

## Our Mail Bag

(Continued.)

is needed, and yet I am quite contented with New Zealand programmes. I really can't see what some listeners have to grumble about. However, I suppose there are and always will be a few who want more for their money. Still, I don't see that they can get much more for a penny a night. Wishing your paper every success.

### Perhaps a Jap.

A. C. Ireland (Taradale).—I see in the "Radio Record" for April 27 Mr. Hamman wanting to know the name of a station. The station about one and a half degrees below 2BL is possibly JOAK, Japan. I heard this station last Tuesday testing for the new station at Tokio, coming through at good loudspeaker strength, and very clear. Nearly all the announcements were in English.

### 9XF, Illinois.

W. Terrill (Waitara). Having seen one or two inquiries in the "Record" this week re a station on 2ZF's wavelength, may I state this station is 9XF, Illinois, situated at Downer's Grove, 24 miles south-west of Chicago, and for the last week or two has been testing on the mentioned wavelength on a power of 50,000 watts, and also which comes through here at speaker strength equal to 3YA. Also, in answer to C. J. Nordstrand, the station he referred to is very likely JOAK, Japan, which is operating on a new wavelength, being practically on 2BL, on a power of 10,000 watts.

### "I Swore I was in China."

J. W. Ashford (Wellington). While listening in last night or rather, the early hours of this morning, after a good night's entertainment from New Zealand and Australian stations, I was about to close down when peculiar chant-like music drifted in a fraction below 2BL's wavelength. The latter station had just closed down, the time being 12.30 to 1 a.m., so I tuned the stranger up and by the music and lingo coming over I swore I was in China. The items were fairly lengthy, and the announcer was a most excitable and noisy individual. Could not understand a word that was spoken, and he was still at it when I closed down at 1.20 a.m. I intended writing you to see if any reader of the "Radio Record" had logged him when I happened, a few minutes ago, to glance over the Mail Bag portion of this week's issue, and dropped right on to an inquiry headed "Who's the Stranger" from Mr. C. J. Nordstrand, Onerahi. He evidently got the same station according to his letter, for he described him perfectly, picking him up close to 2BL. Perhaps some other readers can enlighten us. It would be interesting to know just how far away our friend is. My set is a portable 4-valve operating at the time on a 25ft. vertical aerial. In closing, accept our appreciation of 2YA's improving "menu," especially that of last evening, the three act comedy "Jane," which came through splendidly.

### Who is the Champion Listener?

S. R. Ellis (Okato).—Who is the champion five-valve listener of New Zealand; that is, the most stations logged with a five-valve set. I would like to know how many listeners can beat my logging with nine New Zealand, fourteen Australian, three American, two Japanese, and C. R. Larson whaling ship, with a total of twenty-nine? I would like listeners to write to "Our Mail Bag" the record of stations logged by them. There is a listener in Waitara (Taranaki) who has logged somewhere in the vicinity of sixty stations, to his great credit, but he must be working on more than five valves.

### Also Heard by Others.

R. Taylor (Havelock North). With reference to queries in this week's "Record" from B. Wenlock, and B. Green, re identity of U.S.A. Station 9XF. I had this station coming in on a five-valve last Sunday from 7 p.m. to 10.30 p.m., on the speaker with volume equal to 2YA. This is no exaggeration, but a fact. Station is at Downer's Grove, Illinois, and announcements made were that station was situated 24 miles south-west of Chicago, and was testing on a power of 50,000 watts, 238 metres. Reports from all over the States were received, and read out during the test, and amongst items played was the "Indian Love Call," from "Rose Marie," "All Alone," "Lucky Days," etc. The station was only half a degree on the dial below 2ZF, and wanted careful adjustment, but when tuned in no trace of 2ZF could be heard—in fact, the music was so loud it drowned out the Palmerston station. I use two earth connections, and find that it makes the set more selective.

