

How Radio Co-operates With the Churches

1YA Church Committee

THE development of the service rendered to the general public by broadcasting throughout the world during recent years has come about so rapidly and naturally that most people are apt to overlook the network of organisation that has to be arranged. Behind all the service given, there is a constant reaching out after better and still better results, and the marvel is that so much has been accomplished in such a short space of time.

Four years ago the Beresford Street Congregational Church, Auckland, had a church service relayed through 1YB Station, this being the first church service to be relayed in New Zealand. There was a great deal of excitement experienced by all who had anything to do with the trial. The range was naturally limited, but the result was quite satisfactory enough to warrant further trials.

Now the broadcasting of church services from all centres is such a regular and effective thing that it is hard to realise that four short years ago it was an exciting novelty in the Dominion.

GRADUALLY all denominations have taken advantage of this means of reaching those who cannot, or do not, go to church, and the thousands of letters that have been received by the various preachers, not only from people in New Zealand, but from the islands of the Pacific, from Australia, and even from America, show conclusively how this service rendered by the Broadcasting Company is appreciated.

On March 30, 1928, a conference of representatives from several religious denominations was called in Auckland by the Radio Broadcasting Company of N.Z., Limited, with the object of forming an Advisory Committee which would assist the company in handling the broadcasting of church services. This conference was attended by:—Revs. H. M. Smyth (Church of England), D. Morrison-Sutherland (Presbyterian), Edward Drake (Methodist), Joseph W. Kemp (Baptist), Lionel B. Fletcher (Congregational), and Mr. D. Donaldson (Church of Christ), while the Broadcasting Company was represented by Messrs. C. S. Booth, S. J. Hayden, and Culford Bell.

THE rules and constitution of the Church Service Committee were adopted, and the committee was forthwith constituted, the only alteration in the church representation being that Rev. E. Nicholls has taken the place of Rev. Joseph W. Kemp as the Baptist representative.

The first question that had to be dealt with was the allocation of Sundays for broadcasting for each denomination. This proved to be a knotty problem. However, the members of the committee rose to the occasion, and finally an allocation was made which was unanimously adopted to the general satisfaction of all the denominations concerned.

That first conference, and the committee meetings since, have proved the wisdom of the company in making the constitution of this committee possible. The general body of listeners and the religious denominations, as well as the Broadcasting Company, are repre-

Convenors of Three Committees Give Enthusiastic Support

sented, and the various interests are carefully safeguarded and served.

THE application of religious bodies not represented on the committee are received and carefully considered, and recommendations are made to the company. One such recommendation was adopted on the morning of July 1, when the morning service was broadcast from the Auckland Unitarian Church.

The meetings of the committee have been of a very harmonious nature, in spite of the fact that on occasions very definitely opposing views have been expressed by members. But the final verdict has always represented a generous and sincere attempt to adjust very delicate questions, so that justice shall be done and the work of the Kingdom of God served to the best advantage.

LIONEL B. FLETCHER,

Chairman,

1YA Church Service Committee.

2YA Church Committee

IN the early part of the year the Radio Broadcasting Company of New Zealand circularised the various religious bodies in Wellington inviting them to send representatives to meet at the studio to form a Church Service Committee. To-day the committee consists of representatives of the Church of England, the Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, and Congregational Churches and the Church of Christ, with two representatives of the company, and, ex officio, the general manager of the company.

The work of the committee has been to arrange for the regular Sunday services, and the adjustment of such local details as shall give to the public the greatest possible facilities of divine worship. During the coming months, the city Sunday schools will be holding their anniversaries, and we are hoping through the courtesy of the company that several afternoon services will be broadcast, when the special music rendered by children's choirs may be enjoyed by a very large number of listeners.

WE look upon radio as a remarkable opportunity for the dissemination of religious thought and influence and it is the policy of the committee that the religious messages broadcast shall be neither sectarian or denominational, but rather that they shall have the widest appeal presenting the broad claims of religion, thus creating a healthy moral and religious atmosphere to the enrichment of our personal, social, and national life.

I believe I may say for my colleagues as well as for myself, that we gratefully appreciate the attitude of the Radio Broadcasting Company towards this important influence. It has been wise and sympathetic and generous.

We esteem it a privilege to co-operate in this avenue of public service.

ERNEST R. WEEKS,

Chairman,

2YA Church Service Committee.

3YA Church Committee

THIS committee has been in existence since the beginning of the present year. I believe it is the first of its kind in New Zealand, and its formation is due to the insight and

foresight of Mr. A. R. Harris, general manager of the Broadcasting Company. It has functioned with a minimum of creaking, due entirely to the fact that the denominational representatives are really anxious to give the project a thorough try-out. Six denominations are represented on the committee, and we are "on the air" turn and turn about every Sunday evening, except when there is a fifth Sunday in the month, which Sunday is at the disposal of the company. When this has occurred, the company has generously put before us for our consideration any request for broadcasting that has been received from any denomination or religious body not represented on the committee. From the first meeting, our

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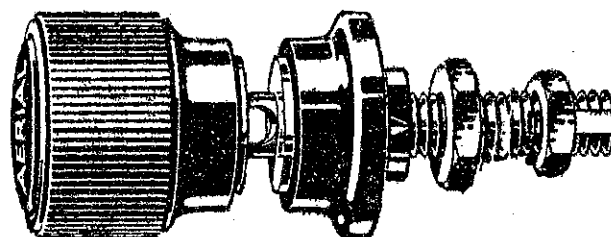
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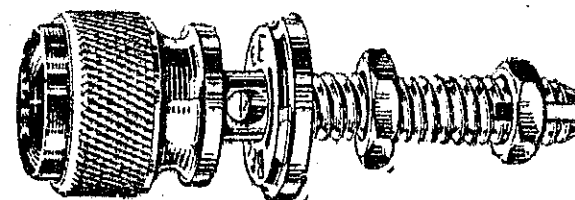


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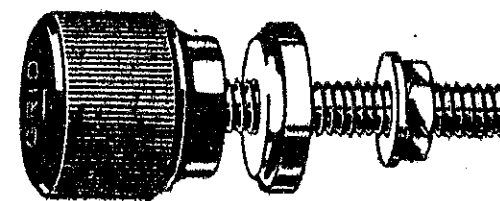
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