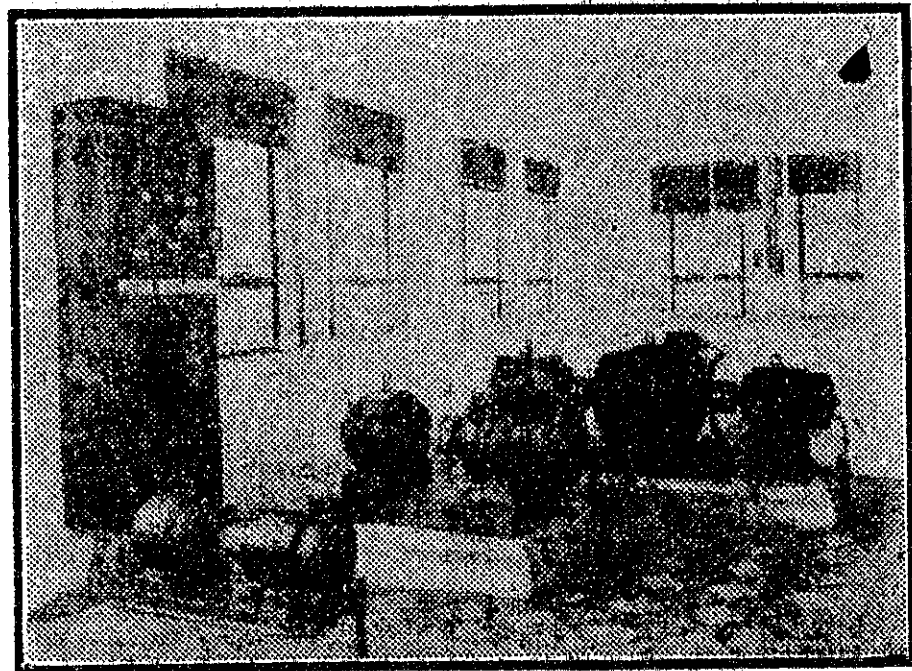


On the left is the 5000-watt transmitter at 2YA. The power is rated on the input to the aerial, making it one of the most powerful transmitting plants in the British Empire.

On the right is shown the generator room of 2YA.

—Photos. by Andrew.



understand, in New Zealand or Australia to use this form of control.

#### The Station Studios.

THE studios from which the broadcasting is conducted are situated in the city, a distance of approximately two miles from the transmitting station. The furnishings are described below, but apart from this there were many technical points which had to be taken into consideration in the design of the studios. To facilitate the easy working of the programmes, it was decided to make two studios, one large and one small, with arrangements for switching from one to the other instantaneously. To do this, alterations had to be made to the building. The control room is placed between the small and the large studios, and the control operator has an uninterrupted view into both studios through the plate-glass windows. In the control room are erected the necessary amplifiers for amplifying the output of the microphones before putting into the line of the station, volume indicator for showing the correct volume level, radio receiver, monitoring amplifier, and

jacks for the various relay lines to outside points.

The necessary batteries for this apparatus are contained in a small room in another part of the building, together with the charging arrangements.

The sounding properties of the two studios is a matter which also had to be considered. To obtain good quality it is necessary to keep down the reverberation time of the room to about one second. It must be remembered that reverberation is not echo. A small echo is desirable, as it gives a pleasant ring to the item and is more in accordance with what a listener would actually hear if the artist were performing on the stage of a large auditorium.

#### Studio Decoration.

A WIDE carpeted staircase gives access to the handsome studios and lounges at 2YA. The grand studio is artistically furnished in blue and gold, with touches of mulberry. Large felt pads upholstered in blue silk shot with mulberry adorn cream walls, with oval framed pictures of New Zealand scenery forming a central motif in

each pad. A blue and fawn Wilton carpet covers the floor, and the rosewood furniture is upholstered in blue. Gold shaded stand lamps, gold cushions, and tall palms on stands give the finishing touches to a charming room.

The smoking lounge at the stair-head is comfortably furnished with a fawn velvet chesterfield and chairs on a fawn and blue carpet. A large oak settle and a few Queen Anne smokers' chairs and a table and palm-stands combine to make this a comfortable lounge. Portraits of the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable J. G. Coates, the Postmaster-General (Hon. W. Nosworthy), G. Machamara (Secretary-General of the Post and Telegraph Department), and A. Gibbs (Chief Telegraph Engineer of the Post and Telegraph Department of the Government of New Zealand) adorn the walls.

The auxiliary studio, which is used mainly for solo and news items, is in shades of rose, lavender and blue. The ceiling is padded with rose chenille pads and the floor has a grey and blue carpet. Ivory reed loom settees and chairs upholstered in blue, rose

and lavender, with palms and vases of flowers, and a rosewood piano complete the furnishings of this room.