W. O. Tinsley (Tahuna). In your last issue Mr. B. Wenlock (Waitara) and Mr. B. Green (Mount Biggs, Reilding) were requiring information as to what station was transmitting on about the same wavelength as 2ZF, Palmerston North. Well, Sir, I have succeeded in logging this station. It is 9XF, Illinois, America, testing on 60,000 watts. I first got this station at 7 o'clock, and it was broadcasting till 8.30, New Zealand time. It was coming in at good loudspeaker strength, with little fading—static at times. The set which I have is a five-valve.

DX, Rotorna: In last week's issue of the "Record" two correspondents were anxious to identify several stations. The station Mr. B. Green has been hearing is 9XF, Illinois, testing on 50,000 watts. I have heard this station at good speaker strength several Sunday evenings. He mentions that KSL is the station usually blotted out by 3YA. In this locality and using a five-valve receiver, I never have any difficulty in separating KSL and 3YA. The former works on 802.8

metres—a separation from 3YA by about three metres. The station blotted out by 3YA is KOMO (Washington) on 305.9 metres or 1 of a metre lower than 3YA. I often hear KOMO on Sunday and Tuesday evenings. Re Mr. C. J. Nordstrand's queries, I think the foreign station he heard was JOAK, Japan. This station works near 2BL's wave, and as Mr. Nordstrand evidently uses a long total length of antenna his tuning will be a little broad. This will run JOAK and 2BL together. If Mr. Nordstrand is sure it was South Africa and not South Australia he heard, I think he has happened upon a lucky patch of ether. I have been a listener for some years in different parts of New Zealand, and have a long log of stations, but have never heard.

### 2YA'S Variety.

R. J. M., Reikorangi: Through the columns of your paper I would like to thank 2YA for the many enjoyable evenings we have spent listening-in to the excellent concerts put over the air by that station. The other stations have good programmes also, but I prefer 2YA because there is more variety. I also congratulate them on raising the services of such a fine orchestra as we listened to last evening. We have now some beautiful music to look forward to during the winter months.

### Appreciation of 2YA.

"Interested," Hataitai, Wellington: I write to express my appreciation of the programme put "on the air" by 2YA on Tuesday, May 1. Surely this comprehensive programme should meet the demands of all tastes and this class of entertainment continuing, I'm sure the rather severe criticisms appearing in the "Radio Record" will be a thing of the past. The orchestra is truly splendid, and in their selections of May 1 were variation in plenty. I have noted that in the criticisms most of the writers have either demanded high-class music or jazz, but what of the countless compositions between these two extremes? Such items as given by the new studio orchestra in the opening programme ("La Prélude," "Peer Gynt," etc.) are bright, tuneful and melodious, and could cater for all.

### More Appreciation.

"More Than Satisfied," Kilbirnie, Wellington: I have been a wireless fan since 2YA opened, my efforts being confined to a humble, home-made crystal set. I have also been a subscriber to your well-read and instructive journal for quite a while, and consider it time I said my "bit" about the 2YA station and its programmes. Unlike some of the listeners-in, I have not had a musical education, but nevertheless I appreciate good music, well played, just as any normal, intellectual person should. From 2YA's opening night till now I doubt whether I have missed more than one programme each week, so naturally the many criticisms levelled against the company and its programmes have interested me quite a lot. I consider that the programmes from 2YA are great; not that I rave over every single item. The talent employed for songs, elocution, orchestral items, and lectures is equal to the talent employed in any other station in the world in proportion to the population (just over 100,000). The Symonds-Hillwood-Short trio were three wonderful artists, and whilst I did not listen to all their items, I never missed one of their solos if I could help it. I do not know any of the trio personally, but I sincerely trust that they are not readers of the "Radio Record"—so that they would not read the stupid criticisms levelled against them, written in most cases by stupid, unthinking persons. Such artists as Stanley Warwick, Len Barnes, Jeanette Briggs, Doug Stark, Walpole, and Co. and others far too numerous to mention, would get great big headlines on any concert programme, and they would certainly deserve it. The children's sessions are lovely. Any parent who would not get a set, just for the kiddies

## Notes from Auckland

(By Listener.)

