (Auckland Gramophone Society), J. D. Crawford (Auckland Orphans' Club), C. B. Plummer (Auckland Choral Society), L. E. Lambert (Bohemian Orchestra), J. F. Montague (Auckland Comedy Players), Dr. Kenneth Phillips (Society of Musicians), A. R. Harris (general manager, Radio Broadcasting Co. N.Z.), W. J. Bellingham (Director of Music, Radio Broadcasting Co. N.Z.), S. J. Hayden (Station Director at IYA). On the motion of Mr. Plummer, seconded by Mr. Montague, Mr. Karl Atkinson was unanimously elected to the chair.

The Company's Policy.

Mr. A. R. Harris, general manager of the Broadcasting Company, in outlining the proposals to form a musical and dramatic committee said the company was guided in this matter by the fact that certain activities of the Broadcasting Company were closely allied with the aims and objects of other public organisations. In the circumstances the directors felt that some kind of public relationship between these organisations and the Broadcasting Company would be of particular interest to the societies and of national benefit to the public at large. A workable arrangement, however, was not a simple matter. The company did not wish those present to think that it wanted free advice as to how to run its business. As a matter of fact it employed a competent staff of experts for this work, and had also retained the services of overseas authorities for consultation on any important matters. These experts also kept the company posted on any new ideas developing elsewhere. He knew that those present had for many years given a great amount of their time to maintaining and developing interest in musical and dramatic art. He assumed therefore, representatives were interested to learn what effect broadcasting would have on their past efforts or future endeavours. As this applied to other organisations of a definite type, the difficulty was to provide a medium for discussion satisfactory to all parties. The General Advisory Board idea introduced in other countries was more political than practical.

He was of opinion that this was due to diversity of interests. These interests could not all be represented on such a board, and in any case were so opposed to one another that little if any benefit resulted as far as the actual service was concerned. On the other hand certain work of the Broadcasting Company touched upon activities already being undertaken in the more customary way by well defined public organisations. These could be classified into definite types, all organised for specific objects of an ideal nature. The company had therefore decided that committees consisting of allied societies were the only satisfactory method of obtaining worth while results. Such an arrangement would be fundamental and on the lines of the company's policy in respect to the other phases of its programme. In arranging programme sessions psychological, as well as other factors had been considered and there was a logical reason for a certain type of programme at a certain hour, whether that session was afternoon, children's, news and information, or entertainment. For instance, news and information session has been fixed at 7.8 p.m., because adults in general after a day's work are more susceptible at that particular time of the day to broadcasts of a newsy or instructional character. The same condition of affairs applied to the 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. session, which had been fixed for entertainment entirely. Types of programme are also organised fundamentally. It was apparent that with the varying types of individuals that make up a broadcast audience it was impossible to cater for all or even the majority of tastes at one time. The company had, therefore, decided on the plan of endeavouring to cater for a definite section of listeners at a definite time, and another section on the following evening and so forth, in the hope of satisfying the majority at one time or another. As far as possible programmes are arranged so as to present a different type of programme each night in the week. These had been classified as classical, opera and heavy, band and light ballads, popular, vaudeville, and sacred nights. Under this arrangement the company had distinct and definite programmes. This system opened the way for the co-operation of committees of allied interests. Church service committees consisting of representatives of the more prominent denominations, children's session committees, consisting of representatives of Children's Welfare Leagues were functioning to the benefit of all parties and listeners generally. The representatives present were then invited to discuss the formation of a IYA Auckland Musical and

Dramatic Committee, on the lines of the constitution submitted.

Musical Director's Remarks.

Mr. W. J. Bellingham said that the committee representing as it did the leading organisations of their kind in the city, would naturally be interested in stimulating the higher forms of music and art from an aesthetic point of view. They would recognise at the same time that the majority of listeners wanted entertainment of the lighter variety. This demand would be met by the company, and was being provided for by the company's experts in collaboration with other authorities. At the present time it was receiving every possible consideration. Nevertheless it was being discovered through the world that with the development of broadcasting a demand was arising for better forms of entertainment. This was due to the fact that in large doses, lighter forms of entertainment became satiating. It was recognised that in some countries broadcasting had to a great extent been prostituted by jazz. A prominent judge recently said: "There is no worse form of monopoly in America than the present monopoly of the air by jazz music." Several years ago American plebiscites gave approximately 80 per cent. votes to jazz, whilst a recent vote showed only 5 per cent. in favour. It would be the concern of the committee to watch the development of broadcasting and co-operate with the Broadcasting Company, to foster the aims and objects for which their societies existed. The Radio Broadcasting Company proposed to place certain hours at the disposal of the various societies. The committee would be in a position officially to represent the responsible musical and dramatic organisations and their considered opinions would carry more weight than the private opinions of individual members. They would thus be able to assist to preserve a balance between pure vaudeville on the one hand and their ideals of art on the other.

