

20 per cent Drop in Licenses

Degree of Responsibility on Listeners

DEPARTMENT TO UNDERTAKE PROSECUTIONS

THE detailed figures of licenses issued in the various centres as at April 30, which we published in last week's issue of the "Radio Record," show an all-round drop of approximately 20 per cent. from the number current at March 31. Curiously enough, the percentage of loss in the different centres varies considerably. Dunedin heads the list for staunchness and promptitude, her deficiency being but 10 per cent., while Canterbury exceeds 25 per cent. Auckland and Wellington are practically even in their percentage loss, with a slight superiority on the part of Auckland.

WHILE a certain loss from residential removals, as well as from those upon whom the novelty has worn off, is inevitable, it is considered certain that a goodly percentage of the 20 per cent. deficiency must be accounted for by the natural "lag" of human dilatoriness, and that there are still many thousands operating their radio sets who have not taken out renewals. This is a position which very closely concerns every listener, because the loss of that revenue will inevitably react into the service given. In equity no other principle can apply but that the quality and extent of the programmes must be commensurate with the income provided.

TWO months have elapsed since the obligation to renew their licenses fell upon listeners. Henceforth, we are authorised to say, the Department will prosecute in every case of failure to renew a license by anyone still operating a set which is brought to light.

SOME listeners who have not renewed their licenses but have dismantled their sets consider they are thereby freed from further obligations. That is not so. Under the regulations any listener dismantling his set is required to notify the Department to that effect. Failure to do so renders the listener who still retains a dismantled set liable to a fine of £10. While a certain number of listeners have notified the Department of the dismantling of their sets, the number is small compared with the 8000 odd who have failed to renew. Steps are now being taken to check over the old licenses with the new with a view to the prosecution of those who are either still operating a set without a license, or, if it is dismantled, have failed to notify the Department to that effect.

MANY listeners may be inclined to think that if their own license is in order they have no further responsibility. This is a very narrow view to take, as it really means that they are content to provide their unlicensed neighbours with entertainment and be content with a lower standard than they might otherwise enjoy. The responsibility definitely falls back upon each listener, for he is missing something by the continued defection of his neighbour. It is unreasonable for any body of listeners to carry the burden of their neighbours.

RECENTLY patrons of 2YA the Dominion over have been delighted with the establishment of the orchestra, which is definitely regarded as the finest combination of its kind in the Dominion. This has been introduced in addition to maintaining the rest of the programme on the high standard already established. In view of that, we feel perfectly safe in saying that at present the company, in maintaining this standard, is exceeding the revenue provided by those who have so far renewed their licenses. Obviously there is a limit to the extent to which that can be carried.

TWO further progressive moves were recently indicated by the company—a dinner session of suitable gramophone music from 2YA and the establishment of an orchestra for 1YA on lines similar to 2YA. Already straining, and even exceeding its resources, the company cannot be expected to proceed with these extra services till licenses return to that standard upon which progress was based. From this point of view it is incumbent upon all listeners to see that all who are receiving wireless entertainment realise their obligations and bear their share of the cost of same; otherwise the whole body of listeners and the quality of the service are bound to suffer.

IF listeners would co-operate with the Postal authorities in the effort they are making to locate unlicensed receivers by passing the necessary information to the company or the Postal authorities, the position would speedily be retrieved and the progress of radio and the provision of better services be maintained.

1YA CHURCH COMMITTEE

The third meeting of the 1YA Church Service Committee was held at 1YA Studios on Monday, May 21, 1928. Present: Mr. S. J. Hayden (in the chair), the Revs. E. Drake, W. D. Morrison-Sutherland, H. M. Smyth, Geo. Helgway, Messrs. D. Donaldson, Mr. D. Wrathall.

The Radio Broadcasting Company wrote enclosing copies of letters which had been sent to the Right Rev. Dr. Cleary, of the Roman Catholic Church, and Lt-Colonel Toomer, of the Salvation Army. These letters advised the two churches in question that a church service committee had been formed and that such committee would be pleased to give applications for broadcast from the churches in question, the same consideration as if these two denominations were represented on the committee, and further stated that the company would be pleased to have a representative of these denominations on the committee if the two churches so wished.