THE latest event of importance in radio circles has been, not an innovation in programmes, not another storm in a radio teapot, but an auction sale of radio apparatus that demonstrated unmistakably the keenness of public enthusiasm for broadcasting. All day long bidding was in excited progress, and right through the evening until after 10 p.m. the auction mart was thronged with hundreds of eager buyers who went away well satisfied with the undoubted bargains they had secured in the £3000 worth of stock that was put under the hammer. There were so many novitiates who came under the guidance of the knowing one, and purchased their requirements, that there is bound to be a big rush for licenses within the next few days. It might well be assumed that such a sale would be bad for the retail radio trade, but seemingly that is not the case, for one local retailer declared that his business in batteries and other accessories had received a very decided impetus from the auction, and further stated that he would welcome an auction sale every week. His experience was by no means an isolated one.

IT is safe to say that every valve set operating tuned in Wellington on Tuesday last, to listen to the premiere of 2YA's orchestra. And the general verdict of listeners with whom the writer has swapped opinions was "Excellent." The right combination and the right staff, too! The choice of selections was one that could not help appealing to all tastes, and even those who can usually appreciate nothing but the frothy catchiness of modern American compositions were satisfied that they at last had received their merited consideration for which they have been clamouring. They note approvingly that future selections as indicated in the "Record" published programmes are on the similar lines of something for all. There will be no peace now for Mr. Bellingham until he comes to Auckland and establishes another such excellent body of instrumentalists to disperse similar music from 1YA.

A CORRESPONDENT in the local Press comes forward with a novel suggestion, with which the Broadcasting Company may be able to fall in line, though there may be obstacles of which the outsider is unaware. He suggests that, to assist the unemployment fund, the artists who usually face the microphone for one of the nightly programmes in the studio, appear at the Town Hall, whence their items could be relayed and put on the air. Listeners, he argues, would be glad of the opportunity of visualising performers whom they now know only as voices and through the introductions of the announcer. Such a concert would considerably assist the unemployment fund.

1YA will have experimented with another progressive undertaking in the annals of New Zealand broadcast-

and their session, would be hard. In conclusion, Sir, I would like to ask the hundreds—perhaps I should say thousands—of other satisfied listeners to drop a line to your paper and voice their appreciation of the artists and the programmes generally, and so help to crowd out the selfish ones who want all jazz or all high-brow, or what not. Trusting the company keeps on improving and giving us the same class of entertainment for 30s. per year, and that the newcomers will be more reasonable. Above all, they should try not to reach such a low state as that which exists among a certain few in the southern city.

ing before these notes are read. Arrangements have been made with the Auckland Choral Society whereby two of the choruses from one of their final rehearsals of "Hiljah" will be relayed. The idea is an excellent one. Listeners will be able to enjoy the fine choir singing, and the society will undoubtedly benefit in securing a fine advertisement for their production of "Hiljah" in the Town Hall. An innovation such as this contains many possibilities, and if it proves acceptable there is no reason why its scope should not be extended. The Bohemian Orchestra, the Amateur Operatic Society, and similar bodies might thus find radio of considerable service, while listeners will welcome the chance of "getting in early."

ROTH Rugby and Association football codes are eager that the games under their official jurisdiction should be broadcast from 1YA. Their officials are fully alive to the advantages accruing. In Mr. W. J. Meredith the company has a capable and experienced describer of football, and his accounts of the games at Eden Park are followed with intense enthusiasm by supporters of the game who are unable to get out to the ground.

QUITE a large fleet of coastal steamers convey passengers from the port of Auckland to the Far North, the Bay of Plenty, and other parts. Gradually these vessels have been fitted with wireless in conformity with Government regulations, all the work being done by local firms. The latest craft to be so equipped is the Malanesian Mission steamer Southern Cross, which is now leaving for her periodical cruise to the South Seas, supplied with a plant that will keep her in touch with the world and its affairs.

### HAWKE'S BAY NOTES

It is pretty evident that licensees in the Hastings district are coming to realise the value of their Hawke's Bay Radio Society, for at the last meeting of the society the attendance was about forty, including several members of the Napier Radio Society, which has been on the quiet list for some months. The Napier visitors attended through invitation, and the meeting was a most successful one. An innovation was the providing of supper, this proving very popular, and with a few more meetings like this it is hoped that interest will once more come back to the full.

