

Our Short Wave Corner

MR. F. W. SELLENS writes:—

There is not much variety in short-wave stations heard just now. Two old friends were heard again this week, who, as far as I am concerned, have been silent for some time—AU Japanese and RSR (Germany). The early morning is not so good now for distant (European) reception. 5SW is seldom loud enough to clearly understand up to 7.30 a.m., when I close down. PCJJ also is much weaker than usual, and is seldom strong enough for the speaker much before 7.30 a.m.

Saturday, June 9.

5SW was fair 'phone when tuned in, but too unsteady to follow a talk which was on. I went home for a short time to hear the arrival of the Pacific flyers at Brisbane. Reception was spoilt by a faulty land line from Brisbane which caused a loud roaring noise all the time. Volume was all that could be desired, and when talk or music came from the studio, it was very good. Although reception from Brisbane was so bad, most of the talk was intelligible enough to follow what was said.

2XAF on 31.4 metres was audible at 12.45 p.m., but the last half an hour it was possible to hear all that was said three or four feet from the loud-speaker. A Morse station was interfering most of the time.

PCJJ on 31.4 metres commenced their weekly special transmission for reception in Australia and New Zealand with the National Anthem. They then called various towns and States in Australia, announcing that this was a special transmission, etc., from 4 to 6, Greenwich mean time, asking for reports to be sent to their Sydney office.

From 3.30 p.m. till 4.30 p.m. reception was good loud-speaker, the loudest yet received. After this strength gradually decreased. After about 6 p.m. it was too weak to bother about. As soon as the volume went off a little, oscillating valves spoilt reception.

Sunday, June 10.

2XAF was spoilt by a howler who stuck on him all the time till 3 p.m., when he probably decided that short waves were not worth while and left in favour of 2YA. Directly this interference ceased, music was good speaker strength till 3.30 p.m., when they closed down.

Piano solos and orchestral items by the Hotel Orchestra were heard from the Wentworth Hotel, Albany, New York. The programme was broadcast by WGY, Schenectady and WMAK, Buffalo.

At 9.40 p.m. I tuned in RFM, when a banjo solo was coming through very good, but they went on to their favourite stuff—talk—directly after.

Monday, June 11.

2ME on 32 metres were testing just before 6 a.m. and "went over" to 31.0 in the hour.

During the news session the speaker stated that through the A.W.A. the result of the Derby was in the "Guardian" office 1-10th of a second after the winner had passed the post per beam wireless. Reception was good speaker with intense fading.

Tuesday, June 12.

The carrier of 5SW was audible at 1.30 a.m. and a voice too weak to understand. At 7 a.m. an orchestra was just audible on the speaker, and at 1.30 a.m. a pianoforte item was fair speaker strength.

On about 24.5 metres (just above 5SW) our old friend "Au Japanese" was talking with at short intervals. "Allo, Allo, Au Japanese." Strength was very good phone.

Wednesday, June 13.

PCJJ was fair phone at 5.30 a.m., but reception was spoilt by a rushing noise and static. Volume increased to good phone by 7.30 a.m. "Au Japanese" was again heard, but much weaker than yesterday. Nothing but talk. 5SW was not audible at 6.30 a.m., but was fair phone strength at 8 a.m., when a talk was on with short pieces

of music interspersed, as though the music was to illustrate some period. Shakespeare was mentioned during the talk, but reception was too unsteady to follow properly.

2AW and 2BO, both of Wellington, were testing on telephony during the evening.

Thursday, June 14.

At 6.15 a.m., on about 42 metres, a foreign station was picked up, which proved to be RSR, Germany. Once "Achtung, Achtung — Orchestra" was heard, followed by an orchestral selection. After another "Achtung" a lady sang, accompanied by the orchestra. Clapping was heard at the end of the item. Each item was preceded by the call "Achtung," followed by some German talk. At 7.30 a.m. a longer announcement was made, including some broken English, which was not good enough to follow, but something about days of transmission, etc., the call RSR was given, being repeated. Both speech and music was very clear and steady, and received at fair speaker strength.

5SW at 7.30 a.m. was audible, but too weak to be intelligible.

Friday, June 15.

