

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. F. W. Sellens reports:—A "QSL" card was received from ANE, Bondoeng, Java, recently. They give the times and wave-lengths of telephony tests as follows:—31.86 metres 1640-1840 S.M.T. (4.10 till 6.10 a.m. N.Z.M.T.) and 15.93 metres 1240-1440 S.M.T. (12.10 till 2.10 a.m. N.Z.M.T.). It is not stated if these tests are daily, apparently not, as ANE has not been heard recently that I am aware of.

A card was also received from JHBB, Japan, to whom I sent detailed report of a series of tests they conducted recently. Nothing is said about future transmission.

Listening to 2FC one evening during the week on their regular broadcast wave-length, it was announced that "In the near future short-wave stations will be erected in Sydney and Melbourne for the purpose of broadcasting programmes to be picked up and rebroadcast by interstate stations." The above statement was made after the wonderful success of the recent short-wave tests made by 2ME through 2FC and 3ME through 3LO had been referred to.

A short-wave station in New Zealand would be a good advertisement for this country. 3LO and 2FC are heard all over the world, which no doubt is good publicity.

Another week has passed without anything new to report, although I believe a powerful American station has been heard at the time I am usually listening to 2YA, 8 till 10 p.m. I very seldom go on to the short waves during this period, and probably miss something at times.

Saturday, May 5.

On tuning in 5SW at 6.10 a.m., a lecture was just concluding. This was followed by several songs. PCJJ was listened to from 12.45 p.m. till 1.45 p.m., and I was surprised at the strength they came in considering the time of day. Volume increased from tuning in till signing off and was quite good phone strength. Selections from the "Mikado" were particularly good. Speech was about 75 per cent readable.

Once before, some months ago, I tried them about that time, when they were testing, and it was only possible to hear them very faintly at times.

Instead of 2XAD being on the air as usual, it was 2XAF on 31.4 metres. Reception was very weak. They signed off at 1 minute past 11 p.m. Eastern Standard summer time (2.31 N.Z.M.T.).

At 7.30 p.m. a German was picked up on about 14 to 15 metres, speech was very clear, but not understood by me. Talks were heard by at least two voices, and the call "Achtung! Achtung! AGA" (Nauen) was heard

several times. Music was not heard. RFM was heard at 10 p.m., but was weak.

Sunday, May 6.

Each of three short-wave tests of 3LO were listened to. They were 11.15 a.m. till 11.45 a.m.; 2.15 p.m. till 3.15 p.m.; and 6.15 p.m. till 7.15 a.m. The latter one was the loudest, but nothing to be compared with their regular Monday morning transmission.

2XAF was heard at 11 a.m., which is the earliest I have picked up this station. They were soon too weak to hear; got them again later on. They signed off just after midnight E.S. Daylight Saving Time, after relaying dance music from an hotel.

IAN Auckland, 3AU Rangiora, 3AJ Rangiora and 2BO Wellington were heard testing on telephony, the latter coming in like 2YA, with gramophone selections.

Monday, May 7.

2NM (Marcuse) was very weak—just audible.

3LD, through 3ME, commenced at 6 a.m. It came over very fine, but there was slight fading at times. They stated that a cable had been received from London in reference to reception of the tests on the previous day; one test (I did not make a note of which) was received very well.

5SW at 11 p.m. was too weak to understand what was on.

Tuesday, May 8.

5SW was tuned in at 5.55 a.m., when piano items were on. A talk followed, but although of fair strength was not clear enough to understand.

I was not on the air in the evening.

Wednesday, May 9.

PCJJ was not as strong as usual. 5SW had more than their usual share of talk session. Besides the regular lectures, a talk about "Railways" was on from 6.30 a.m. till 7 a.m., which is the first half an hour of the evening musical programme.

During the evening I listened in on the broadcast set, and did not bother with the short waves.

Thursday, May 10.

5SW was weak, but improved after 7.30 a.m., when I had to leave. Did not hear anything in the evening except Morse.

Friday, May 11.

Big Ben was heard at 5.30 a.m. through 5SW. A talk on music followed.

PCJJ were very good, but again, with me, they were not so strong as usual. RFM, in the evening, was louder than he has been of late, but static was bad.

2AH testing was very good. 5SW was only just audible at 11 p.m.

PCJJ.

Cable advice has just been received that PCJJ wave-length has been altered to 31.4 metres; no alterations in times of transmitting.

DAYLIGHT RECEPTIONS.

