

# Our Short Wave Corner

MR. F. W. SELLENS (Northland) writes:—

Saturday, May 26.

Big Ben was heard striking 8 p.m. at 6.30 a.m. through 5SW. This was followed, without any announcement, by a man and woman singing. Volume was very weak at 7.25 a.m. when I closed down. An orchestral item was coming through at fair 'phone strength.

PCJJ was first tuned in at 12.45 p.m. All announcements in the early part of the programme were made in a foreign language, Spanish probably, as Mexico City was called several times, and once in English. Mr. Ranger, or Granger, manager, Electrical Company, Mexico City, was asked for a report of reception. Reports were also asked for from other listeners in North America. At 2.10 p.m. the "Wembley Tattoo" was heard at good speaker volume.

2XAD on 21.06 metres was first heard at 12.50 p.m., when they were fair 'phone strength, but very unsteady. Later on volume increased to fair speaker and was more steady. Olive Palmer, radio's most popular soprano, sang, and it was announced that a photograph of this lady could be had by writing for one to the Radio Editor, Palmolive Co., Chicago, Ill. On closing it was announced that a gong would be struck at exactly one minute and ten seconds past 11 o'clock, eastern daylight-saving time. After a slight pause the gong was heard. This is a new idea.

2FC, through 2ME on 28.5 metres, were heard during the evening. Volume was good speaker, but several times they went off the air for a moment or two, and just before 11 p.m. 2ME announced that they were closing down, apparently on account of breakdown, as volume decreased very rapidly before the announcement.

From RFM, 70 metres, a lady was heard talking as well as the usual male speaker.

Sunday, May 27.

2XAF, 31.4 metres, at 2 p.m. was very weak, but was soon strong enough for the speaker. A programme of dance and vocal music was being relayed from the Crystal Room, De Witzler Hotel, Albany, New York. Applause at the end of each item could be clearly heard. They signed off at 3.33 p.m., New Zealand time.

2BO was heard calling "CQ" during the afternoon.

3LO, through 3ME, carried out their second daylight test from 6.15 p.m. till 7.17 p.m.

Several choruses from "Carmen" were heard, a poem by Robert W. Service, the Canadian Kipling, "Barbed Wire Field" was read, etc. Volume from fair, increasing to good speaker.

Monday, May 28.

3LO from 6 a.m. were again testing, but were not up to their usual standard, much weaker and mushy.

At from about 6.10 a.m. on 45 metres a stranger was heard transmitting orchestral items, without any announcement in between. Strength was fairly good, but unsteady.

2BO again calling "CQ."

2ME were transmitting the regular evening programme of 2FC on 28.5 metres. Strength was good speaker. As an experiment I tried them on the broadcast wave and found that with the same number of valves more volume could be obtained than on the short-wave. Modulation was good on both wave-lengths.

Tuesday, May 29.

Between 6 a.m. and 7 a.m. not a sign of any station could be heard. Bed-time stories from 2FC on 28.5

metres at good volume were heard, but suddenly went off at 7.25 p.m.

RFM were louder than they have been for a long time. Talk was all that was heard from them.

Wednesday, May 30.

PCJJ was not audible till about 6.15 a.m., when they were very weak. Volume was much better at 7 a.m., but "surging" was bad. Not any announcements were heard till 7.30 a.m., when a lady spoke. Several more items were heard without any announcement, which is unusual for PCJJ.

5SW also was very weak at 6.30 a.m. When closing down at 7.45 a.m. they were much better.

During the evening 2BH was testing on the 80 metres band. 2BO put on some enjoyable records.

Thursday, May 31.

Was up very early for a while to try my luck with JB (South Africa) but, as expected, could not get anything.

2ME, on 28.5 metres, were testing from 6.30 p.m. till 7.30 p.m. Good speaker at times, but faded very badly.

Friday, June 1.

PCJJ was very weak at 5.30 a.m. and not much better at 6.30 a.m., but improved rapidly after this time.

5SW was poor at 7 a.m., but an orchestral item at 7.25 a.m. was coming through fairly good.

2ME from 6.30 p.m. till 7.30 p.m. were testing. Gramophone records were used at first and later the bed-time session from 2FC transmitted. Reports were solicited from places outside Australia.

