

## Our Mail Bag

### Value of Good Announcing.

H.G. (Arundale): I feel I must endorse "Waihi's" remarks and suggestions, particularly the paragraph concerning announcers. I am sure that the Auckland crystal set owners and a good few valve set owners would rejoice and thoroughly appreciate a re-broadcast on Saturday evening, especially from the Sydney Stadium, just to break the 12 hours of jazz music that is put over regularly. Still, one must admit that Auckland's programmes are improving wonderfully. Mr. J. F. Montague's effort of last Friday is one of the finest things put over by 1YA for many many moons. 2YA is to be congratulated on their orchestra, whose versatility is greatly appreciated and is a vast stride in New Zealand broadcasting. The announcer of 3YA is undoubtedly the best in the Southern Hemisphere—not one of the 27 stations I log can compare with him, and is, I should say by the different correspondents' remarks, a great asset to the New Zealand Broadcasting Company. 4YA is running pretty close, too. I have noticed, and puts things over very nicely dressed up, distinctly and quite clear.

### 58 Stations on 3 Valves.

W. B. Dance (Blenheim): In reference to Mr. S. R. Ellis's letter in this week's "Radio Record" as to whom is the champion five-valve listener of New Zealand. I haven't a five-valve receiver, but have a three-valve, all wave (home-made). To date I have received on loud speaker: 1YA, 2YA, 3YA, 4YA, 2AQ, 3ZL, 2ZF, 2FC, 2BL, 2GB, 3AR, 3LO, 4QG, 2UE, 3DB, On phones: 4ZL, 1ZB, 4ZM, 5CL, 7ZL, 2UW, 3UZ and KFON, Long Beach. On short waves in N.Z.: 1AF, 2AQ, 3AJ, 3AU, 3AP, 4AF, 4AM, 3AZ, 3AC, 2AB, 2AP, 1AR, 3AL, 1AN, 2AL, 2BO, 3PM, 2AM. Australia: 7CW, 2RC, 6AG, 2ME, 3LO, 2BL, 2LE, 4NW, 2YG, 3UZ, 4BO. Foreign: 2XAP, RFM, 2NG, PCJJ, ANE, JIBB. In closing I may state that I am using a very low aerial and a poor earth. This makes 23 on broadcast band and 35 on short-wave band. Total 58.

### Personal Congratulations.

Ancklander: As a listener-in of considerable experience, I really feel it is my duty, through your paper, to congratulate 2YA on its new orchestra. The selections played by it are highly satisfactory, and will be heartily approved of by the great majority of the listeners. The execution of the orchestra is admitted by all to be superb and places 2YA on an easy first among New Zealand stations. For an orchestra of its size it has no superior among the Australian stations. It would please me much if you would, on my behalf, personally congratulate each member of the orchestra on his thorough mastery of his instrument.

### Orchestra Pleading.

C. J. Nordstrand (Onerahi): I wish to thank you for the beautiful music played by the "new orchestra." It is really a great treat to listen to it, and we receive it clear and loud, though this little township is many miles from Wellington. I take great pleasure in filling in the slip cut from the "Radio Record." I know so many who are so fond of those pieces of music. Many thanks for the hours of pleasure we get from the many and varied artists we nightly listen to from station 2YA, Wellington—one of the best.

### "The Finest for 30 Years."

Extract from letter regarding 2YA: "May I ask you to accept and, if convenient, convey to your orchestra, my appreciation of a very fine week's programme. Specially would I like to mention the Musical Switch number last night, a number distinguished by perfect tempo on the part of conductor and rendering by orchestra. Also the Gilbert and Sullivan number which was, I think, the finest rendering I have heard probably since I heard the D'Oyley Carte Company render the opera over thirty years ago."