Bishop Cleary advised, in reply, that his church very much appreciated the company's offer, but did not for the present desire representation on the committee. The Salvation Army replied to the effect that they were pleased to note the company's offer, but did not desire the ordinary Sunday service broadcast unless such service was of a special nature, but would be glad to contribute band and vocal items on week nights.

The application of the International Bible Students' Association for the allocation of a Sunday broadcast, which was considered at the last meeting and deferred, was then dealt with, and it was decided to recommend to the company that the Bible Students' Association be allotted one Sunday afternoon broadcast, subject to the assurance from the association that no matter of a controversial nature be introduced.

An application for services to be broadcast was received from the United Evangelistic Mission Association. The application was deferred to enable enquiries to be made as to the type of service proposed and the objects of the association.

It was decided to meet again on Monday, July 16, at 2 p.m.

3YA CHILDREN'S SESSION COMMITTEE

A MEETING of the 3YA Children's Session Advisory Committee was held at the Radio Broadcasting Company's studio on Monday, May 21, Mr. Parton presiding. Also present were: Mesdames Machin (National Council of Women), Norton Francis (Parents' National Educational Union), James (Scottish Society), A. R. Hall, of the administrative staff of the Radio Broadcasting Company (principal of the Children's Department), Miss Pim (Y.W.C.A.), and Miss Maynard Hall of 3YA (children's organiser for 3YA, and secretary of the Children's Session Advisory Committee). Messrs. McEldowney (Big Brother), E. J. Bell (Uncle Jack), Dickson (Juvenile Scottish Society), Clark (Headmasters' Association), Brother Henrick (Marist Brothers and Convents), Major Ashworth (Boy Scouts), Misses C. S. Booth (Chuckle), L. Slade (station director), and Clyde Carr (announcer at 3YA and Uncle Sam). A general and very useful discussion on the children's session ensued upon the reading of a letter from Miss Colburn-Feel, and a vote of thanks, appreciative of her interest, was passed.

As to whether it would be better to have a large or small choir for broadcasting purposes in connection with the children's session, it was decided that the number should be limited to 20.

After discussion of the form of programme, it was agreed that a variety of items interspersed with stories, letters and greetings held the child interest more than grouping would do. The element of surprise was one of the features of the children's programmes.

The next meeting was fixed for Monday, June 18.

IT does not seem to be realised by some wireless enthusiasts that a dusty panel is by no means desirable. In sets of the old type, where panels are arranged in a sloping position with external valve holders the dust is in that dust is an undesirable commodity. Panels should, therefore, be periodically dusted with a camel-hair brush and kept scrupulously clean.

Notes from Auckland

(By "Listener.")

ON Friday last 1YA made further progress in relaying sporting broadcasts, by putting over an excellent account of the Hay-McKnight boxing contest in the Town Hall. The description was racy and interesting, and compared favourably with those given regularly from Sydney. As an account of a rather one-sided match, it was equal to anything that the writer has heard from the other side of the Tasman. Incidentally, it aroused among thousands who had never witnessed a boxing contest, a keen interest in the manly art, and the Northern Boxing Association should reap considerable future benefit from the broadcast.

BAND music ranks high in public appreciation, and when a good body of instrumentalists is on the air, few 'phones are not in use, and few loudspeakers are silent. Last Wednesday the Auckland Artillery Band put on from 1YA a programme, light and varied, that simply carried listeners along. Next day there was quite a battery of, "Wasn't the band good last night?" The interspersing of songs, duets, and elocutionary items from the studio provided just the correct balance for a splendid programme.

FOR about a week, conditions for reception have been well nigh perfect locally. Wellington is exceedingly strong, though it fades slightly; Australian stations have been picked up clearly all through the evenings on sets that were really never intended for such long-distance work; and, as for the short-wave folk, to whom a wireless evening is of endless length, they have been revelling in records and urging upon the mere ordinary listener the attractiveness which their special sphere holds.

