

Our Mail Bag

The All Blacks.

Football Fan: Could you please inform me of the short wave stations, if any, operated in South Africa? We are anxious to listen to the description or results of the All Blacks' matches there if possible. The new 2YA orchestra is all right and shows that the R.B.C. is at last really doing something towards improving programmes. I can only wish reception of 2YA was as good here in Hawke's Bay as is reception of 1YA and 3YA. But we'll hope that will be fixed soon. I am in favour of 2YA testing on 1YA's wave-length. Congratulating the R.B.C. on the new orchestra, and thanking you in anticipation.

[There is a short-wave station at Johannesburg working on 25 or 32 metres (given variously), but as explained last week, S.A. is very rarely if ever heard in New Zealand. Mr. Bell, of Waihemo, did hear it once on Morse, but ordinarily it is out of the question. Results will be broadcast at first opportunity after receipt by cable.—Ed.]

A Joy to Listen To.

A. M. Payton (Masterston): This is merely to tell you the pleasure the new orchestra from 2YA has given us this week. It is a joy to listen to and comes through in full tone.

Rebroadcasts Desired.

W. C. Fitzgerald (Hastings) inquires if, as the afternoon sessions of 2YA are good, but over-done with canned music, and the Broadcasting Company rebroadcast during the afternoon sessions a little of the American short-wave broadcasting stations, if not other foreign stations.

Vibrophone Wanted.

C.H.W. (Wellington): Is it not possible for us to hear the very fine vibrophone in the studio? As far as I know, it has only been broadcast once. Surely someone could be found to give us a tune of this fine instrument. It must have cost a lot of money, and it is a shame for it to be left untouched. By the way, can you inform me when the dinner hour sessions commence and the dinner music at night?

[The vibrophone is now used regularly in conjunction with the orchestra, and an announcement in regard to the dinner session will be made in the near future.—Ed.]

The Jealousy Bug.

"Where's Christchurch?" writes: Although the "Radio Record" is not posted to me but to one in the family, I am always anxious to read it, and this week, when I picked it up and read about Auckland being next with an orchestra, I thought of the same old tale, "jealousy." I think that the Broadcasting Company has been very fair, because in the first place Auckland was first with the new station, then Christchurch, then Wellington; now Wellington receives an orchestra, then should come Christchurch or Dunedin, then Auckland. Why should the North Island receive everything first? What I can see of it is that if Auckland had her way they would have had 2YA's power up there. I thank the company for its fairness, and I am one who hopes to see it continue. Now, may I say, in reference to the orchestra in Wellington, that it is the best I have ever heard, including American stations; and so I wish to thank the Broadcasting Company for the way they have carried out their work right through.

Another Little List.

N. C. Fitzgerald (Hastings): Regarding listeners' logs, my total is 62 on broadcast waves, and I can add 53 short wave stations. My aerial is 25 feet high and 120 feet long—a poor aerial compared with most. My earth, I think, is what counts most. No. 12 gauge wire is used, and is attached to the main pipe of a well. All stations have been located within the last four months, and now American stations are coming in in great numbers—ever increasing.

Letter from New South Wales.

J. W. McNamara (Barillar), New South Wales: I received a copy of your interesting paper through 2YA, and I find it very interesting. Being a listener-in and the owner of a five-valve set, I often tune in on all the YA stations over your side, and find their programmes splendid. I noticed in your "Mail Bag" column a letter from Mr. J. Nardstrand, Orieaki, headed "Who's the Stranger?" It is JODK, Japan, transmitting on 345 metres. I had the same experience of picking this station up as Mr. Nardstrand. I was tuned on to 2BL, Sydney, and JODK chipped in so loud that I moved the dials back two numbers and tuned it in on full loud-speaker strength. If M. Nardstrand takes notice he will hear the announcer say JODK quite plainly. The stranger is very crowded in on 2BL's programme. If he waits until 3LO closed down he will also hear JOAK on a fairly loudspeaker strength, and JOBK on 4QG's wavelength. JOCK is two numbers further on than 2BL, Sydney.

Country People Appreciative.

"Not a Grumbling Howler": Several letters in the newspapers upbraiding the Broadcasting Company regarding programmes, announcements, etc., bears out the saying that you can please some of the people some of the time, but not all the people all the time. I consider the company have done all in their power, and a marked improvement has been the result. Rome was not built in a day. Try and help the company—not go against them. I

presume most of the howlers are town people. Well, let them come and live in the backblocks, where radio is our only form of entertainment, and they will soon cease grumbling. They would then appreciate wireless, and not go into print over little trivial things. What do they expect for their 30s. per annum? Now take the Sunday afternoon session from 2YA. Is this not proof that the company is out to help. I have had wireless installed for two years, and have never yet had cause to grumble.

