

Among other things it was pointed out how "booths" had been arranged in every part of the city for the convenience of the people. Next morning it was pointed out to me how shameful it was, on such an important occasion as the election, when a referendum on the liquor question was being taken, for the Government to have "boose" in places so easily accessible to the public. Evidently the Federal microphones used in those days did not handle the "dips" too satisfactorily.

IN 1923 The Dominion Radio Company started operations, broadcasting from a transmitter embodying the Hartley circuit, using Z3 Philips tubes. A motor generator driven off the city supply delivered 2000 volts to the plates, type, using large hoops. All this was The antenna was of the circular cage situated on the roof of the Wellington Publishing Company's ("Dominion") building, Lambton Quay, the studio being on the ground floor. A regular service was maintained by this company, broadcasting concert programmes four nights a week, including Sundays. Many artists and listeners will remember 2YK under the regime of the Dominion Radio Company, for it was from this station that numbers of artists heard on the air to-day made their debut to Radioland.

Many demonstrations were given (by way of experiment) from this station, with more or less success. I will briefly mention two. For the first, James Smith's Drapery Emporium, on the corner of Cuba and Manners Streets, was selected. A receiving set had been

see what the noise was all about, grew to such an extent that all traffic was held up. The police eventually took a hand in the matter, and ordered us to stop, so "Imshi" the wireless for that night.

From this station 2YA I had the pleasure of broadcasting the results of the 1925 elections, when Reform was returned with such an overwhelming majority. The station was on the air from 7 p.m. until midnight. The Prime Minister (the Hon. J. G. Coates) called (with a suite of officials) at the Strand at 11.45 and spoke to and thanked the people from the microphone at 2YK.

THE other occasion of which I spoke and which met with a greater measure of success was when some hundreds of Wellingtonians enjoyed a moonlight excursion round the harbour on the ferry steamer Duchess. Selected gramophone dance numbers were broadcast during the evening and picked up on a specially-fitted-up receiver on the Duchess. Full advantage was taken of the dance music not only by the excursionists, but by the frequenters of the beach at Petone, Day's and Rona Bays, at which calls were made.

Another successful broadcast from 2YK was that of the final Test match, All Blacks v. England, played at Twickenham. Special arrangements had been made to have the results on the cable at London, and likewise in New Zealand. The information was to be available immediately it reached the Pacific cable office in Auckland. It was announced

eral flights of stairs, three at a time, was a sight for the gods. He had the station on the air in a trice. I had barely time to get from the studio where I got his O.K. down by 'phone, when the news from Auckland came: "11—17." Nothing more.

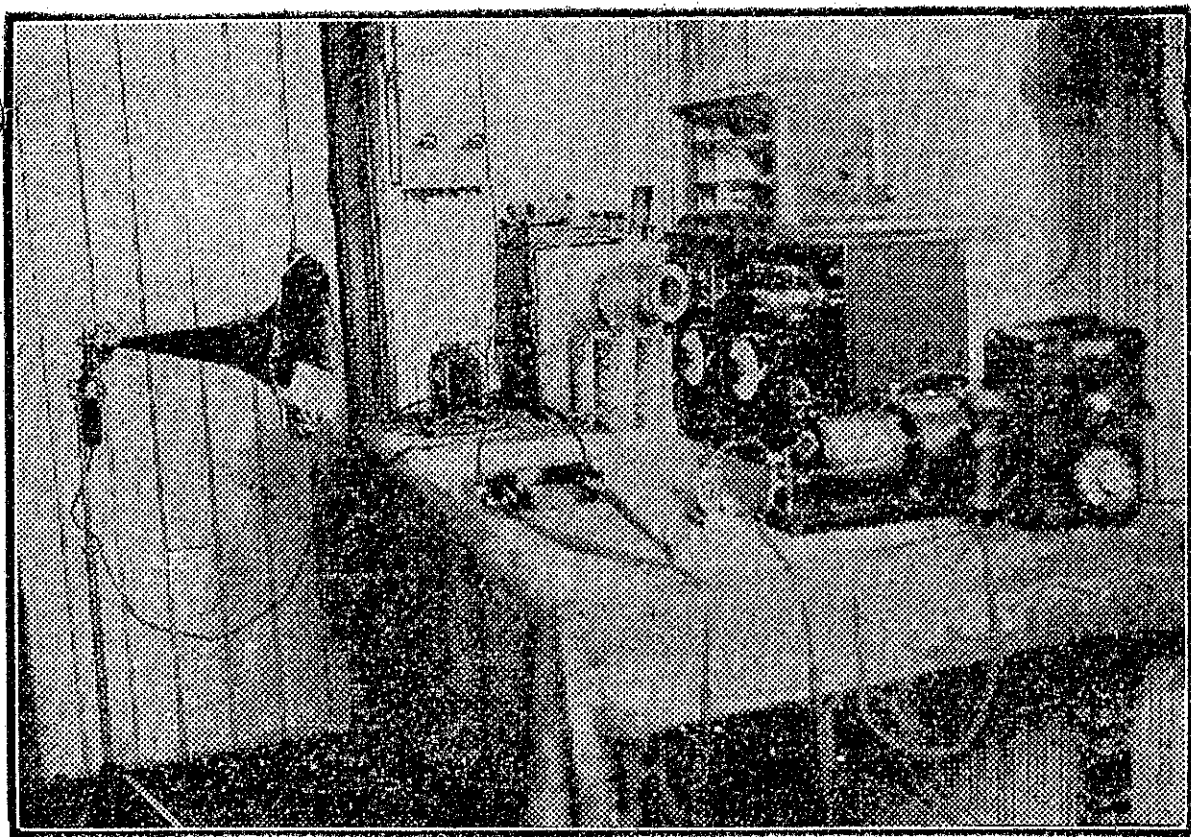
I did not stop to consider the possibility of which way the fortunes of the game had gone, but flew to the "mike" and shouted, "New Zealand 17, England 11." The time was 2.44 a.m. This, I understand, established a world's record for quick communication, the result being broadcast in New Zealand just 2½ minutes after the sounding of the bell at call of time in England. Many listeners referred to us as radio enthusiasts of the first water, and greatly appreciated getting the news so promptly, but others again placed us in quite a different category.

