

## Auckland Notes

(By Listener.)

FOR 1YA the past few days have been exacting, but triumphant. All preparations were made to relay from the Aorangi a speech by Tom Heeney, but the fates decreed against this, for the mail liner berthed later than was anticipated, and listeners received from Princes Wharf only a description of her dropping anchor and a detail of the crowds assembled on the waterfront. It was perhaps fortunate, for interference on the relay line was most pronounced, and marred the fine account put over. It was greatly to the advantage of listeners that the remarks of the pugilist and his wife were made at the station, where transmission was ideal.

"OUR Tom" was brief, frank, and homely. There was an atmosphere of geniality that carried over the air, and conveyed the impression of spontaneity that makes a broadcast of this type just what it ought to be. Mrs. Heeney did not appear to suffer from microphone fright, though she spoke her piece with a rapidity char-

acteristic of the land of hustle. Twice during the proceedings the regulation regarding controversial matter was unwittingly broken, but honours were even for both sides of a contentious subject, and only quibblers would worry over the incident.

air as promptly as it was received: music and talks, judiciously interspersed, filled acceptably the long periods of suspense; and under adverse atmospheric conditions the southern stations were relayed in the early morning hours.

BUT the real triumph for 1YA came with the rebroadcast of the landing. It was a fine achievement that spoke volumes for the excellence of the plant and the capability of the staff. Statie was strongly in evidence, but it did not prevent Aucklanders from hearing the whole story, and many excuses for lateness at shop and office were received with a smile by unbelieving "heads." Crowds gathered round the doors of radio dealers, and each set had its quota of visitors. Near one licensee's home was a big factory. The licensee sent word to the employees that he would wave a white sheet from his window when the 'plane landed. The wave duly came, and the workers, many regretting that they were not listening at their own homes, greeted the signal with a cheer.

NOTHING could better demonstrate the efficiency and the service of our New Zealand stations than their performances throughout the Monday

### First to Hear Southern Cross in Dominion.

THE first portion of New Zealand territory to be crossed by the Southern Cross was the county of Collingwood, in the extreme north of Nelson province, and it is interesting to learn that the aeroplane was in this locality at 6 a.m.—less than eleven hours after leaving Sydney.

The Broadcasting Company has received from a listener in this district a very interesting report, in the form of a log, recording all that was broadcast during the whole duration of the flight. The writer of the report is Mr. Frank James, a septuagenarian settler. An extract from his report reads:—

"6 a.m.—Aeroplane flew over my house. My sister, Mrs. H. Strange, and my nephew, Ralph Irons, near neighbours, also heard it.  
6.40.—Given out by announcer that 'plane had sighted land at  
6.30. Postmaster at Collingwood reported aeroplane."

Then follow the other reports from French Pass and as to flying over Wellington Harbour.

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THERE was a late night on the Sunday at 1YA, and the staff, who had been on the qui vive for over a week, awaiting news of the commencement of the flight, were doubtless thankful that their weekly day of rest was to follow. There was no rest for them, however, for Kingsford Smith and his associates sprang a real surprise upon all radio people when they hopped off unexpectedly on Monday evening. 1YA was immediately on the air, and kept going for fully fifteen hours. It was a hard task that operators and announcers faced, but they tackled it cheerily, and performed it right well. "The finest performance to date" was the general verdict. During the whole night, through which thousands of enthusiasts sat sleepless, news of the 'plane was of the briefest. Then the reason of this was unknown, but now that it has been made plain we realise how much our local station did with the little material it had at its disposal. Information was put on the

night and the Tuesday morning. Carping critics were thoroughly silenced, and the Broadcasting Company earned heartfelt thanks for its splendid service.

NOW comes the news that we are to be entertained twice weekly by a small studio orchestra. In numbers it is not large, but its personnel is sufficient guarantee of its capabilities to satisfy all who move in musical circles. There will be a hearty welcome accorded to Mrs. Singer and her band of instrumentalists.

"The Maid of the Mountains" on Tuesday last. Verdict: "Excellent." General request: "More of a similar kind."

MR. G. Robertson, general manager in New Zealand for Amalgamated Wireless, Ltd., has received the following telegram from Messrs. Charles Bennett and Co., Christchurch distributors for the former company: "All radio equipment used at the Wigram Aerodrome in connection with the flight of the Southern Cross, was Radiola, including Radiola sets, Radiola speakers, and Radiola short-wave outfits."

## Station Sidelights.

AT 1YA, a good deal of the credit for successfully rebroadcasting 3YA in daylight—a very meritorious achievement—is due to Mr. Mahoney and Mr. Hamblin, on behalf of Messrs. Bond and Bond, Ltd., whose six-valve set brought in the southern station excellently. The Auckland station has received high praise for the part it played in broadcasting the flight.

The Dunedin station gave an exceptional account of it-self. It followed the flight from the commencement, till the conclusion of the addresses by the two leaders at 3YA. The local radio inspector, Mr. F. J. O'Grady, took charge of the reception of the plane's messages, at his residence in Roslyn, on a screened-grid short-wave receiver, kindly lent by Mr. F. Barnett. The rebroadcast of 3YA preceding and dur-

ing the landing of the 'plane, was also conducted from Roslyn. Mr. O'Grady certainly upheld his reputation as an excellent operator.

During 3YA's long vigil, well over 100 records were broadcast.

At 2YA, valuable service was rendered by Mr. G. R. McCarthy, of Mack's Radio, to whom tribute was paid last week.

THE "Daily Mail" has provided a yacht with a powerful receiving set to patrol the shores of certain seasides. The loudspeaker can be heard half-a-mile to a mile away.

"It is my belief that all great music of the future will be broadcast, and the concert as we know it now will disappear," said Professor Aylmer Buesst, conductor of the British National Opera Company, in Melbourne, recently.

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