

# Our Short Wave Corner

The number of those interested in short wave reception is steadily expanding, due, unquestionably, to the charm of thus being able to make contact with world centres. The service available from overseas stations is steadily growing, and in view of the experimental work being carried out, the time would seem not far distant when even better service will be available. This section is therefore being set aside for reports on interesting receptions from shortwave listeners, and discussion by enthusiasts of their special problems. Contributions should reach us not later than Friday to be sure of insertion in the following issue.

**MR. SELLENS, Northland, writes:** With the advent of "daylight saving" in the Eastern States of U.S.A. we shall miss the best hour for short wave reception, but probably the days getting shorter on this side will help to even it up to some extent. 5SW is very weak at 11 p.m., not worth listening to. The advantage of summer time is noticed in the morning, as it is possible to hear more of the programme before it gets too weak. There are not so many short wave stations "coming over" just now, at least that is my experience.

**Saturday, April 28.**

5SW was listened to for a short time before breakfast. From 2.30 p.m. till 2.30 p.m., when they signed off. 2XAD was received at good strength. The last item by the "Palmdive Party" was a melody, "Southern Cross," sung by the full party. Before closing down, WGY announced that they would be on the air at 8 a.m. to-morrow to broadcast the Bremen flyers proceeding to Arlington National Cemetery to place a wreath on the grave of Floyd Bennett (the pilot with Byrd on his North Pole flight). It was also stated that this would be broadcast through as many associated stations as possible. Thinking this event might be also put on the short wave, I tried each station, but did not hear a sign of either. 2XG was heard testing with his usual "Write down —" RFM was weak.

**Sunday, April 29.**

Did not do any good—set out of order.

**Monday, April 30.**

Managed to get 3LO, but set not going right, so did not bother with listening.

2FC through 2M10 were broadcast on 28.5 metres, as well as their regular wavelength.

At 10.30 p.m. the University War Memorial Carillon came through very well, as did the rest of the programme. (The trouble in the set was discovered and put right earlier in the evening.)

At 11 p.m. 5SW was tuned in, but was very weak. RFM was also heard.

**Tuesday, May 1.**

5SW was just concluding a talk when picked up at 5.45 a.m. This was followed by some songs.

At 7 a.m. what appeared to be a lesson in French was given, a few words first in English, and then repeated in French.

The musical programme commenced at 7.15 a.m. with a pianoforte item, followed by a violin solo. Reception was quite good.

2B0 (Wellington) was picked up just before 8 p.m., and proved to be quite an artist on the mouth organ.

RFM put on some good orchestral numbers, which were well received, but not up to its old-time volume.

At 11 p.m. 5SW was tried. The first item was a woman singing. Reception was very weak.

The surging that is so often noticed from short-wave stations was more pronounced with the weak signal strength.

**Wednesday, May 2.**

PCJJ was very good, but not quite as loud as usual.

5SW was also good; just before leaving home at 7.25 a.m. an orchestral item was coming through splendidly. During the evening 2RT, Goulburn, N.S.W., was testing; was relaying the carillon, which was quite good. RFM was talking as usual; it is supposed to be his off-night, but he was on the job.

**Thursday, May 3.**

Big Ben was heard at 5.30 a.m. through 5SW. A talk and then music followed. 6 a.m., a lecture, entitled "Air and the Elements," was given.

6.15 a.m. "All stations will now continue with their programmes as advertised" was heard, so evidently "all stations" had been receiving the London programme. Orchestral items followed—a relay, as clapping could be heard after each item. The announcement prior to this was not heard. Later a voice said, "Hullo, everybody." "A new song entitled 'That's That,' a comic song following." 2H, Sydney, and RFM were heard during the evening.

5SW was very weak at 11 p.m. A piano item was first heard and later a man singing.

**Friday, May 4.**

PCJJ was spoilt when first tuned-in by another listener using a little too much regenerator. It was not a howl, but enough to make the station mushy. After a short time, when the other early riser left PCJJ, the volume jumped up at once and was also much more clear.

