

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 writes: 5SW, Chelmsford, appear to have altered their starting time for the morning test, as on the last two or three mornings there has not been any sign of them till 6.30 a.m. On the one evening I was up till 11 p.m., 5SW was not heard.

Reception with me during the past week has been weaker than usual and not the usual variety of stations heard.

A card just received from OAGAG, Perth (Mr. Coxon) states that he has no fixed hours for working, but is usually on from 6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. and again from 11 p.m. (10 p.m. to 11 p.m. and from 2.30 p.m. New Zealand time). His wave-length is 33 metres.

Saturday, May 12.

5SW was tuned in at 6.15 a.m., when an orchestral item was heard. This was followed by vocal music.

PCJJ was first heard at 1 p.m., and was very weak. Volume gradually increased till they closed down at 1.40 p.m. with the Dutch National Anthem. This is now almost as familiar as our own. IAN was heard directly after the Dutch station closed down for a short time.

2XAF on 31.4 metres were again transmitting instead of 2XAD. Reception was weak. They closed down at 2.30 p.m.

RFM was heard late in the evening.

Sunday, May 13.

2XAF was tuned in at 2 p.m., when it was very weak. The usual dance programme was broadcast. It was only toward the end of the transmission that it was possible to put them on the speaker. They closed down at 2.29 p.m.

Spent the rest of the day B.C. Ling.

Monday, May 14.

The carrier of 2NM was heard, but too weak to do any good with.

3LO were much later than usual in starting. The carrier was on before 6 a.m. and a voice said something about 3ME very faintly. Nothing more was heard, except the weak carrier for some time, it was about 7 a.m. when I first heard him, but was not on his wave all the time. He was not up to his usual strength then. At 11 p.m. 2RB, Goulburn, on about 31 metres, was testing on telephony.

There was not any sign of 5SW at 11.5 p.m. If they were on the air their carrier should have been audible if nothing more.

RFM were transmitting some fine orchestral items at fair volume, not so strong as they used to be.

Tuesday, May 15.

5SW was better than of late, but on account of strong winds, the aerial was swinging, causing unsteady reception. Big Ben was heard, followed by a talk, which, although clear enough, was not intelligible on account

of the jerkiness caused by aerial swing. Violin solos were heard from 5.45 a.m., followed by another talk.

At 6.15 a.m. the musical programme commenced, apparently from a theatre or music hall, the audience could be clearly heard clapping at the end of the items. Several whispering baritone solos were heard with orchestral accompaniment, etc. Volume and steadiness improved before 7.30 a.m., when I had to close down.

On about 30 metres a station was heard which appeared to be RFM, it was the same, or similar voice. It was not a harmonic as there was no sign of him on 60 metres. If it was RFM, it is the first time I have heard him so low in wave-length.

Wednesday, May 16.

5SW did not commence till 6.30 a.m. this morning, and was then very weak, but improved a lot later on.

PCJJ was fair between 6.30 a.m. and 7 a.m. They closed down at 7.42 a.m., as usual, with their National Anthem.

2BO Wellington was testing with 2BU, and afterwards entertained with mouth organ and gramophone records. Reception was quite good, except for a slight swing. Congratulations, 2BO.

Thursday, May 17.

5SW again did not start till 6.30 a.m., but was too weak to bother with.

Did not hear anything the short time I was on the S.W. set during the evening.

Friday, May 18.

PCJJ was quite good, but still weaker than usual.

5SW, Big Ben was heard at 6.30 a.m. and an announcement stating it was 5SW, the B.B.C. experimental short-wave station, on 24 metres, etc., and that they were "going over" to London. Music was heard from London, but it was weak and unsteady. 5SW is not so steady as it might be; this makes talk very hard to follow, even when the volume is fairly good.

Late in the evening 2ME was testing, giving call and counting. The carrier, although strong, varied in intensity or quick fading.

RFM, on 70 metres, besides talk, gave some enjoyable orchestral items.

What Set Used.

A listener inquires which set Mr. Sellens uses. It is exactly the same design as that described by "Megohm" in our columns some time back and published fully in the "N.Z. Radio Listeners' Guide" now issued. This short-wave set is much more satisfactory than an adapter.—Ed.

Southern Reception.