Mr. S. Saunders writes regarding short-wave stations received for the week ending Friday, May 11, 1928:—

Saturday, May 5.—PCJJ, Holland, from 12.30 till 1.45 p.m. some items "Bohemian Girl" vocal. Speech in foreign language. At 4.50 p.m. I got a station on word tests—about 38 metres; closed down 5.40 p.m.

Sunday, May 6.—WGY, 2XAF at 10.30 a.m. just audible. At 2.30 p.m. band items from WFBK came in. Dance orchestra, Statler's Hotel, Schenectady, orchestra and singing. "Don't You Remember," piano and saxophone solo (some player), "Sugar," "She's a Great Great Girl," Van Schelors Orchestra, "Happy-go-lucky Day," Van Schelors Hotel, "where they dance by the candle light." Call signs WFBK and WFBK closed down 12 p.m. set N.Z. 3.30 p.m.

Sunday night 3LO, Melbourne, special transmission from 6.15 to 7.15 p.m., N.Z. time. A programme of records. Got station on 33 or 34 metres. Talk by a man and orchestral items till 10.30 p.m.

Monday, May 7.—3LO, Melbourne, announcer said: "The test carried out at 4.45 to 5.45 p.m. Sunday was received in England very well. It is nearly six months since we started S.W. work. He also said 3AR was to amalgamate with 3LO. Speech was given by Rev. J. H. Cane, president of the Church of Western Australia, and they closed down 8.10 a.m.

Tuesday, May 8.—5SW was on the air. The carrier wave has been very wavery lately.

Wednesday, May 9.—PCJJ, Holland, good strength. Calls South Africa, Canada; thanks for kind appreciation; hope you enjoy this programme.

2XAF, WGY at 2.45 p.m. not very plain. Wuritzer organ and orchestra with singing. Piano solo, "When Day is Done and Night is O'er." Organ recital, Albany Theatre. Orchestra, Buffalo Theatre. Buffalo Symphony Orchestra, overture, "Raymond." Quartet sings "Wearying For You." Orchestra, "I'm More Than Satisfied." This was a midnight programme from the Buffalo Theatre Orchestra, under the direction of Herbert Strouse, the

programme being provided by WLHA for WGY. Closed down 1.5 a.m. Set N.Z. 4.35 p.m.

Numerous "Hams" were heard during the week. Also a report that a Moscow wireless station with the call sign SOC on 55 metres, 37 metres and 23 metres, Radio Society of Soviet Russia, would give a monthly test talk. Look out for it.

The strength of stations heard on May 11 was as follows:—

5SW, Chelmsford, from 5.30 till 10.30 a.m. Medium strength, diminishing after 9 a.m.

PCJJ, Holland, good strength at 6 o'clock till 7.30 a.m., when it is medium strength.

2XAF, America, medium strength at 2.30 p.m., but mostly good strength after 3.30 p.m. till closing down.

2XAD, weak at 2.30 p.m., but gains strength at 3 p.m. when it is medium.

3LO, good strength at 6 o'clock, but inclined to fade; medium at 8 o'clock.

2FC, good strength right through; mostly at night from 9.30 till 12 p.m.

AMERICAN GIANT HEARD.

A. P. Morrison (Brooklyn).—On May 3 I had reception of a new American short-wave station. This station was logged at 8.30 p.m. A talk on short-wave broadcasting was the first thing heard, which lasted for ten minutes. Nothing was heard again till 9.25 p.m. (the station being on the air all the time). At 9.25 p.m. an announcement was made to the effect that it was 3XL (? 3XN), Brambrook, New Jersey, U.S.A., testing. From then on musical and vocal items were heard, announcements being made re identity of station between items, but no mention of the wavelength.

The transmission continued on till 10.30 p.m., closing down with 3XL, Brambrook, New Jersey, signing off good-morning. The strength of the station was above anything I have heard on the short-wave band before, but modulation at times was not of the best. [It was recently reported that a station 3XN would be operating on 50,000 watts.—Ed.]

A little time ago I received a letter from them Crosley Radio Corporation, Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S.A., in reply to reports sent in by me regarding reception of their short-wave station, WLW, with information which might be of interest to short-wave listeners:—"Our short-wave set operates on 52.02 metres, 5764 K.C., with a power of 250 watts only. We are doing some experimenting with this set, and expect to increase the power to 500 watts as soon as possible. The call letters announced are usually just WLW, although sometimes it is announced SXAL when making tests. The programme broadcast on this transmitter is our regular WLW programme after 7 p.m., E.S.T."