RFM was loud, but static very bad. 4NW (Queensland), on about 33 metres, was testing.

A voice was heard on about 35.5 metres, but too weak to get the call.

A New Russian.

ON Thursday, May 31, another Russian station was heard, being logged at 12.30 a.m. on approximately 45 metres. When first heard it was transmitting music, then came "Hullo, Hullo." Radio Laboratory University of U.S.S.R. You will now hear more music and piano item." There was another announcement re radio call letters which was hard to understand, but sounded like RAD2. This was followed by a violin solo. Their programme continued on till 2 a.m. with announcements made between items. In one part of transmission reference was made to musical programme, and that the list would be carried out on Wednesday and Thursday at the same time, which would mean Thursday and Friday mornings, 12.30 till 2 a.m. New Zealand time.

Modulation was very poor at times, but strength was equal to the Russian S.W. station RFM received nightly in New Zealand. Most of the announcements were made in broken English, which at times was quite good. As stated, poor modulation made it very difficult to understand. He closed down with station announcement asking for reports, telegram or letter, and finished up with "Good-night, ladies and gentlemen." Trusting that some other SW fans will hear this station and report. —A. P. Morrison (Brooklyn).

English Nightingale Heard in N.Z.

IT may interest short-wave enthusiasts to know that 5SW, Chelmsford, England, is now fair loud-speaker strength until he closes down each morning at 10.30 a.m. This morning while listening to him at 10 a.m. he announced, if possible, between then and midnight they would

broadcast the song of a nightingale from the woods, and at 10.23 a.m. until 10.30 p.m. the nightingale's song was heard clearly and distinctly.

PCJJ was on the air until 8.30 a.m.; still good volume when he closed down. A lady was doing most of the announcing. In conclusion, allow me to express keen appreciation of the articles contributed by "Megohm." —C.M., Wellington.

Short-Wave Notes From the South.

CONDITIONS still remain good with perhaps one day's bad reception on which static crashes made signals almost inaudible. 5SW, Chelmsford is constant in volume, most of their items about 8 to 8.30 or later constitute some relays apparently from theatres; musical items and speech are received with good modulation. The two New York stations have gone off with me this last week. They, however, were better yesterday. One has not the time to spend always through the day when their transmission is at its best. Occasionally morse will maul KDKA badly. When this clears, however, they come through well. 3LO on 32 metres in their regular Monday morning test last week were simply perfect, easily held and stayed stable without a semblance of surge. This week on their second daylight test on Sunday afternoon, while terrifically loud, the first half-hour they had a constant surging wave which died out later. On Monday morning they were much better, later in the day I lost volume in reception in general, and finally it faded out. After varied mental journeys through the circuit, one came to the conclusion that the trouble was outside the set, which eventually proved to be correct. For convenience sake I have a snap connection to aerial made up of two large brass carpet domes, and although on close inspection everything appeared right, on test it proved not to be so, the lacquer which these fittings are covered with apparently had an insulating effect. After this was put right I jumped back into the old volume. It is really astonishing what little trivial things will prevent a set functioning. To-day (Wednesday) England was coming over exceptionally loud and speech delightfully articulated.

Do you know of any reception in this country of a successful nature from South Africa? If so, it would be interesting to try for them during the All Blacks' visit to the Cape. —R. H. Parker (Invercargill).

[Except for the case of South African reception recently reported in "Our Mail Bag," we believe only Mr. Bell has received South Africa on morse only. Special difficulties of time and direction of wave-travel seem to limit New Zealand reception of African stations. Also see Mr. Morrison's letter elsewhere.—Ed.]

3LO'S SHORT-WAVE TESTS

DAYLIGHT RANGE DIFFICULTY.

Regarding the short-wave broadcast tests by 3LO, Melbourne, it is pointed out that normally, short-wave signals sent over comparatively short distances are subject to marked absorption, and, as a result, they are always much weaker close to a transmitting station, than is a signal transmitted on a longer wave-length. This fact, added to difficulties sometimes experienced in picking up short-wave signals, has prevented their extensive use for local broadcasting. It has been found, however, that the carrying properties of short wave-lengths differ very much from those of longer ones, and that in certain circumstances the daylight range of a short-wave signal greatly exceeds that of a long-wave one.