It is probable that the Napier society will open its doors again soon, and there is a movement on foot for the two societies, which are separated by only a dozen miles, to combine. If they do it will be a very strong body, which should have quite a strong voice.

It is not unlikely that three "drives" will be made up this way soon to install receivers and headphones in public institutions. The Napier Commercial Travellers are reported to be working on a scheme to place a set in the Old People's Home. The Napier society has hopes of doing likewise (with headphones for each bed) in the Napier Hospital, whilst the Hawke's Bay society is hopeful of doing the same for the newly-opened Hastings hospital. The latter scheme is now fairly well on the way, and although not much hard work has been done in the way of collecting, just on £50 is now in hand, the total being sighted by the donation of £20 from Mr. W. Shrimpton. Static has been "king pin" up this way for the past month or so, but after the rain this week it appears to be settling down.

With local listeners 3YA is still the most popular station, its transmission

being much clearer than 2YA. 1YA is a good second to Christchurch, although 2YA gets the palm for daylight transmissions.

The "Aussies" are all in good form. Through its broadcasts of recent boxing contests, 4YA has been keenly listened to lately, and the writer has been queried repeatedly as to why 2YA does not relay boxing contests. Perhaps the R.B.C. can answer the query. Such broadcasts would be popular.

[Wellington has broadcast boxing on several occasions in the past when permission to do so has been given. The policy of the company is, as has been repeatedly stated by the general manager, to give all possible support to sport by broadcasting functions and events that are made available to it. The popularity of boxing broadcasts is realised, which was why the company has so willingly broadcast the Dunedin events.—Ed.]

### ANZAC DAY

#### 8000 PEOPLE HEAR SERVICE.

A further instance of the extensive use of radio apparatus was illustrated in New Plymouth on Anzac Day, when some 8000 people were enabled to hear the service held in Pukekura Park.

The park's recreation ground consists mainly of a large playing field surrounded by three high natural terraces.

Six loudspeakers, carefully arranged to minimise echo effects, were spread around the grounds, while the microphone was placed in front of the platform.

The amplifying system was designed and built by Messrs. Jellymans, Ltd.'s, radio engineers, who also installed and operated it for the benefit of the general public. In the main it consisted of three stages of power amplification, employing four valves in all. The first stage consists of a power amplifier, the second a five-watt, while the third is made up of two five-watt, each with its own input transformer.

This arrangement proved entirely satisfactory, giving ample volume for all concerned. Prior to the service those who had arrived early to secure a seat were entertained by suitable gramophone music.

Heretofore the Anzac service in New Plymouth has been disappointing in many respects, as only a few on the parade ground were able to hear what was said.

### TALE OF FAMILY PETS

#### PRETTYLY TOLD BY A CHILD.

A boy of eight, writing to 1YA, thus describes the family pets. The extract from the letter is printed just as it was written:—

"My brother caught a little magpie and he brought it home and we fed it and it became into a very nice little magpie and we use to chase it. We called it Peter and then when it got a little bit bigger, we gave it worms and then when it got a little bit bigger and Mother was putting in any plants, this little peter used to watch her putting them in, and every time my mother used to go a-way he tugged at them and pull them out; and one time, my father put in a weeping elm, and peter used to watch him putting it in, and when he had gone, one day he went to it and we watched him trying to pull it out, and he looked so funny and he wondered what on earth had happened to it why he could not get it out, and we did laugh and then we got some fan tail pigeons. We brought them home and they were as white as anything, and my mother never had seen pigeons as white as them and we called them Romeo and Juliet and they follow my brother when he calls them for their food they don't pull anything out like peter use to, we can tell which is a she and which is a he because she has a little top not and he has a top not. My father bought a little cat home and it became a big cat and it got three little wons and we gave to a way and we kept the gray won; it was like a tiger. One day my mother was getting some sugar and a cat had got in and run of the cats wood so there so one day this little cat cut it and killed it and was playing wit' it and my mother saw it with it and she told us so now I must close."