### Who is the Stranger?

J. W. Ashford (Karori): Re my letter of inquiry which you published in this week's number, I am still puzzled as to who the foreign station operating just below 2BL's wave-length happens to be. Your correspondents, together with "Aerial" in his weekly notes in "The Dominion," state that it is JOAK, Japan. The night after I wrote you last I logged JOAK about 10 degrees above 2BL's reading—in fact, it is almost on 4QG, Brisbane's setting, as I have to wait till he closes down before I get him. I have now kept him company every night for a week, but to make sure of his identity I decided to lose further sleep last night, and at 2 a.m. he woke the wife up in her bedroom giving his home address with deliberate and unmistakable delivery. The fellow close on 2BL must be his brother by the sound of things, his announcement I have not so far been able to get only partly, but it seems similar to the man in Tokio and perhaps will turn out to be JOBK. Since these Japs have been around I have not been logging "IBED" till about 3 in the morning, but it's all in the game, so why worry.—(It was recently announced that Japan was putting on six 10 kw. stations. Amongst these was listed JOBK on 380 metres, which is just below 4QG at 385 metres. This Jap. is located at Kumamoto. JOBK is on 390 metres at Sindai. JOBK is on 400 metres. A useful table of foreign stations receivable in New Zealand is given in the "Radio Listeners' Guide," which will be published in ten days' time.—Ed.]

### Improvements at 1YA.

Henderson: As a consistent listener-in to 1YA, I'll briefly give you my opinion of the station during the last six months. I refer especially to the transmission. It has improved out of recognition and the Auckland radio correspondents who suggested in the newspapers that the new operator (who replaced the gentleman who resigned) did not know his job should now make honourable amends. The transmission from 1YA has never been better. I hope that operator stays at 1YA. As for the programmes, well, contrary to what the Auckland critics led the public to believe, they have kept pace with the improvement in the transmission.

### Good Record for One Valve.

J. Surman (Auckland): I have been a reader of your paper since publication began and have so far never missed a number, and do not intend to so long as they continue to be so interesting and so fully and efficiently made up. I have a one-valve set, and am more than satisfied with the manner and reliability with which it works. Practically the first night I used it, about three weeks ago, I

## Notes from Auckland

(By Listener.)

THE coming of winter nights, with their accompaniment of household fires, or the switching on of the radiator, have given quite a fillip to listening-in throughout the city and suburbs. As a consequence there has been a steady increase in the number of licenses issued at the G.P.O., and with the 11,000 mark now well passed, the province should soon exceed its last year's total.

LAST year a resident of lonely Aitutaki visited Auckland and took back with him a five-valve set. During the five long months when no steamer calls at the island he found the set a boon without price, for through it he was in constant nightly touch with New Zealand, Australia and America, and the handful of whites on the island gathered regularly at his house to "hear the world." Now other sets are to go down with the first boat of the season, and soon a receiver will be as much in demand in the islands as is a mosquito net.

MR. CULFORD BELL, whose voice rings distinctly each night from 1YA, is at present on leave, and his place before the microphone is being taken for the time by Mr. M. S. Cox, who was some time ago assistant announcer at the station.

THOSE with valve sets are thoroughly enjoying 2YA's excellent orchestra, which is "delivering the goods" that listeners want, and in a manner that challenges comparison with anything we hear from overseas. Aucklanders are hoping that on some suitable evening when weather conditions are all that they should be, the 2YA orchestra will be relayed from the local station. It is recognised that such relaying could not be definitely pre-arranged, as static might decide to be unkind, but if a favourable opportunity were seized, impromptu, the crystal folk in their thousands would rejoice at only a brief listening to what is the strongest feature of New Zealand's broadcasting.

ON Tuesday last 1YA experimented successfully with a relay of part of a rehearsal from the rooms of the Auckland Choral Society. In the small crowded space of the rehearsal chamber it must have been difficult to place the microphone so as to get the best

picked up 4YA, Dunedin, and have since had the reception of a number of items confirmed. Besides Dunedin, I have logged 1YA, 2YA, 3YA, and 1ZB, and 1ZQ, Auckland, 2AQ, Taihape, 2FC, 2BL, 2GB, 2KY, and 2UE, Sydney, 3LO and 3AR, Melbourne, 4QI, Brisbane, 5CL, Adelaide, and 7ZL, Hobart, not a bad little list for a one-valve. I would like to congratulate Wellington on the excellent orchestra which has just been added to the studio. I have listened to a number of items by the orchestra and especially enjoyed the two concluding numbers of Friday evening's programme, namely: "In a Bird Store" and "Independence March," and would like to hear them play "The Warblers Serenade" some evening; this number is something after the style of "In a Bird Store," and should be very much enjoyed by listeners.