Good Music First.

The chairman, Mr. Karl Atkinson remarked that so far as he was concerned the interests of good music were always placed first and he regarded with favour any scheme which would further such interests. Although broadcasting was a new field or comparatively so, he felt that the science had an immense power to bring before the public and assist in the appreciation of the higher and other forms of music, and a committee as proposed, would undoubtedly reflect to the advantage of the societies concerned.

Dr. Kenneth Phillips, who recently returned from Europe, was fully in accord with the proposal. He was of opinion that the local programmes compared more than favourably with those from Australia and were also on a par with those broadcast in England, bearing in mind the relative resources of talent available. He had listened to programmes with interest and thought that the majority of tastes were well catered for. However he had one or two suggestions to make which he felt would make for further improvement. Up to the present he had noted no orchestra renditions of the better class of work. Many of the symphonies of Beethoven and Mozart lent themselves peculiarly to orchestral performance, particularly such compositions as Mozart's Symphony in G Minor, Figaro, and the overture to Don Giovanni. The average person could be delighted with such works which were by no means too heavy and could be easily appreciated. English music of the present day composers should form a distinct part of the work. Nevertheless the Spanish, Russian and French school should not be forgotten since it was only by the study of all nationals that a wide outlook in music could be obtained. Dr. Phillips regretted that German Lieder was so seldom heard as this comprised some of the most beautiful vocal music. Another matter was the question of musical lectures. These could well be included in the programmes on the lines of those at present appearing on the programmes in England. These lectures could be given by recognised authorities and might with advantage be illustrated with excerpts from the composer's works. However, he felt that it would not be advisable to prolong such lectures beyond forty-five minutes as the interest of the average listener had to be maintained. The societies should not regard the rendering of assistance on these lines from a restricted viewpoint, but should be prepared to assist the furtherance of musical appreciation through the medium of radio broadcasting as well as by means of their own organisations. The remarks and lectures from examiners visiting the city should prove a valuable adjunct and comment from these gentlemen on the ability of candidates offering for examination would be invaluable to those concerned.

Value of Orchestras.

Mr. C. B. Plummer agreed with Dr. Phillips's remarks concerning orchestras and considered that orchestral accompaniments to vocal operatic rendi-

tions by quartets and double quartets should be aimed at.

Mr. Bellingham pointed out that the company had already completed arrangements with the leading performers of Wellington to form an orchestra for IYA. However, whilst appreciating Mr. Plummer's suggestion regarding accompaniments for operas, the difficulty was to secure orchestral parts for this class of work. It would be necessary for manuscript orchestrations to be made and some of these were already in hand.

Mr. L. E. Lambert said that an orchestra on the lines of that arranged at Wellington was a distinct advance, and although the IYA orchestra would at the outset comprise ten performers this would be quite sufficient to faithfully interpret the class of music referred to. This was amply borne out by the small orchestras at present recording for the gramophone companies. He thought the societies were indebted to the company for the opportunity offered in the contemplated forming of such a committee.

Messrs. J. D. Crawford and T. T. Garland considered the arrangement and presentation of studio programmes by their respective clubs would be a welcome adjunct.

Mr. J. F. Montague mentioned the interest that would accrue to the dramatic societies and thought that the rendering of short plays and sketches would add variety.

Madame Irene Ainsley also touched on the operatic aspect of the matter.

Committee Formed.

The chairman, Mr. Karl Atkinson, said that from the suggestions already heard the proposed committee would obviously be of immense benefit to listeners the societies and the company.

The following motion was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously:—

"That this conference approve of the Radio Broadcasting Company's proposals for the formation of a IYA musical and dramatic committee for the purpose of stimulating interest in musical and dramatic arts and that those present form themselves into a committee."

The proposed constitution was then discussed in detail and carried by the committee, and it was decided that the first committee meeting be held on Friday, May 4. The general manager, Mr. A. R. Harris, thanked the delegates for their presence, and a vote of thanks to the chairman concluded a very enthusiastic meeting.

Notes from Auckland

AFTER the summer of excitement created by the public meeting convened by the local Listeners' League, wireless enthusiasts in Auckland have settled down in a generally satisfied frame of mind to enjoy the nightly programmes from IYA and from other stations further afield, but with little better to offer. Though the Auckland listener does a growl occasionally, either verbally or in the columns of the local dailies, his is not the frame of mind that is disgruntled, and he has been quick to renew his license. Radio will not wane here. It has too firm a hold upon public taste, and the number of converts to its ranks is increasing daily.

