

Praise For 2YA.

I FEEL I must express my appreciation of the programmes provided by 2YA. The orchestra is wonderful, and the records played on Sunday afternoon are well liked by all at home, also the humorous items during the week. I must say I can listen to almost anything except jazz. The programme suggested by J.K. in the "Radio Record" of September 7 would certainly be an ideal one.—Crystal (Kaiwarra).

Criticise to Improve.

I AM accused, by E.C.P., of Ngaruahia, of lauding "Aussie stations," in current issue of "Radio Record." I would like to state, for the information of E.C.P., and anyone else, that I very seldom tune in Aussie unless on Saturday night for a fight or wrestling bout. 3YA is my first favourite, 4YA and 1YA next. I don't miss much of Wellington's star items; as, for instance, I thoroughly enjoyed a visiting contralto, who gave Scotch and Irish folk songs. They were a treat, and pronunciation was perfect—and no side. I think if our artists were more natural (less "dorg," as a seaman would say), they would be easier to listen to. The programme on August 4 was a treat, a real free and easy, and as already stated by me was enjoyed by a house full that I know of. I criticise for the benefit of listeners, and then only to try for the best result, not to destroy altogether.—J.K. (Trent-ham).

Java Stations.

IN your answers to correspondents in this week's issue, you give "M.W." the wavelength of ANE as 31.93 metres. I refer him to your Listeners' Guide, which gives it as 31.86 metres. If I may be permitted to correct you, this station no longer uses the 31.86-metre wavelength, transmitting only on 15.93 metres. This is according to their QSL card sent me dated June 10, on which they stated: "We don't sent more on 31.86"—rather a quaint way of putting it. Hours of transmission are: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday between 1770 and 1970 G.M.T. on 15.93 m. Input is 15 k.w. high-tension power amplifier 7000-volt six phases rectified a.c. current 50 cycles. Telephony set is cristal controlled. (The spelling of the last two words are as on the QSL card.) Another station in Java has been heard here recently at very good strength on 40 metres, using your "Radio Record" three-valve S.W. receiver, which continues to give excellent results.—R. F. Stanton (Christchurch).

The Mushiness Fault.

I NOTICE in this week's "Record" that correspondents blame our sets for distorted reception from 2YA. I have tried different B voltages, but there is no difference, part of the items clear, the other part mushy. If you can hear part of programme clearly and the other part distorted and fading, well, the set is all right. When 3YA rebroadcasts 2YA, the same thing is noticed; 3YA rebroadcast goes mushy at intervals. 3YA's set is worked by an expert, and if he cannot get it clearly without distortion, well, it is either 2YA's transmission at fault, or the atmosphere, but most certainly not our sets. 3YA is always received clearly here, no sign of mush, etc. The programmes are of such a high order that it is a pity one hears half of it spoilt through distortion.—A. R. Gardiner (Purua).

The Racing Ban.

BEING one of those who have been greatly interested in hearing the broadcasting of racing events, may I through your columns express my opinion, and I know the opinion of many other country people who have wireless sets, commenting on the N.Z. Racing Conference's opinion that the above increases betting. Let them face a few facts. No doubt some of the members are subscribers to your journal—if not they should be. I have been betting on racehorses just whenever I wish to for the last twenty years and find no difference to-day. I just simply ring a bookmaker or his agent, or a friend, and say what I require and it is done, providing I get my message in a few minutes before the start of a race. Every bookmaker has either a radio or a friend that has one, and it's no use trying to have a bet whilst the race is on, and the describing of an important race is fascinating and interesting and does not increase betting. I have been at hotels and other places where the broadcasting was to be heard, and the numbers that congregated were there to hear how their money was getting on previously handed over to the bookmaker; and why not? The Government oblige the folk that are handy and can afford to go to race meetings with cheap fares, and special trains, to my mind and many others mostly to bet on a legal machine for betting. Why penalise the person who cannot afford to go to a meeting through having to work or many other things that could be mentioned? I can assure the Racing Conference from my own experience and that of many others that the increased betting they complain of is tommy-rot and mostly consists of 2s. 6d. and 5s. bets. In the country districts if we want a bet we ring up and always get our modest quid or two placed exactly where we want it, despite the fact that hundreds of bookmakers are fined the modest sum of £75 or £100 or so. The racing officials know just as well as we do that the country is full of bookmakers and their agents in New Zealand, and I'm safe in saying there is not a township in New Zealand that one cannot get his bet fixed up if he wants one. If the Racing Conference wants to reduce the bookmakers' business there is a far better way, and that is for the New Zealand Racing Conference to do its best to enable the people of this country to walk into any post office and wire money direct to the secretary of the racing clubs, have our bet and place those who are a few hundred miles away from the races on the same footing as those who have excursion trains, concessions and a proper betting machine.—Common Justice (Waitotara).

