

## Glossary of Wireless Terms

From week to week we give here a section of the glossary of wireless terms from the "Listener's Guide."

**OXIDE RECTIFIER.**—Plates of metal having oxidous surfaces are clamped together and have the effect of only permitting current to flow through the system in one direction thus rectifying alternating currents. See 'Bulb Rectifier.'

**PACK.**—See "Kit."

**PARALLEL.**—Where current from a battery divides between two or more instruments and the whole current does not flow through each instrument in turn the connection is said to be shunt or parallel in contra-distinction to the second connection, which would be said to be in series.

In the case of batteries where two or more are connected with all the positives and all the negatives joined together the connection is parallel so that the total voltage is the same as a single battery. Where the positive of each cell is joined to each negative so that 10 batteries of 2 volts each gives a total voltage of 20 volts for instance the connection is series. A series-parallel connection is one in which a combination of cells or batteries may be joined in parallel, and then such groups placed in series. On the other hand a combination of cells may be joined in series and such groups placed in parallel. It is to be noted that batteries joined in parallel must be of equal voltage.

Semi-parallel connections of headphones or speakers may be carried out under certain circumstances.

**PEAK.**—A point in tuning at a given frequency where the most accurate setting, and consequently best results, are obtained. An efficient coil has a very pronounced "peak," or "optimum," effect, and the desired signals are lost within a very few degrees of condenser setting on either side of that peak. See "Selectivity."

**PERIKON.**—A form of crystal detection in which contact is made between two crystals, such as zincite and bornite.

**PLATE.**—An alternative term for the anode of the valve.

**POSITIVE.**—One of the terminals of an accumulator, battery, or cell. It is important in all cases and vital in some that the batteries should be correctly connected in relation to their poles, to the set; the point applies also to the 'phones. See also "Negative."

**POTENTIAL.**—A relative quality; best explained by an example: thus, the positive terminal of a 6-volt accumulator has a positive potential of 6-volt (or 6v plus) relatively to the negative terminal—which is, of course, 6 volts negative (or 6v. minus) in regard to the positive terminal. Difference of potential between an electrically-charged cloud and the earth (or between two clouds) causes a lightning flash, or "spark," when the difference is sufficiently great to break down the insulating property of the air. Any difference in potential can be expressed in volts.

### Insufficient Talent.

Even Melbourne Exhausted.

CRITICS occasionally cry out for new talent to be heard from the New Zealand broadcast stations, but they never stop to consider the serious limitations imposed by the relatively small communities from which the Radio Broadcasting Company of New Zealand have to draw their performers. There are over 300 concerts per year broadcast from Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin, and none of these cities has a seventh the population of, for instance, Melbourne. And yet the supply of the best talent in Melbourne has admittedly become exhausted.

A Melbourne radio writer says:

"Speaking to me the other day in the street, a critic of 3LO gave it as his opinion that the programmes could be better if we had a better class of singer. Well, that is a truism, of course, and I said so. 'I mean, why don't they pay the price?' asked the critic. 'And, then, the same with violinists and pianists. Why can't we get the best?'"

"That set me thinking. That was constructive criticism. I take no notice of the fellow who wants football and racing, and lashes 3LO because it puts on music instead. He means nothing but infernal selfishness. But this other chap was on a different tack and I began to think. 'What singers,' I pondered, 'are available for the radio, what violinists, what organists, whom the listening public have been denied the privilege of hearing?' For curiosity I began to think them out. The result was against the critic. Do you know that there is not a single top-notch art-

### Australian

### Broadcasting.

### Is There Too Much?

THERE is a growing feeling in Australia that there is too much broadcasting over there. One writer says:—

"Are we getting too much broadcasting? When you come to think of it, it seems a little bit stiff to expect to get entertainment on the air from morn till dawn, so to speak. The difficulty of providing programmes that shall be reasonably fresh and non-repetitive is enormous. No one can appreciate how great the task is who has not been in touch with a studio."