Like a number of other people, I have read the numerous letters in the "Record" complaining about the programmes, and can only treat with contempt such fool suggestions as some of these people write. If they were to take the trouble to look up some of the programmes of a couple of years ago they would see the splendid progress which has been made in bringing the concerts up to their present point. In my opinion there is very little wanting with regard to artists and numbers and parts taken by them. When we think of the very small population of New Zealand compared with that of Australia we wonder where the excellent talent for our programmes comes from. In conclusion, I would like to say that I have listened to programmes from all the main Australian stations and have still to hear one better than our own.

### Identity Wanted.

S. R. Ellis (Okato): As I was tuning-in KFON to-night I received a station on 235 metres, closing down at 6.15 p.m., as follows: "Now closing down. Good-bye everybody." I could not get the call sign—static burst in the phones at the time. Could any listener give me the call sign of this station? I think it must be Yankee. JOAK came through at 1.15 a.m. on loudspeaker strength on 353 metres on 5th, and KFON came through at good volume to-night.

### Sacred Gramophone Music.

Stewart Warner (Wanganui): I notice in this week's "Radio Record" that 2YA is to be on the air from 3 p.m. till 4.30 p.m. on Sunday afternoon during the winter months. This, Sir, is a good move, for which the management will have the thanks of thousands of listeners-in. Might I be permitted to make a suggestion that the afternoon service be in keeping with the Lord's Day. I would suggest that sacred gramophone records be broadcast. There are many beautiful ones. It would give pleasure, I feel sure, Sir, to the majority of listeners-in. I trust to see the management give consideration to this. Surely no one will take exception to this, as on five days a week a very varied programme is given throughout the Dominion.

balance for voice and orchestra. It is understood that the "mike" was suspended above the singers, and for full choral effects this arrangement proved excellent, though it was not quite so satisfactory for solo work. The innovation, however, was much appreciated, and its repetition should further improve the attractiveness of the local programmes.

THERE is a thoroughly "live" programme committee co-operating with the officials at 1YA. This committee has settled down with enthusiasm to its work, and, mainly through the instrumentality of Dr. Kenneth Phillips, has brought forward some very useful suggestions that have been forwarded to the Broadcasting Company for consideration. Shortly there should be no lack of novelties from the Auckland station, this lack being the chief ground of complaint on the part of the very few disgruntled ones here.

THE radio play has been introduced to Auckland as a permanent portion of the weekly programme, and, if the comments one hears are taken as a criterion, it is going to be an outstanding attraction. "Bobbie," the first presentation, made a very general appeal, and listeners are awaiting keenly for "Bobbie's" weekly successor.

THE much-talked-of "electric set" (though what set isn't) is making its appearance locally, several types already being in use in the city. Users are quite enthusiastic over the novelty of simply plugging in to the wall-socket, and not having to worry with hydrometers and voltmeters, and they aver that the strength and quality of reception exceed their most sanguine anticipations.

## NOTES FROM HAWKE'S BAY

SINCE the appearance of the last notes from these parts, reception conditions have greatly improved, and after the long spell of static which was recently experienced, the change once more eliminates that feeling of disgust when radio is mentioned.

Every one up this way is singing the praises of 2YA's studio orchestra, and from third on the list, the Wellington station goes up to the top for popularity. This is due solely to the orchestra, and through this the Broadcasting Company should not only satisfy listeners but should add to the army of licensees. 2YA's orchestra makes radio worth while. Their presentation of Chu Chin Chow selections on Saturday night was one of the finest broadcasts heard here.

2YA does not fade as regularly as of yore, but it is still less clear than either 1YA or 3YA.

The children's hours from all New Zealand stations are very popular up here with adults as well as the kiddies, and the writer has been asked if there is any possibility of the children's radio express trips being taken again this winter. With Uncle Jasper and "Spot" on board, the train journeys were very enjoyable. Perhaps the R.B.C. can answer the query.

The H.B. Radio Society is getting on slowly with its canvas for funds for the set for the Hastings Hospital, and over £50 is now in hand. It is hoped to bring the total to at least £200 before the end of this month.

A LISTENER in the Hastings district recently had an experience which might be beneficial for others to note. He was greatly interfered with by power-line leaks, and finally sent a lawyer's letter to the local body concerned threatening legal action as a test case, if something was not done to remedy the trouble. Four days after the local body received the letter, the interference which had been continuous for about seven weeks disappeared. That was three weeks ago, and it hasn't come back yet.