The King's English.

THE "Radio Record" (Friday, September 7) to hand, and, as usual, I have turned to the "Mail Bag" column, and have just come to the letter headed "The King's English." I think this is a most insulting letter, and one that should never have been printed, but consigned to the waste-paper basket. I think I am right in saying that the majority of Masterton listeners have very little fault to find with any of the announcers; of course, they, like the rest of us, are not perfect. My advice to "Homo" is, if you cannot say a good word for anyone, then don't say a bad one, or sling mud.—J. W. d'C. (Masterton)

AFTER reading "Homo's" letter, I cannot refrain from answering such a sarcastic outburst. Why cannot he be man enough to sign his name? He must be ashamed of his writing. These critics may be students of English and other languages, but perhaps be duds on anything else. Mr. Announcer may perhaps not please everyone, but he does the majority, I think, and if "Homo" and Co. were to have a try at his job they may make a complete bosh of it altogether. In conclusion, Sir, let me quote a text: "Let he that is without sin cast the first stone."—Harold J. Finlay (Hawera).


I CRAVE your indulgence for a few lines in answer to a letter in your last issue entitled "The King's English," by "Homo." This gentleman accuses Mr. Hunt of condoning the announcer's mispronunciations and mistakes on account of his pleasant manner. Now, Sir, I have listened to radio from many parts of this little globe, and can assure him that what he calls a "pleasant manner" is the hall mark of a cultured gentleman, and his English is 20-carat; in fact, it is often a ray of sunshine through the clouds. Myself, I do not profess to be as learned as "Homo" concerning the English language, but I don't think it sporting to splash the mud because the grapes are sour. How about "Homo" trying some of his "Homo" stuff before the "mike" himself? Then we will know what the King's English sounds like.—Fernleaf.

IN your issue of September 7 "Homo," writing behind the shelter of anonymity, makes a most unfair attack on the 2YA announcer. Despite some mistakes of pronunciation, I venture to think that the gentleman under discussion is most popular with radio listeners. There is no doubt that he compares favourably with his predecessor in his announcing. If I thought it fair I could mention several "howlers" perpetuated under the late announcer's regime. The object of this correspondence is, I take it, not to hurt anyone's feelings, but to see what experiments can be made for the sake, more particularly, of the rising generation.—R. Stewart W. Hunt (Eltham).

Mr. Howard Raises Dust.

MY experience has taught me that it is useless to argue with an editor. Still I will venture another round. If the Racing Conference said that the "Dominion" or any other newspaper should not be permitted to publish the results of the races, would you expect Parliament or the Government to interfere and say you must permit them to publish the results? Or would you say, "Less Government in business," and leave it to the parties to settle? Now, that blessed word "democratic" is like the word Mesopotamia to the old lady. "Does he (Mr. Howard) support the demand for some of the few shillings of the listeners?" That's sob stuff, Mr. Editor. As a fact, once I pay my thirty shillings over the counter at the P.O. it matters not to me whether the Broadcasting Company gets it or who gets it. I have no further say in it. The B.C.C. looks out for that. However, my point was, and I insist on it, that the broadcasting of racing news is a domestic matter between the B.C.C. and the Racing Conference, and the Government has no right to interfere.—E. J. Howard.

[There is nothing in Mr. Howard's note to answer. We never argued that



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the Government should interfere. We argued that the Racing and Trotting Conferences were wrong to deprive their supporters, the public, of broadcast descriptions, and that the arguments by which they sought to justify their ban were unsound. Mr. Howard is avoiding the issue. Where does he stand? With the conference or with the people? Why birk the question?—Ed.]

Was it Manila?

I WOULD like to suggest to your correspondent, C. Hodgson, Wairoa, that the station he heard broadcasting a boxing match at 11.45 p.m. on August 25, was KZRM, Manila, operating on wave-length of 406 metres. This station can be heard most nights from 11.30 p.m. until about 2 a.m. under favourable conditions. While I am on the job I would like to tell you how much we appreciate the "Radio Record." The postman is always eagerly looked for here on Wednesdays. When do the Broadcasting Company anticipate putting on the long-looked-for dinner music? Some time ago you mentioned in your paper the company was keeping the matter in view. Has the view become faded and distorted, as 2YA has a habit of doing at times?—G. C. Coleman (Nelson).

I SEE by last issue of "Radio Record" Mr. C. Hodgson, Wairoa, inquires the station between 400 and 420 metres. He will find it to be KZRM, Manila Hotel, Manila, Philippine Islands, on 413 metres, 726.1 kilocycles. I have just received a report from KZRM, with a letter bearing eight 2 cent stamps, with their time of broadcasting hours, etc. Hope this helps the inquirer. Cheerio.—S. Ellis, Okato, DX.

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