Information Wanted.

J. G. Mason (Tuakau).—In the "Radio Record" I have read with interest the reports on D.X. reception and harmonics of locals. Perhaps my log may interest fans. In my receiver, a five-valve neutrodyne, but not employing the last audio stage, I have logged the following stations:—KFON and 240 KC (241.8 metres) on sixty nights since last November; HGER, 1290 K.C. (215.7 metres), 100 watts output, both at Longbeach, California, U.S.A.; KFKB, 1240 K.C. (241.8 metres), Milford, Kansas; above three stations verified; and KBX, 1250 K.C. (239.9 metres), ortland, Oregon; KWUC, 1230 K.C. (243.8 metres), Le Mars, Iowa; and JOAK, Japan. 2YA's and 4YA's second harmonics, and also 3AR's, have been clearly heard. The harmonics of 4YA come through at fair speaker strength, and louder than the 463-metre wave. Would be very pleased if any reader could identify these stations: One operating on a frequency very close to 1290K.C. (215.7

metres), KGER's frequency, on May 1 and 2, and transmitting orchestral numbers both nights. On the first night the announcer mentioned that one item was for Mr. —, manager Los Angeles theatre. Considerable interference from KGER both nights. On May 5 a station with call K???, operating between 306 metres and 333 metres, transmitting up to 8 p.m., when 1YA commenced, orchestral items, and

2YA.

*If the night is dark and dreary,
If you're feeling tired and weary,
If you'd like to feel more cheery,
Tune in to 2YA.*

*What's this sound that comes a-
winging?*

*It's the sound of 'cellos singing,
And sweet music is a-ringing
From 2YA.*

*Oh, there's the town clock pealing!
Is it happier you're feeling?
Is contentment o'er you stealing?
Three cheers for 2YA.*

—An appreciation from "Super-
het," Hawke's Bay.

songs. Then on May 6, at 5.25 a.m., a station operating on about 360-375 metres, transmitting an orchestral number; then morse interference was bad; and at 5.30 a.m. must have signed off, as nothing further was heard. On Sunday night, May 6, logged a station just below KFON, broadcasting a song; then KGF (?). The Victorian

station, then mention of "mike fright," afterwards announcing transmission hours. Closed down 7.30 p.m. Very clear, and at good 'phone strength. Has any fan heard this latter station, and if so I would be glad to receive any information on same? To receive any information on same?

Long Life to Orchestra.

J.W. de C. (Masterston): I cannot be classed as one of your frequent correspondents, the reason being that I am so well satisfied with the value received from the B.C. Company for the small outlay that listeners are asked to pay. My reason for this letter is that I feel that we satisfied ones should express our thanks through the columns of your paper to the staff and all who work for our entertainment. My wife and I returned from a holiday on Friday, 4th, and heard for the first time the brilliant orchestra from 2YA. May we be permitted through your paper to congratulate 2YA and to wish the orchestra long life. We think it is wonderful, and for our part we will not be listening to another station (Australia included) the nights the orchestra is on the air. We thoroughly enjoyed the programme from 2YA on Saturday night. [Suggestion regarding elections will be considered.—Ed.]

Two Great Nights.

Tinopai (Wellington).—Please allow me to pay my tribute to two outstanding performances put over the air by 2YA. The Shakespearean night, arranged by Mr. Byron Brown and put over by 2YA, was of outstanding merit. It would not be fair to single out any particular artist, because the whole was a treat and a joy to hear from start to finish. Mr. Brown is

deserving, not only of our praise, but of our thanks, for getting such a band of artists together. Truly a memorable night. The other I wish to compliment 2YA on is the comedy, "Tone," put over by them, and so artistically performed by Mr. Stanley Warwick and his pupils. Mr. Warwick, his pupils, and the station are to be congratulated for such a delightful evening. Let me say that 3LO or 2FC have got nothing on 2YA, and that's that. Cheerio.

An American Suggested.

D.X., Rotorna, says the station Mr. Ellis has been hearing on 235 metres is almost sure to be KFWM. This station has been coming in at fair strength lately and usually closes down early in the evening. DX sends a good list of stations heard distinguished by the following Americans: KFTD, KFVI, KNRC, KQW, KFI, KGER, WFAA, KFWM, KYA, KFAB, KEX, KOIN, KFRC, KJR, KGO, KHQ, KHJ, KSL, WBBM, KFSG, CNRV (Canada), KMOX, WRAM, KPHB, KMO, KOMO, WLAC, KPO, KNX, KPSA, KPWB, KGA, GXT, KFON, KFWO, WOWO, KPUP, KPSD, WRVA, WRHM. The total of all stations is 72, apart from 40 on short wave.