During the next few days the company received over sixty letters from listeners, who wrote me to say they had received the result during the early morning session, so you see we did not have it on our own after all. The result was broadcast intermittently until 4.30 a.m., and again at 10 a.m. By this time we were both tired, but happy in the thought that we had been able to broadcast such wonderful news.

Even in these days, in spite of the fact that all the artists performed without fees, the expense of maintaining a broadcast service was con-

siderable. The various traders in Wellington, realising this, and that they were participants with the Dominion Radio Company in benefits derived from the incentive to purchase sets, caused by the broadcast service, contributed monthly payments to the Dominion Radio Company. The broadcasting service was then known as the Wellington Broadcasters. It is interesting to note, and shows the keen practical interest taken in radio by the people of Wellington, that for one or two years they placed their time and talent at the disposal of the company gratuitously, and it was only through sickness or other unavoidable circumstances that engagements were not carried out to the letter.

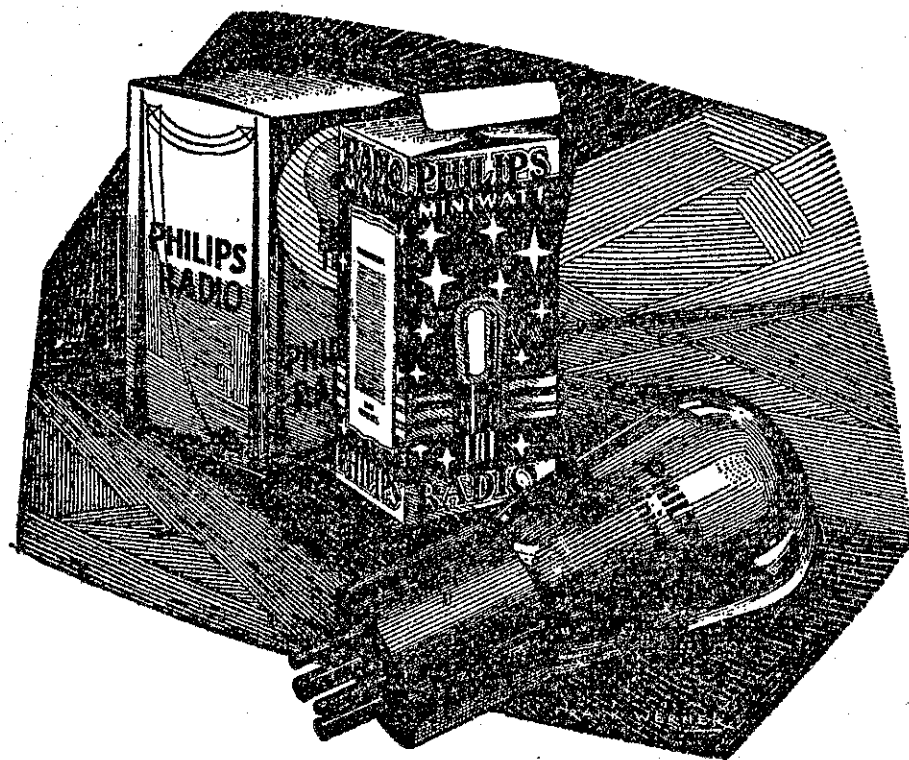
The Radio Company went into voluntary liquidation about the end of October, 1926, and during the time until the N.Z.R.B.Co. commenced operations on December 22, 1926, the service was maintained by the P. and T. Department, Mr. Joe Carr acting as programme organiser. The N.Z.B.Co. had their studios in the Dominion Farmers' Institute Buildings, although the transmitter was still at the "Dominion" Newspaper Buildings. Considerable improvement was evidenced in the transmission at this time, due to the fact that Western Electric Microphones and speech in-pot equipment was introduced. 2YK carried on until 2YA opened on July 16, 1927.



The single-circuit receiver used for the P. and T. Engineers' Ball in the New Century Hall, August 11, 1922.

installed on the roof, and a loudspeaker lowered over the parapet until it came to rest on the roof of the veranda. The concert started, and the first item was supposed to be a trombone solo. It might have been, but you could not blame the people from questioning this, judging from the weird and wonderful noises emitted from that loudspeaker. A trombone solo was hardly a happy selection of an item for demonstration purposes, for the noise reproduced, together with the almost continuous tram tra' passing over the points can better be imagined than described. This was taking place on Wellington's long night (Friday) and the crowds of interested (curious) people, congregated to

that the result would be received about 3 a.m. on Sunday. Mr. H. R. Jacques, then manager of the Dominion Radio Company, was associated with me in this stunt, being my guest for the Saturday night. We were astir soon after 2 a.m., and after partaking of a "seagull's breakfast," set out for town, on foot, as of course there were no cars at that hour of the morning. We arrived at the station at 2.40 a.m., and to be on the safe side rang to see if the special trunk line to the cable station was O.K. The reply electrified us both. "Stand by, result just being recorded." Mr. Jacques is 6 feet tall with long legs, and he needed them. To see the way he negotiated those sev-



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