5SW this morning was very good. Big Ben and the opening announcement was not clear, but a talk about recent novels and music that followed was very clear and strong.

At 6.30 a.m. the orchestra could be heard all over the house—not loud, but enough so to recognise the tune. This is the first time I have found 5SW stronger than PCJJ at about the same time.

5 Don X, South Australia, was heard chatting to 3AR, New Zealand. This Aussie comes through quite well.

2BL was strong on about 42 metres. If it was a harmonic it was very loud for one, but somewhat mushy.

The carrier of 5SW was fairly strong at 11 p.m., but could not clear up any talk or music.

## LETTER FROM 2NM.

Mr. Charles Gowland, Pehiri Station, Gisborne, who is keenly interested in short-wave work, sometime back wrote Mr. Gerald Marcuse (2NM), the prominent experimenter, and forwarded him copies of the "Radio Record" bearing on his transmissions. Acknowledgement from Mr. Gerald Marcuse has now been received, stating he had read the "Record" with great interest. The letter went on to say that he (Mr. Marcuse) knew Mr. James Blair (mentioned by Mr. Gowland) very well, and in fact travelled to the city in the same train each day. He had been most interested to hear in this way from Mr. Gowland. Mr. Marcuse also promised to call on a brother-in-law in a nearby neighbourhood at first opportunity.

The letter illustrates the rather wonderful bond of unity being established by wireless in various parts of the world.

## 2FC'S NEW S.W. STATION

Mr. S. Saunders's report states:—Friday, April 27.—WGY, 2XAF, picked up at 3 p.m. Wurlitzer organ items from "Estadina" Theatre, Albany, N.Y.; organist, J. Nolan. Song by G. Walker, composed by Mr. Howey Peer; orchestral items; closed down 4.42 p.m. S.E.T., 12.5 p.m.

Saturday, May 28.—5SW, London, was on the air at 1.25 p.m. Got PCJJ at end of programme; closed down 1.35 p.m. This station puts over a three-hour programme on Saturdays from 10.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. 2XAD at 2.15 p.m. on the weak side, but improved as afternoon advanced. Union Province: A lot of announcing and Wurlitzer organ items and orchestra, song with organ, vocal trio, lady (soprano) and gentleman (operatic piece); guitars, Hawaiian steel

guitars; Palm Olive Company's programme closed down; WGY, WEAF, 3.30 p.m., S.E.T., 11.24. Got another American station, about 40 metres. Band, dance orchestra, saxophones, very prominent, and Wurlitzer organ items. Picked up at 5.30 p.m., still going strong at 5.50 p.m.

Sunday, April 29.—2XAF, WGY, NY, at 2 o'clock (weak), but improved later. National Broadcasting Company, piano solo, male duet, lady soloist, violin and banjo solo, Rainbow Hotel, N.Y., speech and cheering; orchestra, "Rain or Shine." Announcement about standard eastern daylight saving time; transmissions, Hotel —. Orchestra, "My Heart Keeps on Speaking of Love"; by request, "Among My Souvenirs"; songs, "A Little Girl That Loves Me," "One Little Girl—That's You." Orchestra closed down about 4.30 p.m. Strong morse cut them out eventually. Got station at 5.37 p.m. at about 32 metres. Band march, Wurlitzer organ; items, piano solo; static was bad; also station at 9.50 p.m. Talking and orchestral music; 10.15 p.m., still going strong, but never weak.

Monday, April 30.—2FC calling; WGY, Schenectady: "We are glad to get transmissions from your chain of stations. Best wishes to all from 2FC."

