

# THE NEW ZEALAND Radio Record

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"The N.Z. Radio Record,"

P.O. Box 1032.

Dominion Buildings, Mercer Street, Wellington.

FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 1928.

## QUALITY AND VARIETY IN PROGRAMMES.

We would particularly draw the attention of readers to a pronouncement on the vexed question of quality versus variety in programmes, which has been made by an experienced programme organiser in the United States, Mr. Robert Hurd, of KFI. This is reproduced in toto on page 5, and contains points which are particularly applicable to the Dominion. From this statement it is plain that the United States in spite of its greater resources in talent and population, has experienced the same complaint from listeners as regards lack of variety in programmes as have been experienced in this country. The broadcasting stations have been faced with the problem of giving variety in the personnel of performers, and thus necessarily sacrificing quality, or maintaining quality of performance at the risk of incurring charges of monotony and lack of variety. The observations of Mr. Hurd are so applicable to our circumstances that we need do little more than direct attention to them. As a musical director his definite choice falls in favour of maintaining quality in performer. A comparison that he makes with the daily newspaper and the moving picture is quite pertinent and interesting. One daily paper, he points out, is much the same as another, and the vast percentage of its news to-day is written by the same pens that supplied it yesterday. In the moving picture halls the same stars are featured to-day as dominated the scene recently. Quality in personnel is maintained, and variety secured by a widened appeal. The lesson to our mind is wholly in favour of the finished performer being encouraged to widen his or her repertoire to the fullest possible extent. This is not to be taken as withholding opportunity from aspiring performers—but these aspirants must, in our opinion, in justice to the listener, be required to measure up to the standard desired before being broadcast. Variety of performer in itself has no virtue.

The measures being taken to secure variety in regard to the new professional orchestra for 2YA seem likely to give practical satisfaction. It is hoped they will do so. As to the quality of this orchestra there can be no question. It is in essence an all-star cast, and takes rank as the premier combination in the Dominion. Small in numbers—ten performers—it is, however, fully capable of rendering finished interpretations, and with the scope being given for public selection of items, it would seem that a considerable degree of satisfaction should result. In essence the public is to be given the task of pleasing itself.

## CHRISTCHURCH JUBILEE

## LOST AND FOUND

Diamond Jubilee celebrations will take place in Christchurch May 23-29. Many forms of entertainment have been arranged, and several of them will be broadcast by 3YA.

3YA recently broadcast a description of a child that had strayed away from home. Some time later the mother rang up and thanked 3YA for having been the means of securing the return of the little one.

## 2YA's New Orchestra

### PUBLIC TO CHOOSE ITEMS

#### OUTLINE OF PROCEDURE

As explained in our front page article descriptive of 2YA's new professional orchestra, it has been arranged that the public shall have the opportunity of expressing its wishes and choosing certain items to be broadcast by the orchestra. The choice is to be a double-barrelled one, and is to apply to each of the four evenings a week that the orchestra will be on the air.

Places will be left in the programme each evening for two items to be selected by the public. One is to be a perfectly free choice from the whole range of music in harmony with the calibre of the programme arranged for that evening, and the other is to be a request for a "repeat" of the most popular item given by the orchestra or any member thereof—i.e., any instrumental item—on the corresponding evening of the preceding week. This is necessary in order to maintain the character of the evening's programme.

The nature of the programmes to be broadcast each evening are as follow:—

Monday .....	Classical
Tuesday .....	Operatic
Friday .....	Popular
Saturday .....	Vaudeville

Nominations for the items to be played are to be sent in writing to the "Radio Record," P.O. Box 1032, Wellington, either on the coupon inserted on page 5 in this issue for the convenience of readers, or separately in writing. Telephone messages in respect of this nomination cannot be accepted either by ourselves or by the Broadcasting Company. We are undertaking responsibility for conducting this regular expression of the taste of the public for two reasons—first, in order not to unduly hamper the work of the station staff; and, secondly, to give an independent selection of the public's desire. Readers of our article on pages 1 and 2 will note that the development of this opportunity for making a choice of items, arose from the claim that the new orchestra was of such calibre as to be able to give a finished interpretation of any orchestral work from symphony to jazz. By thus giving the public the opportunity of nominating works, a practical test of this claim will be made.