Another Suggestion.

E. R. Moss (Greymouth): Re S. K. Ellis's (Okato) inquiry in your issue of May 18, as to who the stranger is on 235 metres (KFON's wavelength), this station is 3EF, Victoria, but I know of no other particulars about him. He closes down at about 6 o'clock, and sometimes a female does the announcing. With regards to Mr. Ellis's inquiry as to the best five-valve list, I beg to offer my small lot. I know it will be easily beaten. I have a five-valve (broadcast band only) and my list comprises 18 Americans, 17 Aussies, 13 New Zealand, three Japs and three amateurs. Must add my congratulations to the new orchestra at 2YA, but please don't stop those beautiful trios from those great artists, Symons, Ellwood and Short; they are a great treat and a great advertisement to station 2YA, and a great advertisement to New Zealand. I have no faults to find with the New Zealand Broadcasting Company; they manage to find talent for all tastes and are improving every week.

Harmonics.

G. C. H., Masterton.—In reply to letter from W. S. (Tokomaru Bay), appearing in the "Record" of May 25. As the first harmonic of a station is exactly half the actual wavelength it should not be possible to bring in the harmonic of 2GB on a set that has a range of 500-600 metres which, according to the dial settings given by "W.S.", appears to be the range of this set. May I suggest that the station logged was 3DB?

As regards logging 2FC on the setting of 1ZB and 4YA, I think "W.S." will find that he has been listening to a reproduction of the gramophone record called (I think) "2FC Sydney," in which "Mr. Mike" plays a prominent part. Since my earlier letter I have logged 2YA on the first harmonic, viz., 210 metres.

Some Short-wave Strangers.

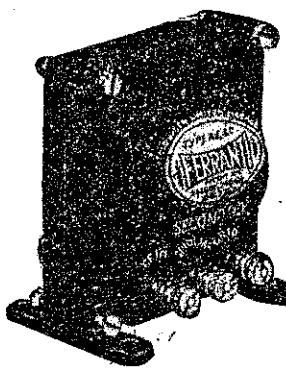
Mark Churton (Auckland).—There has been some discussion on the number of stations received with various types of radio sets. I wrote to you on a previous occasion and gave a description of my receiver, together with a list of stations heard. However, since then, I have rebuilt my receiver. The receiver is wired up so that I can use either two or three valves; the only time when I had occasion to use the headphones on the third valve was to receive 4YA at 6 p.m.; they were just audible on the second valve, but the third brought them in at quite good strength. A peculiar fact has been noticed with 3ZC Christchurch; this station can be heard at quite good strength on their afternoon session (5.5-5.45 p.m.), but are unable to be tuned in on Tuesday evening's session at 8 p.m. When I heard this station first I thought I had struck a Yankee, and although it was not, I was not disappointed, because daylight reception from a 50-watt station, 400 miles away, is pretty fair.

[A list of stations supplied covers a big range, including a large number of New Zealand amateurs and many overseas short-wave stations.]

I listened yesterday to PCJJ's test, from 2.30 to 5.30 p.m., when the signals faded out. Copied down all the details of the reception and let the local Philips agent have them. About 1 a.m. this morning I heard JOAK and JOBK. At 2.30 a.m. there were still seven carrier waves on the air. Four of these were recognised as JOAK, JOBK, JOCK, and KZRM, according to their wavelength, but the remaining three are "strangers." Perhaps some of your readers could give me some idea of their whereabouts.

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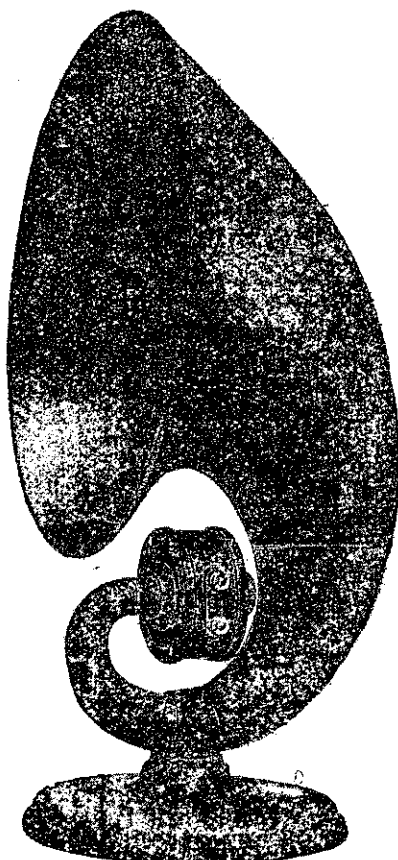
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