The opening of the new studio by His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales was described. The architecture of the studio is "Old English," panelled in oak; the control board is 14 feet by 15 feet; there is a 20-kilowatt S.W. transmitting plant, installed by Australian Amalgamated Wireless, Ltd., architecture of the studio is "Old English," panelled in oak; the control board is 14 feet by 15 feet; there is a 20-kilowatt S.W. transmitting plant, installed by Australian Amalgamated together a most up-to-date studio. It was mentioned that the speech broadcasts for 1924 were 62 hours, and in 1925, 424 hours. There were 100,000 broadcast listeners all over the State. The machinery in the old studio had been scrapped and modern installed. In his speech His Excellency said: "I look upon this as one of my most happiest and pleasant experiences of broadcasting at the present time. It will not be far distant when all stations will put over S.W. concerts." I next heard 3LO, Melbourne saying, "Hello, Hello, WGY, glad to have your report on rebroadcast to-night's proceeding; we hope you have received our programme. OK, please stand by for adjustments."

## MYSTERY EXPLAINED

### MR. SELLENS' REPORT.

The Boston "Christian Science Monitor" of March 27, states:

A Wellington (New Zealand) radio experimenter [this refers to Mr. R. W. Sellen.—Ed. "Record"] heard a General Electric Company engineer chatting with an English radio engineer via the short waves. The New Zealander, 7800 miles from Schenectady and 12,000 miles from Chelmsford, Eng., heard two men separated by the Atlantic Ocean, talk about the weather and transmission quality. He heard them laugh at witty sallies and he heard the "good-by" of the American and the "cheerio" of the Englishman.

### Voices From Loudspeakers.

The New Zealander, like other listeners in Canada and South Africa, was greatly puzzled at what appeared to him a peculiar radio phenomenon. He reported that when tuned to 2XAD, the 21.5 meter station at Schenectady, from which the American spoke, he heard the American clearly but the English voice was somewhat indistinct. On the other hand, when tuned to the 21-meter transmitter of 5SW at Chelmsford, England, he heard the Englishman perfectly and the American side of the conversation imperfectly.

The answer is simple. In these two-way conversations, the spokesman at 2XAD speaks into a microphone and hears the Englishman's reply through a loud-speaker, about two feet away. The loudspeaker reproduction of the English voice as well as the voice of the 2XAD announcer is picked up by the microphone. The same condition exists at the Chelmsford receiving and transmitting station.

## A SHORT-WAVE STUNT

### SCHENECTADY AND CHELMSFORD.

Recently as a stunt, for the amusement of the broadcast listener, station 2XAD, Schenectady, U.S.A., transmitted a phonograph record which was received and rebroadcast by 5SW, Chelmsford, England. A receiving station near Schenectady picked up 5SW's rebroadcast and WGY then put out received signal on 379.5 metres. In other words, music which originated within a mile of WGY's transmitter was put on the air after it had twice crossed the Atlantic.

Perhaps the most interesting feature of this double rebroadcast was the short time which elapsed between pick-up from the record and the reception of WGY's rebroadcast of the record music. It is estimated that the difference in time was approximately one-thirtieth of a second. The phonograph was located in the control room of WGY. An electric pick-up was used and the output was fed directly to the short-wave transmitter. Within two feet of the phonograph a loudspeaker reproduced the music after its passage across the Atlantic and back.

# Our Mail Bag

## Applause for "Jane."

H. E. Morse, Karori: Last evening the wife and I listened-in to Mr. Stanley Warwick and company in the comedy "Jane" and we thoroughly enjoyed the performance. It must be very hard for the artists giving of their best to such a silent and uncomplimentary audience. We had quite a job to restrain ourselves from clapping and stamping our feet, and wish to thank you and the company for a very enjoyable evening's entertainment. Wishing you all the best of good luck.

## More Applause for "Jane."

L. Ferguson (Palmerston North).—I am writing to express my appreciation of the concert broadcast by the Wellington station on Thursday night last, May 3. I have a personal interest in "Jane," as I took part in it when it was played in Palmerston North in December. On Thursday night, the whole play was exceptionally clear, and proved a most delightful change from the usual musical and elocutionary programme.

## Silent Nights.

D.A.G., Christchurch: Might I mention a matter which must trouble all Auckland city and Christchurch listeners with average valve sets?