5SW again was too weak to understand at 7.30, though stronger than an hour before. PCJJ was tuned in at 5.45 a.m., when a long talk was in progress, all foreign. After this followed what appeared to be a relay, not any call being heard between the items, which consisted of solo and concerted items, with an orchestra. Volume was very weak at first, but improved all the time, and was very good phone at 7.30 a.m.

RFM was heard in the evening.

The past week or two has been bad for DX on the short waves, and static has been very bad, and most signals heard have been weak. Although I always go round the dial after 2YA has closed down, not one Aussie has been heard of late, or Zedders, except local hams.

A SHORT-WAVE STRANGER

SEVERAL correspondents have reported a short-wave stranger on 24.5 metres or thereabouts. In the opinion of Mr. Sellens the station is AU Japanese who sometimes talks in French (which is reported by one correspondent). The station R2FNE does not appear in the latest English Call Book. Radio Paris is a station, but no call sign is given for it. We publish our correspondent's letters as received in the hope of drawing fuller identification.

Station on 24 Metres.

I WONDER if any of your readers could give me the identity of this station. This morning, June 8, Friday, at 7.30 o'clock, I tuned in a very loud station on about 24 metres. Speaker strength was louder than PCJJ, to which I had just been listening and modulation was perfect. I held the station till 8 o'clock and a man was speaking in slow French the whole time with frequent announcements. "Allo, allo." Then followed some word or letters which were too slurred to understand. The talk appeared to be news items, as the words Paris, Toronto, Nouvelle Zelande were mentioned frequently. Graham C. MacDiarmid (Hamilton).

Special Session For South America.

I APPRECIATE much your S.W. corner and would like to give a few notes on my past two days' reception.

Thursday, 7th.—Listened to 5SW, 7.30 to 10.30, when signed off after Big Ben struck midnight. As usual it was much stronger towards the end of transmission. 10.45 a.m., tuned in a station speaking Spanish on about 36.5 metres, but got no call sign. At 1.30 p.m. tuned in the best programme I've had yet. All announcements and speech were in Spanish. The speaker prefaced the items with senoras and caballeros, and called various senoras and senoras in Havana, Buenos Aires, Uruguay, etc., and mentioned New

Zelandia. It turned out to be Hind-hoven broadcasting a special programme for South America. First there were some splendid cello solos, then later jazz records, one in particular being strong enough to dance to: "Who's Wonderful, Who's Marvellous, Miss Annabel Lee." Closed down 3.35 p.m. with National Anthem. Friday, 8th.—PCJJ at 7.30; signed off 7.35 with anthem.

At 7.35 a.m. I tuned in a very powerful station, 25 metres (about). It was Mr. Sellens's friend, "AU Japanese." I listened to him till he signed off, with the exception of listening to a lecture by Sir Alan Cobham from 5SW on his trip over Africa and its aims. He gave as its aims: To survey the possibilities of British aviation in Africa; to test out the all-metal flying boat, and to survey the through air route from the Mediterranean to the Cape.

To return to our friend. I'd have to polish up my French to read him, but I got a lot of what he said: "Notre transmission continue jusqu'à vingt trois heures a Greenwich" (our transmission will continue till 11 p.m. G.M.T.). He mentioned after his call on several occasions a Monsieur ? a Paris. His call sounded like this: "Ulo, ullo, R deux furee," which I read as R2FNE. He talked a lot about Le General Pershing et se Americaines; also illec Monsieur ? a Rouen et M? a Boulogne. He signed off at 10.30 a.m. Very polite about it. Said something about "vous nous excusez." All talk and news items.

On May 30 I heard the nightingale put on the air twice from 5SW.

P.S.—R2FNE mentioned something about transmission a dix sept heures a Dimanche (17 G.M.T. Sunday).

Heard in Taranaki.

PERHAPS some of your S.W. enthusiasts may be able to identify an S.W. station I have received recently. This stranger is on about 24-25 metres, and was on the air on Friday and Saturday mornings, June 8 and 9, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., and again this morning at 6.50 a.m. (Tuesday), but was not on the air when I tuned in again at 8 a.m. The station came in at loud-speaker strength with good modulation. The "programme" consisted of talk in a foreign language, interspersed with announcements of (sounded like), "Ulo, ullo, ullo. Au Nov Guinea. Ulo, ullo."—J. R. Miller.

Believed to be French.

I WISH to report reception of a high-powered station which I am positive was this new French station of 50 kilowatts, situated in Paris. I will write what I entered up in my diary.