It is the special desire of the orchestra to keep in close accord with the wishes of the public in regard to the popularity of the music to be played, and they are looking forward with interest to the outcome of this nominative system that we are inaugurating. We think the public will appreciate the willingness of the musical director, and the orchestra in falling in with our suggestion, and we personally look for interesting results from the system. An element of expectancy and surprise will thus be introduced into the programmes which will, to a large extent, meet the desire for variety.

Nominations may now be forwarded for the request items of the week covering the orchestra's first appearance. Repeat items, of course, cannot be nominated till after that week has commenced. Address nominations—Editor, "Radio Record," P.O. Box 1032, Wellington.

## WELLINGTON RADIO SOCIETY

### ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Amateur Radio Society of Wellington is to be held at 8 p.m. on Monday, May 7, in the Conference Hall (ground floor) of the Dominion Farmers' Institute Buildings, corner of Featherston and Ballance Streets.

The agenda paper comprises the following items:—

Presentation of report re past year's work of the society.

Presentation of financial statement.

Discussion of officers for ensuing year.

Special instructive and interesting addresses by experts; display of radio records and demonstrations.

General discussion on all matters respecting broadcasting.

Reports re recent interviews with the Broadcasting Company's directors.

And general matters which members may desire to bring before the meeting.

Ladies are specially requested to attend.

## 2YA Plans Concert from Wanganui—120 Miles

### IF PRELIMINARY TESTS ARE SATISFACTORY

ALL the talent in New Zealand is not confined to the four cities. There must be a lot distributed throughout the country where it cannot be made available for broadcasting. These individual artists cannot go to the broadcasting station, and the station cannot go to them. But, in one at least, 2YA proposes to go to the artists.

This instance is Wanganui, the fifth city of the Dominion, and one of the most musical for its size. A number of Wanganui artists have been heard on the air from 2YA, and Wanganui is the home of New Zealand's champion brass band, the Queen Alexandra's Own, and of the champion Highland Pipe Band (both honours won at the recent band contest in Christchurch), while in musical and dramatic talent the city is very strong.

All this talent cannot be brought to Wellington, so, by means of a relay line, 2YA proposes going to Wanganui.

Relay lines over such a long distance (120 miles) present great difficulties in the successful transmission of a concert, and 2YA's final plans will depend on a test which is to be carried out this week.

The project has only been made feasible by the recent erection of a new line to Wanganui, and the Broadcasting Company, with commendable initiative, proposes to take advantage of it at the earliest moment—if it be proved that a satisfactory transmission can be secured.

The wire is to be tested for radio relay purposes on the night of Tuesday, April 24, and if the wire be satisfactory the concert, which will be given by the cream of Wanganui talent, will take place on Thursday, May 17.

## STATION PROGRAMMES

### A NOTABLE WEEK

A review of the programmes at the various stations, as published in this issue of the "Radio Record," will disclose a notable week of entertainment.

1YA will broadcast the principal numbers from "Orpheus" (a studio production by Madame Irene Ainsley), a Municipal Band Concert on Wednesday, high class variety on Thursday, Friday (when "Bobbie," a one-act play, will be staged) and on Saturday.

A "Lieder Evening" is scheduled for 2YA on Monday; May Day will be recognised on Tuesday; "Jane," on Thursday, is the star attraction of the week, and variety concerts mark the other two days.

The week at 3YA commences with a Band and Beckenham concert. On Wednesday there will be an Irish Concert, on Thursday a French one. Friday will be a Robert Franz night with a leavening of variety, and on Saturday there will be one of the radio vaudevilles for which 3YA is noted.

Dunedin promises some excellent entertainments, including a comedy night—and Dunedin talent is good.

## SPORTING

### NEXT WEEK'S FIXTURES

#### TROTTERING AND RUGBY.

Thursday, May 3: Forbury Park Trots (subject to permission of the club), 4YA.

Saturday, May 5: Forbury Park Trots, 4YA; Rugby football, Eden Park, 1YA; Rugby football, Athletic Park, 2YA; Rugby football, Lancaster Park, 3YA.

### SPORT IN PLENTY

(By "Audis.")