On Wednesday nights the only New Zealand stations on the air are 1YA and 3YA, with wavelengths very close to each other. The result is that the average valve set listener cannot cut out the local station and listen-in to the other New Zealand station. Therefore on Wednesday nights all Auckland city 1 Christchurch set listeners have only one New Zealand station to listen to. Could not the silent night of either 1YA or 3YA be altered and a station with a wavelength more removed substituted?

## More Hymns Wanted.

Geo. Rankin, Dannevirke: I wish to express my appreciation of the programmes the company is now putting on the air. Week nights are good and must give pleasure to young and old. But what about Sunday nights? Do you think it would be too much to ask the company for one station out of the four to give us one hour of sacred hymns and solos? If they could do so I am sure it would give great pleasure to many as to me. It seems out of place after a good sermon, with the singing of some of our children's hymns, to hear some of the jazz which is put on. Now, Sir, if we had one station we could tune in to it would still leave the other three for the other vocal and instrumental music. Wishing the Broadcasting Company every success.

## Sunday Afternoon for Farmers.

K. G. Rouse (Murchison): Just a line to convey thanks for the excellent performance of "Jane," given on the 3rd by a very able company, under the direction of Mr. Stanley Warwick. The reception was ideal, and every syllable was clear and distinct. Quite a number of listeners in locally would like to hear a Sunday afternoon concert given from 2YA, even if it is only a selected gramophone concert, the main reason being a farming district, and Sunday is practically the only day one can listen-in during the afternoon. The various programmes "put on the air" should be ample to satisfy all tastes, and the class of music rendered by the various musical trios, and the new orchestra at 2YA has been of a very high standard. Hoping that 2YA will be able to put something on on Sunday afternoon to satisfy the farming community. [This will be done as from May 13.—3rd.]

## A Taranaki Listener.

H. G. Davey (Opunake).—Whilst not intending to take part in any discussion relative to 2YA's reception in Taranaki, may I be permitted to give my experience and opinion. First of all, I live just 28 miles by road from New Plymouth, have a Federal 5-valve set, and can honestly say that 2YA's reception has been all that is desired, all of which can be verified if necessary. Just recently 2YA has been a little below the usual, but if my memory serves me correctly, your station has been making some experiments to suit New Plymouth's conditions. If that is so, I wished you had just carried on. Now, as regards programmes, I don't pose as a severe windy critic; for one reason, you cannot, I admit, please everybody. Sometimes the trio, good as they are, have given us country folk, in my opinion, a little too much of high-class music, but I just see that has been altered by the introduction of an orchestra, which is quite a treat to sit and listen to. But (capital B) will it please? Now, I have a suggestion to make, which will, I think, be a slight improvement, and consideration to up-country children. When you put the Children's Hour on the air, and the birthdays are read over, could you give all the country ones first. The reason for my suggestion is that little ones, whose parents possess a radio set, desire to come and hear their little friend's names called, and as some of them come a distance, it makes it a bit late, if the name or names is left rather late, for living in the country is quite different to just hopping out and catching a tram. Whilst I'm in the writing spirit, may I draw your attention to the fact that some of your items, etc., are somewhat marred by the footling of motor horns of passing motor-cars. Could you alleviate that nuisance a little?

## Taranaki Reception.

"South Taranaki" (Stratford).—I noticed a letter in last week's "Radio Record" written by Mr. Payne, of New Plymouth. Now, Mr. Editor, most of the noise about faulty transmitting comes from North Taranaki. Why? Because we are perfectly satisfied with the Broadcasting Company. I have personally listened-in to three different receiving sets at different times in New Plymouth, and I could not find anything to complain about. I feel that there must be something behind all this New Plymouth agitation, and a friend let the "cat out of the bag." He informed me that some of the New Plymouth fans considered that the Broadcasting Company should establish a relay station in that town, because it would put New Plymouth on the "map," and the only way to get this would be to make a noise about faulty transmission, and thus induce the Broadcasting Company to accede to their demands. Well, Mr. Editor, let us hope, for the good of broadcasting in New Zealand, that the Broadcasting Company will not be so silly as to entertain the proposal. For my part I would much prefer two good super-stations than a lot of half-pye mush-room ones.