Normally the daylight range of 3LO on 371 metres does not exceed about 200 miles, and in some cases it is a great deal less. Experiments have indicated that the daylight range of the 30-metre transmitter should be 1500 miles or 2000 miles. This would mean that where the long-wave transmitter could not serve all the Victorian listeners effectively in the daytime, the short-wave set could cover the whole of Australia.

So far the daylight short-wave tests, by 3LO, Melbourne, have failed to give consistent satisfactory loudspeaker volume in Wellington at about 1700 miles distance.

STANDARD TIME

LISTENERS often find it difficult to distinguish between Standard and Local time. For the sake of convenience in connection with railways, telegrams, etc., most countries keep standard time of some particular meridian, which often differs considerably from mean local time. The standard time of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania is the mean of an imaginary place on the 150th meridian. This is 10 hours east of Greenwich, the standard taken in Great Britain. The mean time of Sydney is five minutes ahead of standard time, while the mean time at Melbourne is five minutes behind standard time. The standard time for South Australia is half an hour later than New South Wales, while that of West Australia is an hour later than the Eastern States. The standard time of New Zealand is one and a half hours ahead of Queensland, N.S.W., Victoria, and Tasmania. Therefore 8 p.m. in Sydney, for instance, is equivalent to 9.30 p.m. in New Zealand.

# AUCKLAND DIRECTORY

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GREBE RADIO	Howie's, Dilworth Building, Custom St. E.
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## POWER TRANSMISSION

### BY RADIO BEAMS.

Great interest and much misunderstanding has been caused by the announcement by the Westinghouse Manufacturing and Electrical Company of America that its research engineers are engaged on the problem of transmitting energy in commercial quantities by wireless, and that a considerable measure of success is expected shortly.

The method being investigated by the Westinghouse Company differs considerably from ordinary wireless communication methods. It involves the use of a wireless beam of about the character as that from a small but powerful searchlight. If such a beam were produced by a transmitter using about as much power as 2YA, Wellington, it is estimated that the air in the path of the beam would undergo a surprising electrical change, and from being one of the most perfect insulating media known would become a conductor of current of the same order as a stout copper cable. In this condition the beam could be used as a transmission line, and two or more beams produced parallel with each other would be capable of replacing an ordinary metallic circuit for the transmission of direct or alternating currents of commercial pressures and frequency.

### Limited Commercial Value.

Assuming that grave technical difficulties to the actual production of the beams are overcome, as they probably will be, the value of the system for commercial purposes would be strictly limited. The wireless beams would employ very short waves, which are subject to rapid weakening as they leave the transmitter. These beams could not be used for more than a few miles, because, even assuming that there were no obstructions such as trees or buildings in their way, the curvatures of the earth would be sufficient to prevent their use over longer distances. In view of the cost of pro-

ducing the beams, they are not likely to be used in preference to metallic conductors for such short-distance transmission, except, possibly, in cases where some insurmountable difficulty prevents the use of metallic line.

## IN SPOKANE VALLEY

### LISTENERS-IN FOR WEST.

The demand of listeners for a diversity of programmes is illustrated in a survey of the radio situation in Spokane, Wash., which has been submitted to Harold A. Lafount, member of the United States Federal Radio Commission from the Far West.

Questionnaires were sent to representative citizens in four sections of the city and in the Spokane valley. The survey was conducted independently of any broadcasting station and is believed to be representative of the radio situation in cities of the West, Lafount said.

Eighty per cent. of the persons answering the questionnaires in the entire city said they owned radio sets. In the Spokane valley, 75 per cent. said they had radios. The percentage of those owning valve sets was 65.4, while 34.6 per cent. have crystal sets.

A census of adults in homes who listened to the radio showed 52 per cent. of the homes had two adult listeners; 28 per cent. three listeners; 11 per cent. four listeners; 5 per cent. five listeners; 3 per cent. one listener, and 1 per cent. six listeners. Forty per cent. of the homes had two child listeners; 34 per cent. had one listener; 19 per cent. three listeners; 5 per cent. four listeners, and 2 per cent. five listeners.

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