THE Napier Radio Society, which has been inactive for several months, promises to come alive again in the near future. There is talk of a fusion between the Napier and Hastings societies, with the idea of forming one big body. The idea is worth thinking about, as the two towns are so close together.

THE Australian stations have been coming in with great strength lately, and 2UE has been audible at good loudspeaker strength in the late evenings.

PLEASURE is expressed locally at the R.B.C.'s decision to give Sunday afternoon transmissions from 2YA. The Wellington station comes through here with good strength in the day time, but is not up to the expected mark in the dark.

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## FEATURES CONTINUED

### 3YA NOTES (contd.)

With such a theme as the Empire, one can expect some rousing national airs. The vocal portion of the musical programme is in the hands of Madame Gower Burns Quartett who have prepared a programme very fitting to the occasion. Between the opening chorus, "When the Empire Calls," and the final "God Save the King," as sung by Madame Gower Burns, with chorus, there will be a two hours' stirring concert—songs such as "Who Were the Yeomen of England?", "Peaceful England," "The Deathless Army," "Homeland," "Sons of New Zealand," "There's a Land," "The Veteran's Song," "Coming Home," "The Red, White, and Blue," and "Land of Hope and Glory," stirring Scottish bagpipe music, Studio Trio, and flute selections, and elocutionary pieces by Miss Naure Hooper, L.T.C.L., these last-named including, "Empire Day," "The Passing of the Queen, January, 1901," and, in humorous vein, "The Empire Spirit" (according to Monty).

Miss Mildred Russell's Radiolian Quartett will score another radio success with "The Quaker Girl" on Friday evening. These light comedies are proving very acceptable to listeners, and "The Quaker Girl" will be no exception. Further treats are in store, the Radiolians having arranged for some special attractions. Almost without a break, the solos and choruses of "The Quaker Girl" will continue until nine o'clock; afterwards humorous elocutionary items and dance music will be introduced by Mr. Sidney Comfort and Mr. Les. Marston respectively. Dance music will continue till eleven o'clock.

Saturday will see the opening of the Christchurch Diamond Jubilee celebrations, and 3YA will do full justice to the attractions.

### 4YA NOTES

A very bright vocal programme will support the items by the St. Kilda Band on Tuesday evening. Band nights at 4YA are always enjoyable, and next Tuesday's will be no exception. Miss Dorothy Skinner (contralto), Miss Anita Winkler (elocutionist), Mr. F. C. Cooper (bass), Mr. L. M. Cachemille (baritone), and Mr. Lester Moller (elocutionist) will supply items. A humorous address will be given by Pastor More.

A talk on some popular tourist resorts will be given by Mr. R. W. Marshall at 4YA on Tuesday evening.

A first-class popular concert has been arranged for Thursday evening, when a new banjo trio will be introduced to 4YA listeners. Hawaiian music will be played.

Miss Betty Roberts (light mezzo soprano) has three songs of the popular type for Thursday evening, so also has Miss Dorothy West (light soprano), one of the latter's being "Mary," from "Our Miss Gibbs." Two humorous recitations will be given by Miss Iilda Scurr. Baritone solos of the light type will be sung by Mr. J. B. McConnell and Mr. R. Wilson Brown, while Mr. Carl Moller will give two humorous elocutionary selections.

A review of the latest books will be given on Friday evening by Mr. H. Greenwood, librarian at Dunedin Athenaeum.

An hour's excellent studio concert will precede the relay of dance music on Friday. Contributing to this concert will be Miss Sheila Neilson (elocutionist), Miss Mollie Vickers (mezzo-soprano), Miss Florence Sumner (soprano), Miss Marjorie McDowell (piano), Mr. L. E. Dalley (tenor), and Mr. J. B. Macpherson (bass).

"Witches" will form the subject for a talk by Mr. Lloyd Ross, M.A., on Saturday evening, under the auspices of the W.E.A.

The 4YA Harmonists will be heard again on Saturday evening, when an excellent programme will be broadcast. Miss Roma Buss will sing "Hills of Donegal" and "Dreaming of Home," and "Song of the Palanquin Bearers." Mr. P. M. Tuohy and Mr. A. R. Mitchell have also chosen popular items, and the items by Miss Mollie Andrews will be "A Heart that's Free," Cornet solos by Mr. George Christie, violin solos by Mr. A. R. Watson, and flute solos by Mr. J. W. Stewart, with orchestral items relayed from the Empire Theatre will complete the programme.

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