## Fair Play.

"Well Wisher" (Stratford).—I have been closely following the correspondence regarding the quality of the programmes transmitted from the New Zealand stations, and from what I can gather from same, most of the complaints come from those who apparently have just recently purchased receiving sets. For myself, Mr. Editor, I look upon myself as a new-chum at the game. I built my first receiving set in 1920, and we were glad to get any music or speech that was offering, and we appreciated what good or bad things were in the air at that time, and we did not rush the newspapers with our complaints. I have watched the progress of broadcasting since that year, and can honestly say that the Broadcasting Company deserves our very best thanks for the splendid programmes they are "putting across the air." What on earth are our Auckland radions squealing about, insisting that the Broadcasting Company be made to publish their balance-sheet? What does it matter if the company are doing well out of the business, as long as they are "giving us the goods"? For my own part, if the programme from a particular station is not to my liking, I switch on to something that does suit me. Surely there is no trouble in doing this? If your radio correspondents are honest they will admit that there is a great diversity of opinion, even among their friends, on the merits of any particular programme. That being so, how on earth can the same people ever hope for the Broadcasting Company to please every listener-in? Let me, in conclusion, urge the Broadcasting Company to continue the splendid programmes they are transmitting nightly, and leave the "groners" to squabble among themselves. Let's be fair to the company and give them at least credit for the excellent service they are rendering to the public.

## New Zealand Preferred.

S. Hill (Dunedin): I have just been glancing through this week's "Radio Record." I must congratulate you on such an excellent paper. The first thing I look for is the "Mail Bag"—these columns usually afford me much amusement. I say they amuse me because I thoroughly enjoy reading letters from listeners airing their views. Now listen, I have been a radio fan for four years or more, and I can tell you that I have never once been really dissatisfied with the programmes. Of course, I admit some stations aren't always brilliant, but, taking them all round, they are easily worth 30s. a year; I have read a letter from this week's Mail Bag, written by "Programme" (Huntville). I second his letter, in fact, I'd like to know him. I have a set that can and does bring in the Australian stations on a small indoor aerial with more volume than

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## 4YA NOTES

(Continued.)

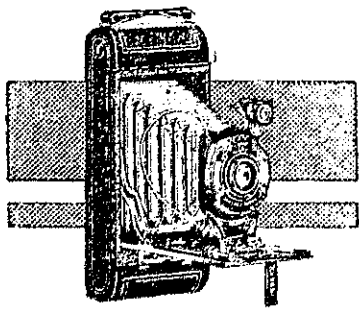
whose bass voice is so much admired, has chosen among his songs, "The Grey North Sea" and Tosti's "Parted." A vocal duet will be rendered by Mrs. D. Carty and Mr. Bert Rawlinson, "O Wert Thou in the Cauld Blast." Flute solos will be rendered by Mr. Chas. D. Gibbons, and pianoforte works by Miss Alice Wilson, who will play Chopin's "Ballade in G Minor."

On Saturday evening at 7.30 p.m., Dr. Lawson, of Otago University, will address listeners on "The Next Step in National Education."

Among the artists to be heard in the ballad concert on Saturday evening are Miss Agnes Guy (soprano), Miss Irene Hornblow (contralto), who will present old English songs, Mr. Arthur Langley (baritone), and a bass singer new to the microphone, Mr. Tom Cooper, who will present the popular number, "Hats Off to the Stoker." Miss Eva Judd will present Kreisler's "Slavonic Dance No. 1 in G Minor" and German's "Morris Dance from Henry VIII." Pianoforte solos will be rendered by Miss Mariel Caddie, who will include Rachmaninoff's "Prelude" among her efforts. In addition to cello solos by Mr. P. J. Palmer, there will be heard a group of instrumental trios.

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