THE first of the public relations committees, the one which advises regarding the broadcasting of church services, has got to work in earnest. It has made a thoroughly satisfying allotment of the times available to religious bodies, and adherents of various denominations will now know exactly when the tenets of their own faith will be on the air. By this work alone the committee has well justified its creation.

PROBABLY the best series of lectures ever arranged for IYA is that upon the story of our own country, so ably delivered by Mr. A. B. Chappell. The subject matter of the lectures must have occasioned much research, and their interesting presentation has held the attention of thousands, who previously knew far too little of the fascinating story of their own land. The lectures should be preserved in print.

THE least appreciated of all the good things broadcast from Auckland seemed to be the regular item by the studio trio, which, for a beginning, often owed the uninitiated by its correctly given title. The craze for jazz is very strong in the light-hearted northern city, and there were many whose musical knowledge did not extend beyond these realms of syncopation. They expected the trio to come down to this level, and when it did not do so they complained. Now, however, the painstaking efforts of the three instrumentalists are having their effect. Listeners are being educated to the beauties of classical music, with the result that vituperation is giving place to appreciation, and a appreciation of a steady growth. The trio is winning its way to a popularity that, according to the man in the street, formerly it could never attain.

THE weekly operatic excerpts are always enjoyable, and they too are improving each time. Listeners probably fail to realise the amount of work and enthusiasm required to produce such broadcasts weekly. They owe a debt of gratitude to Madame Ainsley for her untiring efforts in this field of their entertainment.

OF course the "star turn" from IYA is the relaying of the Municipal Band, and there are few sets not in use when the band is on the air. It has an appeal to all, and those who have explored thoroughly the broadcasts from all other stations which can be regularly picked up in New Zealand, are unanimous that they hear nothing else in the way of brass and reeds to equal it. Auckland is justly proud of its own civic band.

MOST impressive was the relay of the dedication service last Sunday night, when the "Toc H" ritual was excellently handled. No listener could fail to be impressed by the dignity and the solemnity of the occasion, so ably conveyed from church to the seclusion of the home.

DURING the coming week Aucklanders will be able to enjoy two Shakespearean nights, and to make comparisons. On Monday night, when the local station is silent, there will be a rush to tune in IYA, while on the following evening, the lucky possessors of valve sets will be able to sit back and say "There, I told you so. Our programmes are quite as good as the Wellington ones."

RUSSIAN STATIONS

SCHEDULE OF OPERATION

ADVICE TO MR. WATERS.

When a new powerful Russian short-wave broadcasting station came on the air last June, says the "Manawatu Standard," there was considerable speculation and discussion as to its identity, but when Mr. W. A. Waters, with the aid of Mr. M. Zoloff, of Bunnythorpe, ascertained that it was RFN, Khabarovsk, the statement was disputed by several Press radio writers in New Zealand. Subsequently, Mr. Waters received a post-card from the station in response to a cable sent, which proved the accuracy of the information previously published in the "Standard," and a letter has now been received which gives some interesting information on the broadcasting activities of Russia, or the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) as Russia is now called. The letter reads as follows:—

Dear Sir,—We thank you very much for your cable and letter of October 31 with a newspaper cutting. In answer to your cable we have sent you a card. Our station is regularly transmitting from 10-IX (September). Before this time we have transmitted tests on several wave-lengths from Yuny (June). For the tests we have used the call letters RFN, and from September our call letters are RFM. We see that you at New Zealand have no indications about the broadcasting in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. On this day in the U.S.S.R. we have about 60 broadcasting stations in operation and about 10 to be erected. The most powerful stations are: Four in Moscow 40, 25, 12 and 4 KLW; in Leningrad, Petersburg, 16 KLW; Kharkov 15 and 4 KLW; Bakou 25 KLW; the rest of stations are 4 and 1.2 KLW. All these stations have the wave-length 450-1700 M. (metres). (KLW is Kilowatts.) Of short-wave regular broadcasting stations in operation we have only ours at Khabarovsk and some number of stations on phone for testing. Our town Khabarovsk is the capital of Far East Province of the U.S.S.R. and the destination of our broadcasting is to cover the whole of our large province from Baikal Lake till Behring Strait, between Asia and America. It is a surface 4000 KLW in radius. (1 Kilometer is 1/2 mile approximately). At this time we have had reports about receiving our station on the loudspeaker from Canada, California, New Zealand, Australia, Bruxelles and the whole territory of U.S.S.R. The largest distance is New Zealand, 11,000 KLW (6840 miles). From February 10 we have begun to transmit on 70.1 M. and would be very glad to have some reports about reception, also extracts or whole numbers of your newspapers or journals, wherein anything is written about this matter. I beg your pardon for my bad English, writing and expressions. With best wishes, Bergman, Chief of Post and Telegraph Administration of F.R. Province, U.S.S.R.