Robert Parker (Invercargill): Whilst listening-in to 3YA to-night (Wednesday, May 16), I am reading the "Short-Wave Corner" in your "Record," and thought a short report of my low-wave experience during the week might add to the interest, especially so as most of your reports are from further north. Invercargill is supposed to be only fair reception regarding the broadcast band, but on low-wave, if this week is any criterion, the short-waves are coming over great. On Sunday, May 13, 2XAF, Schneetady, in the afternoon was hard to hold and only fair. Monday 3LO quite clear in the morning. Tuesday, 14, 5SW coming through beautiful. Items from Daly's Theatre, Leicester Square, talks on artists of the last two decades, some specialist on colour, and studio items all equally good and loud. In the evening RFM coming through fair to good, occasional surging. This morning Chelmsford, England, not so good. Poor reception probably due to a nearby receiver with a threshold howl. PJJ items and close down about 7.30 a.m. was received quite good. I have been experimenting for some time with various coils and turn numbers; also with chokes with the idea of more stability when reception is not good. After various trials of coils, the one that has given the best results is 8 aerial, 7 grid, 7 plate. The latter seems high when compared with some of the manufactured sets, but with a seven plate condenser and a larger capacity plate condenser I have had the best results. Various coils, some of which have no dead spots, yet have given poor results compared with the above turns.

Another Southern Receiver.

G. D. Gerken (Chatten): I may say I appreciate your paper very much and look forward for the next issue. I have been listening in since the Broadcasting Company started and find 3YA has best modulation, but fading very frequently. 1YA comes next; 2YA modulation seems very bad at times, especially on band items, hardly ever fades with me. I have had 2YA on the speaker, using one radio and detector on loop aerial. 4YA has perfect modulation here but not very strong. This station is received very well in daylight. I appreciate Mr. Sellens's short-wave notes, as this locality seems adapted to short-wave receiving. PCJJ, 5SW, 2XAF all come in here as loud as 4YA. I have no trouble picking them up with no aerial. My set is four valves, 1 radio detector, 2 audio, and tunes from 5 metres up to 600, a switch cutting out the radio stage under 100 metres. Although I get no interference here as there are no sets within miles, my set is perfectly neutralised on broadcast band, as I think it should be compulsory for all sets to be.

S.W. Reception in Christchurch.

R. F. Stainton (Christchurch): As an example of what can be heard down here on your 3-valve S.W. receiver, I enclose my log of stations for a week. This is an "average" week as far as my reception goes, except that on Sunday, the 6th, I logged more stations in one day than I had done before. Dry cell valves are used, and with these I can get all I want. I have had the set going two months now and have heard 34 stations on telephony. Previous to this I had a 2-valve for five months and heard only 29 stations. My aggregate now is 40 stations (telephony) in seven months, and then I did not have the set going for a month during this period—as well as holidays away from home.

Saturday, May 5.—5SW, Chelmsford: Piano solos. Loud and clear. Well played. Did not have much time to listen. 7.20 a.m. PCJJ, Holland: 12.40 p.m. Clear but not very loud. "Over the Waves" waltz at 12.25 p.m. 2AB, Wanganui: Testing 1.10 p.m. PCJJ came in at slightly better strength towards 1.30. 2XAF, New York: 2.10 p.m. Concert programme of WGY. At 2.20 p.m. on 30 metres a foreign station (not PCJJ or ANE), with a man speaking for about 5 minutes, then he would switch off and come back after about 3 minutes. Loud but slightly "mushy". 3AP, Christchurch: 2.20 p.m., working 3AW. Foreign station again at 3.30 p.m. (as mentioned above). 2XG, New York: Usual "write down" programme of words. Foreign station again at 4 p.m. (as mentioned above).

Sunday, May 6.—IAN, Auckland: Testing at 10.15 a.m. Loud and clear. Records at 10.43 a.m. 2XAF, New York: At 10.40 a.m., not as loud as late in afternoon, but quite clear enough to be followed.

2BA Wellington (or 2GA): Reports on IAN's transmission, 10.45 a.m. 3LO Melbourne: Not as good as usual; Monday morning's transmission, 11.20-11.45 a.m. 3AL Ashburton: Testing at 11.55 a.m. 2RT Goulburn, N.S.W.: Testing on gramophone records, 2.5 p.m. 3LO again in afternoon, slightly better than in morning. 2XAF at extra loud 'phone strength from 3-3.30 p.m., with dance music. 3AU Rangiora: Testing on records; slight fading at times. 2AP Wairoa-Wellington: Very strong and steady; reports on 2AR, modulation excellent, 3.55 p.m. 3OA (or 3OI), Timaru: Testing, 4.5 p.m. 3LO in evening loudest station heard yet on short-wave; much stronger now. 4PG Brisbane, Q.: Slightly "mushy"; records at 9.50 p.m. RFM Russia: Not very loud at 10 p.m., but later on, at 11 p.m., strength was tremendous; playing "Light Cavalry" overture, very enjoyable. 3OM Christchurch: Testing at 10.15 p.m.; working 2BO Wellington. 4PG again at 10.25 p.m.; RFM still going 11.25.