WITH three days of racing from Ellerslie in prospect, listeners in the country will be well supplied with descriptions of events at the winter meeting. Fortunately, the sporting bodies here have come to recognise the value of co-operating with broadcasting effort, and one no longer hears of any objections being raised to descriptions of turf events.

THE Auckland Listeners' League will hold its annual meeting next month, and the executive is at present engaged upon the preparation of the annual report. The league, with a membership approaching two thousand, is the largest body of its kind in the Dominion. This is to some extent due to the moderateness of its annual subscription—one shilling per member.

EVERY alternate Sunday evening, 2YA receives a big hearing in Auckland. On such evenings the local municipal organ recital is relayed, and its type of programme is not the "draw," for the generality of listeners that the alternate band programme is, so, to the city listener, there is no mistaking the rush for Wellington at 8.30 p.m. There is ten minutes of energetic howling, ere the "nuisances" settle down.

A FEATURE of the most recent license figures is the remarkable and very welcome drop in the number of dealers' licenses issued for the Auckland district. They are now about a third of what they were last year, and there is no doubt that there have disappeared from the trade many who, by rushing into it without capital and with insufficient technical knowledge, did more harm than good to reception. The retailing and servicing of radio apparatus is now settling down into a steady business in capable hands, a fact that will soon be reflected in increased satisfaction among listeners. There is no doubt that the discontent of many who purchased receivers, and their consequent failure to renew licenses, was due to the unsatisfactory treatment that was meted out to them by dealers who made preposterous claims for their wares.

"ARE radio lectures advisable during the 8 to 10 p.m. programmes?" Aucklanders will say, "Yes, provided the lecturers deliver the goods." The series upon old New Zealand, given by Mr. A. B. Chappell, substantiate their statement. These weekly talks have brought very vividly before a large public interesting details of their own land, of which the said public was previously ignorant. And they don't mind admitting their ignorance, or voicing their appreciation of the information they are now gleaming.

NOTES FROM HAWKE'S BAY

THE question most radio bugs are asking up this way at present is when will reception conditions get back to normal? For the past couple of months conditions have been anything but good, and it seems as if, until winter weather arrives in real earnest, static and fading will hold sway.

There has been plenty of volume from all stations, but the tone has not been up to the mark, and for a long time, what can be called a really perfect night has been missing. Some of the dealers must be having

Popular Taste Vindicated

UNIFORMLY HIGH STANDARD REACHED

SINCE the establishment of the 2YA Orchestra readers will be aware we have been operating a system of public nomination in respect of items to be played and items to be repeated. Two coupons have been used—one for "request" items and the other for "repeat" items.

ANALYSIS of the coupons returned proves very interesting, and completely vindicates the good taste of the public. The nominations made on the request coupons have been carefully noted, and a check made with a list of music proposed to be played by the orchestra, prepared independently on its inception by the organisers of programmes. Remarkable uniformity exists between these two lists. This vindicates on the one hand the taste of the public, and, on the other, the judgment of the programme organisers as being prepared and eager to give the public the class of music desired.

THOSE who have sent in requests will be pleased to have the assurance that sooner or later all their items will be played. Future programmes are being based upon their suggestions. So far nothing has been asked for which the orchestra is unable to give, with, at the moment, the exception of "1812," which really should be performed with the assistance of a brass band. Even in this case, however, consideration is being given to the possibility of securing a special score for the combination of a band and the orchestra to be given at a later date.

FOX-TROTS have not proved to be a popular demand. Out of scores of requests, only a very few fox-trots have been nominated—certainly not 2 per cent.

SOME points in connection with requests made for particular nights should be explained to readers. In the compilation of an evening's programme one fundamental rule is the preservation of balance; this rule governed, in some cases, the selection of the "request" item. For instance, "The Poet and Peasant" was frequently nominated, but if already there had been incorporated in that particular evening's programme a somewhat similar overture, a bad balance would be created by the rendition of this item on the same evening. It would, in that case, be set aside for incorporation in a future programme, and some other item chosen from the "requests" which would better accord with the balance of the programme.