Thursday morning, June 7.—Picked up a foreigner on about 26 metres at 7.40 a.m. He was about five or six degrees above 5SW's dial setting. Volume and clarity were remarkable. He would read something, evidently from a newspaper, at the end of which he would appear to say, "Hullo, hullo, YO Japanese." However, it was not a Jap. Of that I am positive. During his talk he spoke of Coliere, the French aviator. He was still going strong at 9.10 a.m. His speech, and at regular intervals he would give his call.

The following morning I tuned in to where I had received him on the dial, but I could not locate him. This was at about 7.20 a.m. However, as luck would have it, I just happened to run across him at 7.40, when he came on the air. He was talking partly in broken English (very broken) about America and New York, and his volume and clarity eclipses anything heard on short-wave band before. Left him at 8.30 a.m. sharp.

Picked him up again on Tuesday morning, June 12, when he came on the air punctually at 7.40 a.m. Speech was all that was received.

I was surprised in not seeing it mentioned in your "Short Wave Corner" or in your "Mailbag." Surely someone else must have heard it; at any rate, they will be able to confirm my report. My set is an adapter, the circuit of which was got from the "Radio Record" and it functions wonderfully.—D. Huston, Waitaki, B.I.S., Oamaru.

SHORT-WAVE RECEPTION

AERIAL VAGARIES.

A LISTENER writing in an English journal states:—

"Working the other night on the American short-wave broadcast station 2XAD, I found that I obtained a most marked improvement in signal strength by transferring the set from my own aerial, which, incidentally, is not a very long one, to a small counterpoise which I had had erected for transmission work. The aerial is actually about 30ft. high, and is probably about 30ft. long, the down lead not being more than about 20 to 25ft. at the outside, since the set is located on the first floor. The counterpoise consists of 20ft. length of wire carried horizontally about 1ft. from the wall, and is about 12ft. from the ground. The lead to the counterpoise does not go to one end of it, but is tapped on at about a quarter the way along. Using this instead of the aerial lead resulted in a very marked increase in signal strength on the very short waves."

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Auckland Notes

(By "Listener.")

LISTENING was in the boom here during last week-end, and the achievement of the Pacific flight, combined with the achievements of broadcasting stations in describing it while in progress, have had quite an educative effect upon the general public. The period from sunset on Friday to noon on the Saturday was one of those which come only occasionally. It was one of those for which broadcasters long—an opportunity to demonstrate to the world at large what only the listener himself realises, and that is the remarkable utility of radio. It can be predicted with safety that the splendid efforts of broadcasting stations during last week-end will result in a considerable gathering into the fold of new licensees.

2BL was the most popular station during the final stage of the flight. It catered splendidly for listeners with an all-night service which did not let up for a minute. Of course, the flight was to Australia, and residents of the Commonwealth were more closely interested in its accomplishment than were New Zealanders, so it was fitting that the palm for success should go to 2BL. Considering distance and disadvantages under which work was carried out, Aucklanders are of opinion that the performances put up by 2YA and 1YA were no less praiseworthy. At short notice 1YA decided to continue through the night, broadcasting hourly the news that was obtained from short-wave readers of Morse. On each occasion of a broadcast a preliminary warning was given by the playing of a record, and then came the eagerly awaited news, quite as up-to-the-moment as that provided by 4QG, which was "on the spot," and which, one thought, would have made more of the all-night broadcast than it did. 1YA's effort must have entailed hard work on the staff, and particularly on the operator. All concerned in it deserve both congratulations and thanks from listeners, who must have realised how well the station rose to the occasion in catering for them.

THE local papers express delight at the announcement of the organisation of the YA studio orchestra. According to information published here, the orchestra will mail its bow to the studio microphone next month, when Mr. Bellingham will put it through its initial performances in the same capable manner as he did with the Wellington orchestra. The night of the initial performance will be a red-letter one in the story of Auckland radio. Everyone spoken to on the subject is pleased at the rapidity with which the Broadcasting Company is fulfilling its promise that "Auckland should be next."

THE news regarding the orchestra is not the only item to bring the smile of satisfaction to the faces of local listeners. When we listen to Sydney stations we often feel the regret that we have not the chances for relaying from theatres that are afforded in the Commonwealth. Now comes the glad tidings that there will be regular relays of "star turns" from the "Embassy," the ne home of vaudeville revue that is providing a type of programme beloved by Aucklanders. Here is another innovation for which we may well say "Thanks."