### RADIO IN CANADA

#### 146,000 LICENSED LISTENERS.

Canada has at the recent time about 1,000,000 radio fans who listen in regularly and listen to the programmes of broadcasting stations of the North American Continent. This estimate is based on figures supplied by the Government Radio Department, which shows that up to the end of November last year, 146,186 owners of receiving sets in the Dominion had paid the annual license fee.

A conservative calculation is that only 50 per cent of the radio owners pay the fee, which means there are approximately 300,000 radio sets in Canada. If there is an average of three persons listening-in on each set, there are nearly 1,000,000 Canadians who heard the wild waves of Toronto, the mighty voice of the St. Lawrence from Prescott, the murmur of Calgary chinooks, or the howl of the coyote from Winnipeg or Regina. Radio is in its infancy and the manufacturers of sets in Toronto, Hamilton, Montreal and other Canadian cities are probably figuring on a potential consumption of not less than 1,000,000 receiving sets within the next few years.

## Children's Sessions for Next Week

### AT 2YA.

Monday, May 14—Uncle Jeff and Auntie Gwen. School holidays, little ones, and several kind little friends are coming to join in the children's hour and give you a jolly time. Hurrah for Gwenda, Zena, and Marjorie. Puzzles and stories, too, so get the pencil and paper ready.

### Tuesday—

Our new Big Brother will entertain you with stories, games, and music. Several cousins are coming to sing you lullabies—Joyce, Gerda, Una, Joan, and Nancy—are't they dears to help. Listen-in at 6 p.m. for a bright and cheery hour.

### Thursday—

There are new surprises in store for little Radioland on May 17. New pathways in fairyland and new stories to hear—also another little shadow, for Uncle Sandy is leaving us. We shall have to ask the poet of the fairies to make our rhymes. Mrs. Menard's pupils will turn all things to sunshine. "Turning to mirth all things of earth."

### Friday—

Uncle Ernest once again—Hurrah! And hour of rollicking fun for all. Members of our merry circle are joining in the party, so you'll be amused royally. Ken and Molly and two pals of the little people. The "joy germs" fly when the clock strikes six.

### Saturday—

Auntie Dot and Uncle Toby will be

taking you somewhere—anywhere—the joy is always in the anticipation. They have some merry troubles, adorns, dressed in Spanish costume, who await their pleasure. Greetings, stories, and dream trips.

### AT 3YA.

Monday, May 14, is Uncle Jack's story night. So if all you little ones want to hear something good, put on your ear-phones and tune-in the loud-speaker—and there you are!

### Wednesday—

Another surprise for you all. Uncle Peter and Mother Hubbard away for their holidays again! Oh, dear me. But, never mind, Uncle Jack will keep the home fires burning—and we will all be merry and bright, with cousins Noel, Keith, and Geoffrey helping with songs and choruses.

### Thursday—

Here are Chuckle and Anni Pat—so you know that they have something good up their sleeves. Watch out for this night.

### Friday—

To-night you are to hear the story of the trees, told by Mr. Pardon for the children. Cousins Harold, Frank, and Stan are bringing their mouth organs, and cousin Molly singing her pretty songs.

### Saturday—

Ho-ho for Uncle Sam and Aunt Mav and their hour of fun and music. "Hush, here comes the dream man!"

### Sunday—

The Sunday Song Service for everyone. Uncle Sam giving a nice Sunday talk, and scholars from the Methodist Sunday School singing the hymns.

### AT 4YA.

### Tuesday, May 15—

What's doing at 4YA to-night? Well, first of all, a crowd of lusty boys singing choruses, giving hakas, and thoroughly enjoying themselves round the microphone. They will certainly be worth listening to, and provide some real good fun for the Radio Family. Big Brother Bill will tell the story of some boys who were just as good as men. There will be a story for the chibabiddies as usual, and the Radio Postie will blow his whistle as usual for lucky birthday people.

### Friday—

Some of the clever folk who won prizes in the mouth organ competitions last year will play selections to the Radio Family. They all play splendidly, of course, and will sound like fairy music over the air. This is Aunt Shiela's night. She will tell more of the amazing adventures of Helen. Brother Bill will be there with letters, and instructions for the Radio Postman. Tune-in to 4YA for the Happy Hour before bedtime.