Monday, 7/5/28.—2XAF New York: 12.30 p.m., not very strong, but clear and steady; announcement "WGY Schneetady." 2LG Goulburn, N.S.W.: Testing on records at 9.45 p.m. 2BO

As Others See Us

The Radio Revival.

The company having opened the powerful new Wellington station, and having revised the wavelengths of all four stations, set about other improvements. The money allotted to the payment of artists was increased by 60 per cent., a musical director was appointed to the Wellington station, and a Sunday afternoon broadcast was initiated. They also appointed a superintendent of stations to co-ordinate the operations of the four stations and to bring them up to their maximum efficiency. A promise was made to try to eliminate the silent nights.

The consequence of these improvements was a large increase in the number of listeners. At the end of June there were 21,000 listeners holding licenses, and this increased to approximately 30,000 during the next three months. There are, in addition, nearly 1600 holders of dealers' licenses, and 120 amateur transmitting licenses are in force.

A Church Broadcasting Station.

This was something in the nature of a wireless boom, and was followed by a very interesting development, the formation of the Anglican Broadcasting Association of New Zealand in October last. During his visit, the Bishop of London broadcast a talk which was so successful that the importance of utilising wireless in the service of the Church was realised. A committee was set up and the A.B.A. was duly formed and incorporated. It is their intention to erect a 0.5 kw. station in Auckland at a cost of £8000. A further £4000 to £5000 a year is the estimated cost of maintenance. The association's aim is to instruct rather than to amuse, and, in addition to religious matter, they will broadcast the best in literature, art, and music. They will in no way compete with the Radio Broadcasting Company.

The Government are now taking steps to have lessons broadcast to schools. This should be greatly appreciated, especially by the schools in the backblocks.

The fact that radio has other uses than merely to amuse is being realised, and it should not be long before New Zealand broadcasting is on a sound basis. Beam wireless and the relaying of European programmes are going to make a great difference in the future, and we may perhaps look forward to the time when New Zealand will be in constant radio communication with Great Britain and Europe. When that time comes it will not only mean a considerable change in the life of the Dominion, but also a much closer tie between Great Britain and her lonely child of the South Seas.

MUSIC AND BROADCASTING.

A FAVOURABLE INFLUENCE.

Mr. Bennett North, a well-known teacher of voice production in Sydney, who adjudicated at the Wellington Competitions in 1925, and is in New Zealand to officiate at the Christchurch Competitions now in progress, has a kindly word to say for the value of broadcasting in relation to music. In an interview with "The Dominion" Mr. North said he did not think that broadcasting was baneful to music, as it taught people to listen and to discriminate. In Sydney it has been highly beneficial to the students, who often earned enough in fees for broadcasting services to cover their tuition.

A further comparison that Mr. North made in reference to the general standard of vocal attempts between New Zealand and Australia is of value in relation to broadcast programmes and the comparison sometimes made between Australian and New Zealand stations. Mr. North's view would seem to favour the general quality of New Zealand voices. Mr. North said he was always glad to come to New Zealand, as the standard here was higher than he had found it in New South Wales, especially as regarded men's voices. New Zealand seemed to be able to produce a better type of voice. That applied, perhaps in a lesser degree, to the ladies' voices. One could not say exactly what brought that about, but it may be due to a greater isolation, "away from the madding crowds" of the big cities, where the intonation might be a little more careless, or education might be a factor. The one great weakness in New Zealand was choral singing, which never seemed to reach a very high level, not even as high as that of New South Wales. For the best in choral singing, however, one had to go to Queensland. Mr. North was judging in Cairns (Northern Queensland) at Easter, when there were competitions for first and second grade choirs. In the second grade, there were three choirs so good all round that they scored over 90 marks out of the maximum of 100, and the Cairns Choir in the first grade, singing "Death in the Hills" (Elgar), treated the number with such artistry that he had to award the choir 97 out of 100 marks. Here again he could only account for such a high standard by the fact that the young people had not the same distractions to occupy their time as they had in Sydney or Melbourne.

IN the British Broadcasting Company's journal, "World Radio," of March 30, appears the following article from the pen of J.T.C. on "Radio Development in New Zealand":—

In view of the fact that a few weeks ago New Zealanders were able to dance to music received from Davenport, it is interesting to see how radio is developing in that Dominion.