OF all overseas artists heard per radio none is more popular than Mr. Alfred O'Shea, the well-known tenor who sang his farewell at 2BL on Sunday last, when he was inundated with request numbers. Mr. O'Shea is making a concert tour of the Dominion. What a treat it would be if, on the conclusion of this tour, he could be persuaded to appear at, say, 2YA. Mr. O'Shea owes much of his popularity to radio.

OUR programmes are still on the up grade, and one hears very few complaints as to their quality. In fact, there has been much of praise for them in the local Press, and it will not be surprising if this praise is voiced at the annual meeting of the Listeners' League, which occurs on the 25th at the Unity Hall. Further artists have been advertised for, and the one occa-

H.B. Notes

A SLIGHT improvement recently is reported in local reception conditions, but static is still too prevalent to make listening a pleasure. It shows signs of clearing, however, and the last week has brought some good nights.

In this quarter, 1YA and 3YA are still going neck and neck for first place, with 2YA a good deal further back. As a result of the competition recently conducted in the "Record" it seems a general opinion that the hills are responsible for the poor reception of 2YA in these parts, but if such is the case, why is it that daylight reception from Wellington is so good, when, except well away from interferences, the Auckland and Christchurch stations are only a whisper? Here's a problem which some of your readers might be able to solve.

4YA, Dunedin, has also been coming through well this week.

THE Aussies keep up to the mark, it being a toss-up between 2BL and 2FC. One night finds the former in front and the next night it has to take second place. 2BL's all-night transmission during the Pacific flight was great and more than one local listener sat it through. In this connection 2YA is also to be congratulated on its relay of 4QG through 2FC on the morning of the arrival of the Southern Cross. The interest in the flight was phenomenal. Another point for congratulation to Wellington was the opening up of the station on Sunday morning to give the result of the All Blacks match—but, oh, the disappointment after the first wrong score was announced.

An "Aussie" which has come to the front recently is 2KY, Trades Hall, and on Saturday night, the 9th, the writer had it at excellent speaker strength on four valves in the early evening.

Evidently 2BL has had to give up the broadcasting of the Sydney Stadium boxing contests on Saturday nights. This is to be regretted for locally many enjoyed these broadcasts. It is hoped that the contests can be broadcast, particularly when a New Zealander is engaged.

AT the last meeting of the H.B. Radio Society Mr. W. J. Lyons gave a thoroughly enjoyable lecture on television. Mr. Lyons was associated with the inventor, Mr. Baird, for a time, and he expects at an early date to be able to give a practical demonstration. This should be interesting. The appeal for funds to instal a receiver in the Hastings Hospital is not very far advanced. So far about £70 has been received, with quite a lot more promised, but it is not much use thinking of starting the work until at least £250 is in sight.

The Hastings radio inspector, Mr. R. E. Sissons, is at present in hospital. All local listeners will join in wishing him a speedy recovery.

sional growl, that of monotony of artists, will soon be completely drowned in a chorus of approbation.

SHORT-WAVE enthusiasts, such as Messrs. Arthur, Warn, and Clarkson, were in their element during the past week-end when they supplied the local Press with the latest regarding the flight. They will be ready again when the plane starts on its trans-Tasman journey—and so, we can rest assured, will 1YA, to improve even on the excellent service it gave last Friday night.

SOUTH AFRICAN SHORT-WAVE

JOHANNESBURG ON 32 METRES.

A LONDON exchange states: "The Johannesburg station, JB, is now broadcasting on an additional wavelength of 32 metres." Well, it is nice to read this news, but Oh where Oh where is the JB short-wave station during the All Blacks' tour. Several have raked the ether endeavouring to find a South African short-wave station, but there has been a complete blank. New Zealand amateur transmitters are not able to get in touch with their South African colleagues.

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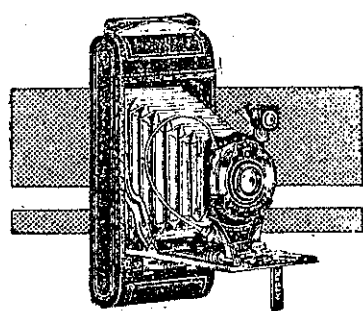
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