FOR the week ending April 28 there will be plenty of sport relays from the various stations. Now that winter is here there will be plenty to occupy the attention of everyone each week. The football competitions are in full swing in all the centres, and descriptions of the games on Saturday afternoons will be a feature of the programmes from each station. While there will be a great deal of interest in the All Black team away in Africa, there is still plenty to interest the players and supporters in the games at home. There is every possibility of a tour of the Waratahs, the successful New South Wales combination, taking place during the season, and while they will really only be called upon to face the third team of New Zealand, these matches will afford plenty of interest, and should result in the unearthing of some very promising young talent in New Zealand football, players who, perhaps, would not have had the opportunity of coming into the limelight if the full strength of the Dominion was available for selection.

The inter-island game will be played as usual this year, and the Ranfurly Shield games will continue. The holders of this coveted trophy—Canterbury—have probably been harder hit by the absence of the All Blacks than any other province, as eight of their best players are away on the tour. Still, there appears to be quite a feeling of optimism pervading the ranks of the Red and Black supporters, and already one or two guesses at the composition of the defenders' team have been heard. While the retention of the shield will be more than their most ardent admirers expect, it is likely that the holders may stem one or two challenges for the trophy, and so

prove that Canterbury has some promising material to rely on in the future. Interest in Wellington, Auckland, and Dunedin seems to be as great as at any other period, and all unions are looking forward to another record season.

On Saturday, April 24, the Wellington Trotting Club hold their final meeting of the season, and it goes without saying that this meeting will be as great a success as the previous ones this year. The Wellington Club are now definitely established, after many years of hard work, and there is no meeting on the trotting calendar which is more efficiently run, or one at which it is more enjoyable to be present. The club are extremely fortunate in their choice of president, Mr. R. A. Armstrong, whose efforts on a race day make him a very busy man; yet he has time to devote to the attention of the many visiting owners, trainers, and supporters.

The handicaps for this meeting are published at the time of writing. The fields are very satisfactory, and the material of a sufficiently high class to make an extremely interesting day's racing. The Wellington public are quickly becoming proficient in the art of spotting winners, as dividends at the last meeting proved, and in the case under review, as many of the horses have appeared at Hutt Park on previous occasions this season, the form of many will be very familiar to the majority of patrons. All that is required to make the meeting a success is good weather, when some very fast racing should be seen. Among the well-known horses handicapped are such speed merchants as Logan Park, Logan Chief, Padlock, Petervah, all of whom are eligible for the New Zealand Trotting Cup, and such promising young horses as Jean McElwain, Loch Moigh, Native Prince, The Shrew, and others. This meeting will be broadcast from station 2YA from before the first race, and the station will switch over in the intervals between the races to Athletic Park for a relay of the Rugby football.

At Dunedin on the same night the professional feather-weight contest between Johnny Leckie (champion of New Zealand) and Gillespie (champion of Australia) will be broadcast from the ringside, and this should prove a great attraction. Leckie promises to be favourite, as he has not been beaten since joining professional ranks, but Gillespie will be in much better form than when he met Griffiths a fortnight ago.

## CHURCH BROADCASTS

### 2YA CHURCH COMMITTEE.

In order that the broadcasting of church services might be arranged most satisfactorily to those concerned, a 2YA Church Service Committee was constituted last week on the invitation of the Radio Broadcasting Company, from representatives of the principal denominations. Those in attendance were the Rev. C. V. Rooke (Anglican), the Rev. R. S. Watson (Presbyterian), the Rev. E. D. Patchett (Presbyterian), the Rev. F. E. Harry and Mr. North (Baptist), the Rev. B. Weeks (Congregational), Pastor W. G. Carpenter (Church of Christ), and on behalf of the company Mr. A. R. Harris, general manager, Mr. C. S. Booth, administrative staff. The Rev. B. Weeks was elected to the chair.

Preliminary discussion emphasised the usefulness of this adjunct of broadcasting religious services, and the chairman, Mr. Weeks, expressed the view that an outcome of this taking of the Gospel to the people would be a definite religious revival over a period of years.

A draft constitution as submitted was discussed in detail and adopted with minor amendments. It was resolved that a Church Service Committee should be constituted to consist of one representative of each of the churches represented and to be appointed.

A statement as to the time to be made available for church broadcasts in respect of allocation by the committee was submitted on behalf of the company, and it was resolved that the detailed allocation of times, etc., should be undertaken at the next meeting of the committee on May 22.

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