

Radio Amateurs

General Meeting.

The Racing Ban.

MR. BYRON BROWN, president, occupied the chair at a general meeting of the Amateur Radio Society of Wellington on Tuesday evening, September 11. About thirty members attended.

The following letter was received from the secretary of the New Zealand Racing Conference in response to a protest by the Hawke's Bay and Wellington Societies against the refusal of the racing clubs to permit broadcasting of running descriptions of the races:—

"I am in receipt of your letter of 31st ult., forwarding me letter dated July 3 last, addressed to me by the Hawke's Bay Radio Society relating to the decision of the New Zealand Racing Conference that the radio broadcasting of race meetings during the progress of the racing be prohibited and that such broadcasting form part of the evening's programme.

"As regards the grounds for your society's resolution asking the conference to reconsider its decision, I have to point out that the settlers in the country districts and the sick people in hospitals will not be inconvenienced in any way at all if the broadcasting of race meetings forms part of the evening's programme. In fact so far as the settlers in the country districts are concerned, it would be more convenient to them to be able to hear the broadcast of race meetings after their day's work is over instead of their valuable time being occupied by listening in during the day. It is no hardship to the sick people in hospitals to hear the broadcast during the evening, instead of during the afternoon, when they may have visitors calling to see them.

"It is noted that your society does not agree that the stoppage of the broadcast of a running description of a race will tend to eliminate or at least reduce illegal betting, but I have to draw your attention to the fact that the Commissioner of Police is reported to have had representations made to him on this very subject by his officers, and that he is averse to the broadcasting of news from courses as it tends to increase his difficulties in suppressing illegal betting.

"The Radio Broadcasting Co. of N.Z., Ltd., to which I presume the members of your society pay an annual li-

cense fee for the right to listen in to the items broadcast by the company, claims that the racing clubs have neither the right nor the power to restrict the company in its broadcast of the particulars of their meetings. It would be interesting to know whether your society supports the company in its view that racing clubs have no right or power to control particulars of their own entertainment during the progress thereof.

"The conference will not be holding its annual meeting until July, 1929, and if your society still desires it to reconsider its decision no doubt you will advise me again before the next meeting of the conference."—(Sgd.) H. R. Sellers, Secretary.

As certain statements embodied in the above letter required investigation the meeting decided to merely "receive" the letter.

The Tasman Flight.

The honorary secretary of the society (Mr. W. H. Taylor) reported that with the sanction of the president he had telegraphed Mr. T. H. McWilliams, radio operator of the aeroplane Southern Cross congratulations on his successful flight across the Tasman.

Amateur Transmitters.

Mr. J. Johnson, who came as a representative of the Wellington branch of the New Zealand Association of Amateur Transmitters, asked the society to consider a suggestion from his association to co-operate in overcoming interference from amateur transmission, howling valves, and power-line leakages. One member stated that he had suffered seriously from interference from a certain amateur transmitter, and on some nights had to close down completely. As a result of complaints, the said amateur transmitter had been ordered off the air by the P. and T. Department.

Speakers pointed out that the P. and T. Department had a new scheme for co-operating with members of the radio trade to combat trouble from power-line leakages. The society therefore should not make any agreement with other bodies in that respect, but the suggestion might form the basis of a general system of co-operation. Listeners, however, should not be asked to waive their right to complain to the P. and T. Department when they were experiencing interference from amateur transmitters. It was agreed, however, that Mr. Johnson be invited to attend the next meeting of the executive to go more fully into the matter.

It was resolved to invite Mr. T. H. McWilliams, radio operator of the Southern Cross, to attend a general meeting of the members to meet them

Flyers in Wellington.

2YA has treated listeners well in connection with the visit of the "flyers" to the Empire City. The whole of the proceedings on the arrival of the aviators were broadcast, all the speakers addressing the microphone, as well as the large crowd assembled.

The Civic Welcome in the Town Hall on Monday, was also put on the air in full, and enabled a vast number of those unable otherwise to hear the aviators, to "listen in."

Captain Kingsford-Smith has won all hearts by his charming personality and bright smile, and the experience of hearing his voice over the air has been welcome.

Just as Lindbergh in American aviation has won fame as the messenger of peace, so Kingsford-Smith is proving a wonderful ambassador in the development of goodwill between Australia and New Zealand. His bright smile and camaraderie are proving assets of no small value.