Previous to 1926 there were one or two abortive attempts to establish a broadcasting company to serve the Dominion. These failed owing to lack of proper organisation and support.

Early in 1926 the New Zealand Government accepted the offer of two business men to find £20,000 capital for the purpose of establishing the Broadcasting Company of New Zealand. They agreed to a number of conditions imposed by the Government, and were to work under the supervision of the Postmaster-General.

The new company began by raising the license fee from 10s. to 30s., promising to provide excellent programmes with the increased revenue. They erected three broadcasting stations: 1YA, in Auckland, costing £8500; 3YA, in Christchurch, costing a similar amount; and 2YA, in Wellington, accounting for over £30,000. The three stations thus cost nearly £50,000, although the company was originally capitalised at £20,000.

2YA, Wellington, was not opened till July 16, 1927, and as the company had to borrow £15,000 from the Government to erect it, it is virtually a Government station. This is a 5 kw. station, being the most powerful in the Southern Hemisphere, and besides being received clearly in Australia and many of the Pacific islands, it has been picked up in Vancouver. It is within the range of all valve sets in the Dominion.

The Radio Broadcasting Company has certainly improved the programmes, but, unfortunately, they lack facilities to do all they hoped to do when they took over control in 1926. They are up against difficulties, for New Zealand has not sufficient artists of merit to keep the four stations constantly supplied with absolutely first-class programmes, and until recently were able to offer an average fee of only half a guinea. Moreover, each station had one silent night a week, and there was no Sunday afternoon broadcast.

In July of last year the Auckland Listeners' League and the Wellington Radio Society asked for complete Government control.

The following table gives the details of the four stations now broadcasting under the control of the Radio Broadcasting Company:—

Wavelength	Station	Kw.
306 metres	3YA, Christchurch	0.5
333 metres	1YA, Auckland	0.5
420 metres	2YA, Wellington	5
463 metres	4YA, Dunedin	0.25

Mr. Maxwell Howden, the well-known Melbourne amateur transmitter, says: "All indications point to a splendid DX winter for us, particularly on the short-waves. The New Zealand signals are quite audible here for all the twenty-four hours, while at times they reach maximum intensity, even when relatively low power is used. 3AV and 8AJ seem to be the most active stations over there. Old 2AB is on less frequently, but does almost as much DX. In fact, he is getting out so well that when one hears a faint station answering him one can be sure it is from somewhere on the Continent."

Mr. George Ferris, elocutionist, will give two recitations, one in Cockney and the other in Sydney East End lingo.

Wellington: Working 1AI; clear and loud.

Tuesday, 8/5/28.—(Visiting another S.W. enthusiast); got GAG, TWY (?), 2LG on his adapter).

Wednesday, 9/5/28.—PCJJ Holland: Loud and clear, but slight fading 6.55 a.m.; "Cavallera Rusticana," by orchestra. 5SW Chelmsford: 7 p.m., band playing "Viennese Folk-song"; strong and clear. 2LG Goulburn, N.S.W.: 7.10 p.m., testing on records; modulation not too good. 2RT Goulburn, N.S.W.: 7.15 p.m., clear but not very loud; modulation very good; records. 4NW Brisbane: Working 2LG; steady, but not very strong. GAG Perth: 10.10 p.m.: Usual excellent selection of records put on; steady and clear.

Thursday, 10/5/28.—5SW Chelmsford: Only listened for a couple of minutes, and heard piano solo very clear at 7.30 a.m., followed an interval of 10 minutes. 2LG Goulburn, N.S.W.: Records at 7.20 p.m. 3OM Christchurch: Testing at 10.20 p.m.

Friday, 11/5/28.—PCJJ Holland: 6.55 a.m., more interference during song by lady; next item was an orchestral one, "Peer Gynt." 5SW Chelmsford: Extremely loud and clear; piano duets on two pianos; 7.5 a.m.-7.30 a.m., "Andante," by Mendelssohn; "Introduction and Waltz," by Rachmaninoff; and another I did not note. RFM Russia: 11.30 p.m., clarinet solo with piano accompaniment; more talk. Station on about 33 metres, with records, "Take a Pair of Sparkling Eyes" and some others, but could not catch call sign as static was proving troublesome.

Printed and published for the New at the registered office, Dominion Avenue, Wellington, of the Wellington Publishing Company, by Archibald Sando, of 47 Freyberg Street, Lyall BAY, FRIDAY, JUNE 1.

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1928-29

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