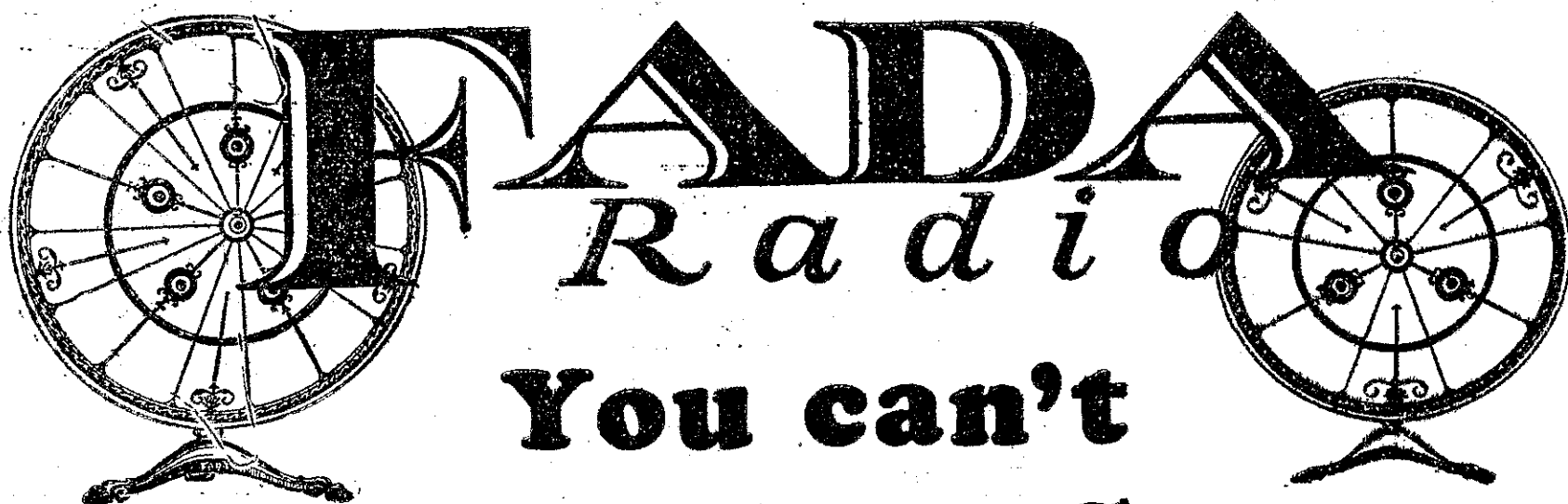
The Grand Lounge is a beautiful room furnished in grey and rose. A silver-grey carpet covers the entire floor, the walls are papered in pastel shades, and the rosewood settees and chairs upholstered in pink silk tapestry with black cushions contrast well with the carpet. Tall rose-shaded standard lamps and a beaten silver mirror and fireside fittings complete a room of quiet elegance.

A feature of the entire suite of rooms is the large curtained plate glass windows giving an uninterrupted view of the proceedings.

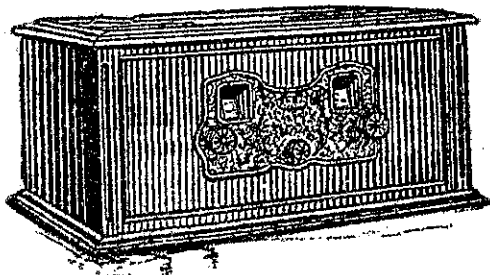
#### Station 3YA.

IN the early days of broadcasting, in common with other cities, Christchurch listeners had a limited service from small broadcasting stations controlled by private interests. These were old 3YA and 3AC, both approximately of 10 watts power. The then 3YA was taken over by the Radio Broadcasting Company and ultimately a 50-watt station was installed, which was designed and constructed under the supervision of the Radio Broadcasting Company, but which was run as an amateur station by the Radio Society of Christchurch under the call sign 3AC.

This station although of only low power gave quite a good service to Christchurch listeners and served in some measure to keep the ball rolling until the present 3YA took the air in September, 1926. It was decided that the first location of the station and studio should be of a more or less temporary character, in view of the fact that the premises, which were eventually to house the station, were only in course of construction. A large hall in Hereford Street, which had previously done duty as a dance hall, was converted into a temporary studio and connected by land-line with the transmitter, which was erected in a galvanised iron shed at the rear of A. J. Harris Company's property in Gloucester Street. This temporary arrangement worked well, and was used right up to the time of the change-over to the new building. While the building was in progress the opportunity was seized for making every provision for the future installation of the station. All the necessary conduits were fixed in position, and everything got in readiness for the change-over. At last the time arrived for putting in



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