Now that the winter months have set in, all short-wave stations are coming in at great strength, especially the Americans. I now find it possible to tune-in 2XAD, Schenectady, N.Y., as early as 11 a.m. No doubt strength is not equal to the afternoon, but speech and music is quite audible, using 'phones.

A station I have not heard very much lately is ANE, Java. If they are operating still it is not on their usual wave-length.

I heard JHBB, Japan, testing a few nights ago on about 37 metres, but modulation was very poor. On Friday, May 3, the Dutch station, PCJJ, came in with good strength, and the announcement was made that they were operating on 30.4 metres, not as usual 30.2 metres. I have listened to 5SW, 24 metres, Chelmsford, England, at 11 p.m., but their strength is not equal to early morning transmissions, although quite audible.

On Sunday, 6th, after listening to 2XAF for a while, I tuned my receiver to about 50 to 60 metres, and found a weak carrier wave, after a little tuning, organ music was heard, then an announcement was made that the organist was Stephen Boisclair, and that another selection would be played, the item being "The World of Memory." After this item the station was announced 1XAE, Massachusetts, America, and it was mentioned that the programme was coming from WBZ. Mostly dance items were heard. After this it was mentioned in one of the announcements something about their transmitting. Their wave-length was given as 54 metres. The station closed down at 3.45 p.m., New Zealand time. On looking up an American magazine I find that this short-wave transmitter is owned by the Westinghouse Electric Company, East Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

1YA MUSICAL COMMITTEE

VALUABLE SUGGESTIONS.

The first meeting of the 1YA Musical and Dramatic Societies' Committee was held at 1YA Broadcasting Station recently. Present: Dr. Kenneth Phillips, Mr. J. F. Montague, Mr. G. T. Lee, Mr. V. Trask, Mr. K. Atkinson, Mr. C. B. Plummer, Mr. L. E. Lambert, Mr. A. Trenwith, Mr. F. McCallum, Mr. S. J. Hayden, Mr. D. Wrathall. Apologies for absence were received from Madame Irene Ainsley, Mr. N. R. McRobie, Mr. K. Brampton, and Mr. J. D. Crawford.

At the conclusion of formal business the chairman threw the meeting open to general discussion and for suggestion regarding programme matters.

The committee recommended a fortnightly review of new gramophone records for incorporation in forthcoming programmes.

It was considered that a "mystery" programme, that is, a programme in which the names of artists and the

What Difference Does a Good Earth Make?

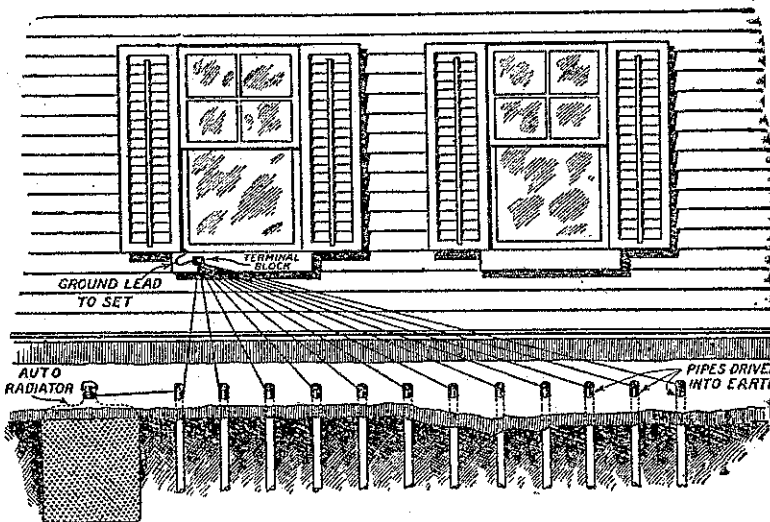
HALF A GUINEA FOR THE BEST RECORD OF IMPROVED EXPERIENCE

THE amazing feat of receiving 694 broadcast stations, including four New Zealand stations, has been accomplished by Walter Pierce, of Rhode Island, off the Atlantic Coast of the United States. This feat, in itself remarkable, is made the more notable by the fact that it was attained on a Two Valve set of a make popular a few years ago, but now entirely off the market. The explanation of this extraordinary feat lies in the very efficient "earth" system developed by Mr. Pierce.

THE full story of Mr. Pierce's equipment and attainments was given in our issue of March 30. That article caused a very great deal of interest amongst radio listeners, and we have heard of several instances where it has been applied in New Zealand, with a remarkable improvement in the strength of reception of a number of overseas stations. Anything that improves the quality of reception is wholly to the good of radio in general, and in order to encourage appreciation of the need for thoroughly good equipment in the subsidiary attachments of radio—good aerials and good earths—we would like to know some of the details of the improvement that has been effected.