The children were given a very special treat on Monday evening by "Smithy" (as Captain Kingsford-Smith is becoming known), and Lieutenant Ulm, consenting to speak for a quarter of an hour from 2YA to the children. This was a wonderful experience to the little ones—and, needless to say, to many adults who listened in at the same time.

The Belle of New York.

On Saturday, September 22, the Auckland Amateur Operatic Society are presenting the "Belle of New York," in His Majesty's Theatre, and have kindly offered excerpts for broadcast. The time of the relay is as yet uncertain, but excerpts will be broadcast at intervals between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

and to give an address on the subject of the flight.

General.

The chairman extended a cordial welcome to Mr. F. W. Sellens, who was recently reappointed to fill a vacancy on the executive.

Mr. G. R. McCarthy gave an instructive and entertaining lecture on short-wave reception and radio apparatus. Mr. McCarthy contrived to impart a good deal of humour into his address, especially when detailing some of the frailties of listeners and defects in radio parts. Several questions were asked and answered. In conclusion, Mr. McCarthy remarked on the importance and interest of short-wave Morse work as compared with broadcast listening. A number, however, in defence of broadcast listening, pointed out that the public interest in broadcast listening completely overwhelmed interest in short-wave Morse work, not only in New Zealand, but throughout the world. In New Zealand, where there were only about 200 amateur transmitters, there were something like 37,000 broadcast listeners. The popularity of broadcast listening was still increasing in prodigious bounds throughout the world, and while great things had been accomplished in broadcasting still more wonderful things were in store.

The meeting terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer.

£50 Gramophone.

Award Made by Committee.

A meeting of the 1YA Musical and Dramatic Committee was held at 1YA Studio on Friday, September 14.

The chairman, Mr. Karl Atkinson, welcomed the new delegates—Mrs. Nello Porter, Mr. J. W. Shaw and Mr. C. R. Straubel, who each indicated that their respective organisations were very glad of the opportunity of co-operating with the committee in the excellent work it was accomplishing.

Entries received in connection with the Mystery Night competition, which were dealt with at an informal meeting held on 7th inst., were narrowed down to two and it was decided to recommend that the prize be awarded to Mr. Percy Sawyer, 2 Surrey Street, Grey Lynn. Two hundred and ninety-two entries were received, and of this number only one omitted to comply with the conditions of the competition.

A sub-committee was set up consisting of Messrs. McCallum, Montague, Hayden and Mrs. Porter, together with the chairman, to draw up details in connection with the proposed competition for a one-act play.

It was decided to defer the second Mystery Night Competition, originally arranged for September 26, to Wednesday, October 24. The chairman stated that it had been found impossible to complete the necessary details in time for the original date.

Mr. Straubel advised that the University students had arranged a debate with the Sydney University team for Friday, September 21, and it was decided to accept the students' offer with thanks.

Considerable discussion ensued in regard to the matter of artists failing to perform items as published on the programme, and the Committee felt that in view of the fact that artists knew what items would be required six weeks before the date of performance, there was no excuse for failure in this respect. It was finally decided to recommend to the Company that artists offending in this matter be debarred from performance on the night in question, and it was felt that action on these lines would soon correct what was really a breach of faith with listeners.

It was decided to meet again on Friday, October 12.

ARE YOU BUILDING A SET?

These Prices will Interest You!

Our Special Low-loss Coil of the finest quality, tinned or enamelled,
3-inch diam., 1/6 per inch. Any length cut.
4-inch Dials, 2/- Vernier Dials, 4/9.
1-inch Knobs, 7d.; D.C.C., D.S.C., and Enamelled Wire in 1lb. reels.
Condensers 00025, 00035, and 0005 at 7/6 each.

SEND FOR PRICE LIST.

G. G. MACQUARRIE LTD.

CROSLY RADIO SALES AND SERVICE,

95 WILLIS STREET, WELLINGTON.

Phone 45-865.

Radio Sets Built to Order.

Bring Us Your Repairs.

Exide BATTERIES

MEAN DEPENDABILITY.
Installed at 2YA Wellington.

All sizes. From 9/- each.

EXIDE SERVICE STATION

79 Kent Terrace, WELLINGTON.