CLOSE scrutiny of the "request" coupons now being received shows that they are almost becoming "repeat" coupons, because so much of the music asked for has already been played, while the rest has been noted for future performance. We propose, therefore, to abandon for the time being the "request" coupon. Both we and the company appreciate the interest of those who have used it. The system has been of definite value, and has provided a very valuable check on the public taste, which will guide the compilation of programmes for the future. In abandoning the "request" coupon, however, we wish it to be distinctly understood that the public is still invited to individually forward requests for particular items to the company. They are always gladly received and noted for compliance wherever possible.

THE system of "repeat" coupons will still be continued. This applies specifically to a vote for the repetition of the most popular item on one evening on the same evening of the week following. This is necessary, because each orchestral evening has its character—classical, operatic, popular, and vaudeville—hence the votes for "repeat" items must conform to the character of the programme for the evening.

a happy (?) time trying to sell sets under such conditions.

THE new orchestra at 2YA continues to be subject to complimentary references, and it is pleasing news to learn that a similar move is contemplated at 1YA. This is more than of passing pleasure to local listeners, for strangely enough, 1YA is received here better than 2YA. The Auckland station gives practically as much volume, fades less, and is certainly clearer and of better tone, so it can be pictured that listening to an orchestra like 2YA possesses, from 1YA will be a real radio treat.

JUST what is the matter, or at least the reason, why 2YA is not up to the mark here is hard to say. Its afternoon transmissions are great, but at night it seems to bottle up its music and speech, and fails to deliver the goods with crystal clearness that invariably marks 1YA and 3YA. Of late 2YA has been worse than usual, and occasionally it has been a close rival to 4QG with its mushiness.

LOCAL listeners were highly delighted with 2YA's broadcast of the Melton-Leckie boxing contest. It came through in great style, after a rather indifferent first-part programme from the studio. Mr. Aldridge made quite a good job of the broadcast, but if he will not mind accepting a little hint (for future reference), he would have been more pleasing had he got a little more excited than he did. The excitement of the broadcaster is usually infectious, as far as the listener is concerned, and this no doubt is the reason why the R.B.C. sports announcer, Mr. Allardice, is so popular, and also why so many people sit up late on Saturday nights to tune in to the Sydney stadium. Mr. Aldridge did not give enough description of the

contest, and between the rounds a brief resume of the previous round would have been welcomed. However, he will no doubt correct any faults he may have discovered, and can rest assured that his future broadcasts of boxing from 2YA will be welcomed with open arms. The R.B.C. is to be congratulated also on catering for the desires of the boxing-loving public.

The H.B. Radio Society's appeal for funds to install a receiver and headphones in the Hastings Memorial Hospital is being very slowly answered. To date about \$56 has been received, but this is a long way from the required \$300. H.B. listeners please note!

TALKS TO KEEPERS OF POULTRY

USEFUL talks to poultry raisers are now being given from 1YA and 3YA by Mr. Geo. Ambler and Mr. H. W. Beck respectively.

These talks touch on methods of culling, housing, sanitation, the relationship of these practices to egg production and other factors entering into the making of poultry raising profitable.

Mr. Ambler is well known throughout New Zealand as an authority on poultry, having noted in the capacity of judge at poultry competitions in all the principal centres of the Dominion. Mr. H. W. Beck is also a recognised authority.

All interested in the domestic fowl and other birds should note when these two lecturers are on the air.

The familiar voice of 3YA's announcer, the Rev. Clyde Carr, will be off the air for a fortnight, during which time Mr. Carr will be on holiday leave. The kiddies will miss Uncle Sam as much as will their elders.

'Repeat' Coupon

Address: 2YA 'O, Radio Record, P.O. Box 1032, Wellington.

I desire to nominate the following items for "repeats" next week:—

Monday (Classic)
Tuesday (Operatic)
Friday (Popular)
Saturday (Vaudeville)
Signed

Votes may be recorded for one or for all of the nights mentioned. This selection is made at mid-day for the evening affected. Voting papers receivable till noon. Distant listeners may send forward their Monday's and Tuesday's votes if desired, in order to be in time, and follow later with Friday's and Saturday's wishes. The coupon is inserted for convenience, and may be supplemented in writing.