WE are therefore offering a prize of Half-a-Guinea for the best account of improved reception effected by the use of either Mr. Pierce's system of earthing, or any other specially good earthing device that has effected a particularly marked improvement in reception.

For the benefit of competitors, and intending competitors, we describe herewith the earth used by Pierce, and give an illustration of same as well.



The account of Pierce's system said:—Outside the window there was something unusual. The wire that led from the ground connection on the receiver out through the window ended at a binding post on a porcelain base. From this post twelve wires led to the same number of pipes or other pieces of metal embedded in the ground (see illustration). Pierce said that he found that each new ground connection increased selectivity and reduced the effect of body capacity; so he added one after another.

A leaky automobile radiator was sunk in the ground, at the end of the row of pipes, with its caps just above the surface so that water could be poured into it. Circumstances alter cases. On a car, that radiator could only have inspired profanity; here it was an ideal device for keeping the ground connections wet. The ground clamps on the pipes were bright. Pierce said that he put on new ones every few weeks. It became evident that his phenomenal record was not the result of accident.

The aerial is 110 feet long and 26 feet high; it points N.N.E., with the set at the southerly end. Two glass insulators in series at each end prevented the escape of energy. The wire was of bare copper which, Pierce said, gives better results than tinned copper. He puts up new wire, to replace the old every few months, or as soon as corrosion becomes noticeable. The aerial is kept taut, to prevent swinging.

THIS Competition will close on June 30, in order to give time for the system to be installed, if desired, and the improvement noted.

THE decision in the Competition will be determined upon the excellence of the general account of the installation and the improved reception recorded. What we want are facts that will be useful to other listeners, as emphasising the improvement that can be effected by care in details and proper equipment. Letters should be addressed to "The Editor, 'Radio Record,' P.O. Box 1032, Wellington."

items rendered would not be announced, would be appreciated, it being left to the listeners to pick both the name of the person rendering the item, and the item.

The committee further suggested a scheme by which it was hoped to secure further talent.

The chairman remarked that he had frequently come across people with the opinion that doors were closed to new talent, whereas exactly the opposite was the case, and the station was anxious to secure sound and suitable fresh talent.

A series of programme suggestions were brought forward by Dr. Kenneth Phillips. The committee felt that the suggestions formulated, being of a comprehensive and constructive character, required special consideration and it was decided to place them

on the agenda paper for discussion at the next meeting to be held on May 18, at which Mr. W. J. Bellingham, the company's director of music, will be present.

Mr. C. B. Plummer advised that arrangements had been made by which the Choral Society had offered two excerpts from the final rehearsal of the forthcoming Oratorio, "Elijah," to be broadcast from the Choral Hall on Tuesday night next, and it was felt by members of the committee that the Choral Society's action in this respect would be greatly appreciated.

A scheme was under consideration for the exploitation of outside talent, and it was hoped, by some means, to arrange for the talent from any particular town or district to be utilised.

WHAT'S RIGHT IN RADIO?

Consult

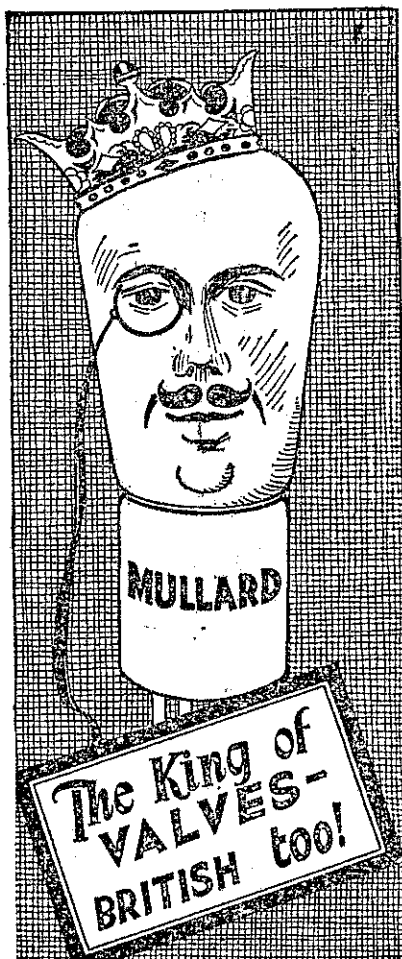
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