Heeney-Tunney Fight Ably Described

Outstanding Radio Feat Successfully Organised

FULLY alive to the intense interest prevalent throughout the Dominion in the contest for the heavy-weight boxing championship of the world, in which Tom Heeney, a New Zealander, was the challenger, and Gene Tunney the defender, the Broadcasting Company did all that was humanly practicable to make it possible for all interested to listen-in to the description of the Homeric struggle, which was broadcast from far Schenectady, New York State.

For weeks previously Mr. A. R. Harris, the general manager, and the executive officers of the company, were planning so that every available means of securing satisfactory reception should be linked up in a perfected scheme of Dominion-wide co-operation for the vital hours during which the transmission was due to reach New Zealand.

THE company embarked on this big experiment with no little apprehension as to the result, for from the outset it was realised that the conditions to be faced were such as to render the likelihood of satisfactory reception very small indeed. this in mind, it was decided-very wisely as it proved-not to depend on the actual ringside description. Testing. receptions from New York had been conducted every afternoon for some time. These experiments showed that there was more than a possibility of reception in the early afternoon lacking the necessary clarity to warrant its being put on the air, and with this in view, Mr. A. R. Harris, general manager, cabled to the company's representative in New York, Mr. Edgar H. Felix, requesting him to arrange for a broadcast resume of the contest at midnight, New York time (3.30 p.m. New Zealand time). That gentleman quickly effected the necessary arrangements, with the result that promptly at the suggested time the short-wave station 2XAD, Schenectady (the General Electric Company's demonstration station) was on the air with greetings to England, Australia, and New Zealand, followed by the requested story of the fight.

ed to hear the whole story of the fight told again by the American announcer.

This transmission was well-nigh perperfect, the voice of the announcer coming through with remarkable clarity and distinctness, and enabling 2YA to put over a brilliantly successful rebroadcast which was again rebroadcast by 3YA.

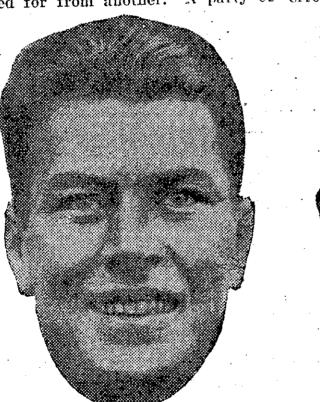
THUS, for the first time in the history of New Zealand radio, crystalset owners in our main cities and suburbs were able to listen to an double-hand fencing, and wrestling. American station and hear with absoradio broadcasting. It was a distinct ments, and despite the heavy work in- consul at Wellington).

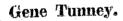
THANKS to complete arrangements, and the successful use of both Morse and telephony transmission, listeners to 2YA and 3YA were able to secure immediate news of the progress of the Heeney-Tunney fight. 1YA did not fare so well, as interference from outside sources was particularly bad, completely spoiling reception of 2XAD. The 3.30 summary given out by 2YA was, however, very well received in Auckland.

"brain-wave" on the part of the Radio Broadcasting Company, and its success exceeded the highest anticipations.

HE scheme which worked so admirably involved the making of special and elaborate arrangements at short-wave receiving points, each in hoped for from another. A party of error to a minimum.

departmental experts was at Lowry Bay, operating a specially-constructed short-wave receiver. This site was selected by reason of its being far removed from interferences from power leakages—the prime source of interfereach of the company's four stations. ence with broadcast reception. This This included the linking up with each was the chief channel through which station of four or five independent information was supplied to the studio after having been received by wireless direct touch with the station. By this telegraphy. The superintendent and means, with the co-operation of the staff at VLW also kept in touch with P. and T. Department, 2YA, for in- the American broadcasts, and telestance, had a number of strings to its phoned reports to the studio. This bow, so that in the event of faulty served as a reliable check on reception reception at one point success might be and reduced the margin of possible







Tom Heeney.

Japanese Entertainment Broadcast

Town Hall in aid of the funds of the ing contests which took place during Red Cross Society by a talented com- the evening. pany of sailormen from the training squadron of the Imperial Japanese staged by courtesy of Vice-Admiral Kobayashi, comprised a delightful recital

The evening's studio concert was sus-

But there was still something more Navy. The entertainment which was for them, for the broadcast included a message of greeting and goodwill to the people of New Zealand from the Japanby the band of the squadron-one of ese Admiral whose happily-worded mesthe Emperor's favourite bands—and sage was admirably voiced through the ested listeners-in should not be disapthrilling demonstrations of ju-jitsu, microphone at 2YA by Flag-Lieut. Ka-pointed. By so doing they demonstratpleasing broadcast cannot be concluded cerity of their desire (as represen pended for the occasion in order that without an expression of warm appre- tives of the responsible department the announcer had to tell, them. This listeners might have the opportunity of ciation of the courtesy and considera- authority under whose license is -the Broadcasting Company's own hearing and enjoying the unique enter- tion shown to the company's representa- radio broadcasting service is carried special service—was in itself sufficient tainment provided by our overseas tives by Vice-Admiral Kobayashi. Mr. on), to facilitate to the utmost every to make the Tunney-Heeney fight an visitors. With but a few hours in Tokugawa (Consul-General). Lieut, means by which the service can be epoch-marking event in the history of which to make the necessary arrange- Kaseda, and Mr. Arthur Young (hon, made of the widest possible public

At the studio another party of departmental experts were operating short-wave receivers, and picking up the signals passed from Lowry Bay and VLW. Their previous experience as radio operators, and their keen sense of hearing, were contributing factors to the successful reception of the morse

A further link with the American broadcast was provided by Mr. Guy Tinney (owner and operator of 2BG), the well-known amateur of Hataitai, who held a special line to the studio and kept a check on the doings of 2XAD. Still another string to the radio bow was afforded by Mr. Mc-Carthy, of Macks Radio. These facts show the thoroughness of the arrangements made by the company as a safeguard against any mishap. Everyone associated with the enterprise was keen on his job.

At intervals, too, listeners were afforded an opportunity of listening direct to what could be heard of the actual-ringside broadcast itself, which, however, owing to the adverse conditions prevailing, was the least successful feature of the unique event. Still, despite the predominance of extraneous noises, the voice of the amouncer at the ringside was audible, though his description was not intelligible, and it was possible to gain at least some impression of the intense excitement attending the encounter. But it was the description received by morse and put - if out by the New Zealand announcers which constituted the real triumph of

PRIOR to passing to the Schenectady station for a rebroadcast of musical items and the resume of the fight, the New Zealand operators, while "sweeping the ether," picked up the Nauen station (Germany) working with Rio Grande (Argentine, South America), and in order to give listeners an idea of bow the first round-byround description was received, the morse code signals from these stations were put on the sir, the announcer explaining just what they were and where they originated from.

Thus it came about that in addition to the round-by-round description, which was broadcast as the fight proceeded, listeners were further privileged to hear the whole story of the fight the broadcast in the evening of the band, listeners were given quite a thrill whole-hearted and able assistance rendvery fine entertainment given in the by the realistic description of the thrill- ered by the responsible officers and wireless experts of the Post and Telegraph Department. Realising the event to be of great national interest. the secretary of the Department (Mr. &. MacNamara), and the chief telegraph engineer (Mr. A. Gibbs), did all in their power to help ensure that the thousands of anxious and keenly-interesda, A.D.C. Reference to this very ed in a most practical manner the sin-