"The trouble is that now that the public has been provided with so many hours of broadcasting, it would resent any curtailment. Yet I firmly believe that the criticism of broadcast programmes takes its root in their length. How is it possible to avoid repetition? There are not enough items available to provide new programmes daily."

"From a psychological point of view, a privilege so easily obtained is little likely to be valued. Four hours a day of really good programme matter would probably be appreciated far more than the long, straggly series of items that are 'on tap' throughout the livelong day. At certain times, and on certain days, there might be broadcast in addition to sporting items and news, or broadcast descriptive matter of public events."

ist in Melbourne who is not under engagement to 3LO, or who, alternatively, has refused to be broadcast?

"With the exception of one or two, every first-class Melbourne singer is on the air at some time or other."

## RADIO DIRECTORY

### What to Buy and Where

#### AUCKLAND

- ATWATER-KENT RADIO** .. Frank Wiseman, Ltd.  
170-172 Queen Street, Auckland.
- ALTONA & HAMMARLUND-ROBERTS SETS.** Johns, Ltd.  
Chancery Street, Auckland.
- AMPLION LOUDSPEAKERS** . All Radio Dealers.
- BREMER-TULLY RADIO** .. Superadio, Ltd.,  
147 Queen Street, Auckland.
- BURGESS RADIO BATTERIES,** All Radio Dealers.
- CE-CO VALVES** .. All Radio Dealers.
- FADA RADIO** ..... National Electric & Eng. Co., Ltd.  
Customs St.; Ra Supplies, Symond St.
- FEDERAL, MOHAWK, GLOBE** Federal Radio House,  
8 Darby Street, Auckland.
- FERRANTI RADIO COMPONENTS** ..... A. D. Riley and Co., Ltd. Anzac Ave., Auckland, and all leading dealers.
- GILFILLAN AND KELLOGG** . Harrington's, Ltd.,  
138-140 Queen Street, Auckland.
- GREBE RADIO** ..... Howie's,  
Dilworth Building, Custom st., Auckland.
- MARCONI ECONOMY VALVES** All Radio Dealers.
- MULLARD VALVES** ..... All Radio Dealers.
- RADIOLA RECEIVERS** ..... Farmers' Trading Co., Ltd.,  
Hobson Street, Auckland.
- RADIOTRON VALVES** ..... All Radio Dealers.
- RELIANCE BATTERIES** .. N.Z. Made Reliance Battery Mfg. Co., Ltd.,  
96 Albert Street, Auckland.
- T.C.C. CONDENSERS** ..... A. D. Riley and Co., Ltd. Anzac Ave., Auckland, and all leading dealers.

#### COUNTRY TOWNS

- ANCHORADIO, BREMER-TULLY, RADIOLA, BROWNING-DRAKE, AND ATWATER-KENT RADIO** Radio House,  
Hamilton. G. S. Anchor, Manager.
- BROWNING-DRAKE SALES AND SERVICE** ..... J. H. Sinclair,  
Otane, H.B.
- CROSLEY ELECTRICAL AND BATTERY MODELS** .. The Forrest-Crosley Radio Co., Ltd. Cuba Street, Palmerston North.
- GAROD, CROSLEY, RADIO AND ACCESSORIES** .. The Hector Jones Electrical Co.  
King and Queen Streets, Hastings.
- GILFILLAN, FEDERAL, STANDARDDYNE AND GARRARD ELECTRIC RADIO — ALL ACCESSORIES** ..... W. M. Pitcher and Co.  
Hamilton.
- GREBE, CROSLEY AND RADIOLA SERVICE** ..... E. Dixon and Co., Ltd.,  
Hawera.
- RADIOLA DEALER AND SERVICE** ..... G. C. Carrad.  
140 The Avenue, Wanganui.
- ROLA CONE SPEAKERS** ..... J. B. MacEwan and Co., Ltd.,  
Federal Radio Dealers, New Plymouth.
- PHILIPS VALVES AND APPARATUS** All Good Radio Dealers,