In addition to the letter, a post-card was enclosed, giving the new times of regular transmission, which will be of interest to radio amateurs as the station can be heard on the loudspeaker every night in New Zealand. The times given in the post-card are Greenwich mean time, but have been corrected to New Zealand time by Mr. Waters as follows:—

REGULAR TRANSMISSION.

Monday	9.30 p.m. N.Z. time
Tuesday	9.30 p.m. "
Wednesday	Silent day. "
Thursday	8.30 p.m. "
Friday	9.30 p.m. "
Saturday	9.30 p.m. "
Sunday	2.30 p.m. and 8.30 p.m. "

The regular wave-length after tests were completed in September was 60.2

metres, but from February 10 it was changed to 70.1 metres, at which wave-length it now operates. Khabarovsk is practically on the same longitude as Adelaide, so that the time in Khabarovsk is about 2 hours behind New Zealand on the same day. The exact time zone used by Khabarovsk is not known in Palmerston North, as in all the announcements Khabarovsk refers to Moscow times as a reference point for the Russian listeners.

CONFERENCE BY RADIO

A GREAT SUCCESS

We were recently told by cable of the successful holding of a joint conference simultaneously in New York and London on the part of the American and British Institutes of Electrical Engineers.

The following from an American journal gives a fuller account of the proceedings:—

With the Atlantic Ocean between them, the American and British Institutes of Electrical Engineers have just held a joint session in which radio telephone bridged the gap as completely as if the meetings had been in the same room.

For the first time in history, a presiding officer on a London platform introduced a speaker in New York, and both audiences, physically separated by more than 3000 miles, heard the entire proceedings simultaneously.

So successful was the demonstration that the New York engineers probably heard more of what went on in London than did the British group. Through the microphone there were audible the whispered conversations which passed between officers of the British institute while the speaking was in progress. So accurate and rapid was the transmission that the New York group became aware of the applause in London for one of the American speeches even before those in the lecturer's presence here began to clap their hands at the conclusion of his talk.

The arrangement to "suppress the Atlantic" was made by the British Post Office and the American Telephone and Telegraph Company. The demonstration formed one of the features of the mid-winter convention of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers in the engineering auditorium here and the session of the British group on the Victoria embankment in London.

A resolution, citing the significance of the "new international assembly" of the engineering groups, was introduced

in New York by Brigadier-General John J. Carty, vice-president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company. It was seconded almost immediately in London by Sir Oliver Lodge. It was passed by acclamation in both sections of the meeting.

"This meeting," the resolution read, "wishes to express its feelings of deep satisfaction that, by the electrical transmission of the spoken word, these two national societies have been brought together in this new form of international assembly, which should prove a powerful agency in the increase of good-will and understanding among the nations."

Bancroft Gherardi, president of the American Institute; Dr. Frank B. Jewett, president of the Bell Telephone Laboratories; Colonel Purves, head of the British Post Office; and Sir Oliver Lodge were among the engineers who spoke to the two gatherings.

Archibald Page, president of the British Institute of Engineers, presided.

NOVEL BROADCAST

SOUNDS OF NERVES.

A United States Associated Press message from Des Moines, dated March 15, stated: "Two University of Iowa professors, after three years of experimentation have announced a plan to broadcast the sound of nerve currents of the human body. The men are Dr. Lee E. Travis, assistant professor in psychology, and Theodore Hunter, technician in speech pathology. They will broadcast from the station WHUI, the University station, on the night of April 15."

The minute sound made by the current that carries nerve reactions from muscles and organs of the body to the brain or vice versa, has been measured by the scientists. The amplifier used in broadcasting will magnify the sound 8,000,000 times.

The apparatus used in experiments consist of two electrodes which are fastened to the subject, an amplifier, an oscillograph which records the action of the nerve currents and a motion picture camera which makes a permanent record of the experiment."

Printed and published for the New Zealand Radio Publishing Company, at the registered office, Dominion Avenue, Wellington, of the Wellington Publishing Company, by Archibald Sandoe, of 47 Freyberg Street, Lyall Bay, FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 1928.