

Mr. F. W. Sellens writes:—

Progress of 5SW.

"It is good news that the recent move of the 'Continentalists' at Savoy Hill to suppress 5SW has not succeeded, says a writer in 'The Wireless Constructor.' The short-wave station continues its transmissions, which although still formally 'experimental' are in practice providing a much appreciated service for Britons the world over. Then there is the further point that some quite useful results have been achieved from the co-operative experiments arranged between Captain Eckersley and his opposite number in the United States, Dr. Goldsmith. But the chief objection at the listening end is the absence of news. As soon as the time arrives for the news bulletins, 5SW shuts up. This maddens listeners at the other side of the world. The reason appears to be that the news agencies will not allow their copyright matter to be disseminated in this widespread fashion without special compensation. Moreover, the Press of the Dominions and Colonies is by no means keen on news bulletins being included in the 5SW transmissions.

"But, of course, the news must be included before very long. The money for it will have to be found from sources actually interested, such as, for instance, the Governments of the Colonies. The B.B.C. would not be justified in spending British license money on overseas news services."

THE regular stations have come in during the past week with plenty of punch. Static has been troublesome, especially above about 40 metres.

Saturday, September 29.

2XAD was in good form. The hotel orchestra from the roof of St. Regis Hotel, New York City, was broadcast. Reception was excellent at R8, the screen grid not being hooked up at the time.

Round the World on Short Wave

Notes of special value to short-wave enthusiasts are contributed weekly to the "Radio Record" by Mr. F. W. Sellens, Northland, Wellington. Observations from others are welcomed.

PCJJ was first heard at 3.35 p.m. calling America. The special programme for New Zealand and Australia commenced at 5 p.m. with the National Anthem. Strength R9.

As usual, amateurs were called and thanked for reports. The programme was well received till signing off at 6.33 p.m., except for morse QRM.

During the evening RFM was poor, a strong ripple and static spoiling reception.

Sunday, September 30.

At 11 a.m. both KDKA and 2XAF were audible—only just. By 1 p.m. KDKA was readable, till 2.30 musical items were heard. They then switched over to where Governor Smith was talking about Prohibition. Although, according to his statements he, if elected President, would see that the law was obeyed, in reference to the 18th Amendment, he quoted what various prominent men in America had to say against Prohibition. His speech was about 50 per cent. readable at first, but improved to nearly 100 per cent. toward the finish at about 3.30 p.m. That what he had to say was approved by his seen audience was proved by the loud applause at frequent intervals. At 3.30 p.m., just before closing down, baseball and football results were read and the weather forecast given.

Listeners were reminded to put their clocks back one hour. Signed off as 8XK.

2XAF put on a dance programme, which a chain of stations were broadcasting from the Crystal Room, Ten Eyck Hotel, Albany, New York.

Strength was R8 when closing at 3.30 p.m. The concluding reminder was "Don't forget to put your clock back

one hour, Standard time begins at 2 o'clock to-morrow morning."

Amateurs heard were 2AJ working 4AE, and 3UT, Victoria.

Monday, October 1.

As 3LO were later than usual in starting, I did not hear them.

3CP, Malvern, Victoria, was testing and was received very well at about R5.

GAG, Perth, was even better at R6. Several records were heard and the statement that he is testing almost every evening at 6.30 and 11 p.m. He closed down at 10.55 our time, saying it is now 7.25 p.m. West Australian time.

5SW at 11 p.m. was R3-4. Static bad.

Tuesday, October 2.

At 6 a.m. a French talk was given from 5SW at R6. Static spoiling reception.

2XAD were R4-5 about 6 a.m. Jazz items were heard, while later a lady was talking. Two sorts of fading were noticed. One, very rapid, while the other was slow, the station fading out at times.

Wednesday, October 3.

PCJJ, from 5 a.m. till 7.35, was received at R9 all through, except for slow fades, but very slight. Modulation was excellent, and talk 100 per cent. readable.

Big Ben from 5SW came through at R7 at 5.30 a.m. (7 p.m. summer time). The first talk was, "A Week-end in Paris." How to get there; hotels to stay at; what to see. This was 100 per cent. readable and very interesting.

Pianoforte items followed. When the next talk commenced, rapid fading became bad, spoiling readability. A band was heard later at R8.

A Dutchman was tuned in on about 38.5 metres at R9. Reception was perfect except for some static. Some talk was heard at first, finishing with "Hello! Hello!" (not any call given). Musical items followed, concluding at 7.27 a.m. with what I believe is the Dutch National Anthem, as PCJJ often play it at the end of their ordinary transmission. This station was probably ANDIR, Bandoeng, Java. ANE, on 15.93, were going strong on duplex-telephony up till 7.40 a.m., when I closed down. Strength R5.

3AR, Ashburton, was heard at R7 during the evening. 6AG, Perth, was very good at R8. "Annie Laurie" at 10.30 was splendid. Some old-time comic songs followed, such as "Waiting at the Church," etc.

Thursday, October 4.

5SW started their session after Big Ben had struck, with a lecture about "Epidemic Germs"; strength R8; rapid fading; about 60 per cent. readable. Gramophone records filled the next 15 minutes, and then another lecturette.

ANE were again carrying on telephone conversations. R6.

A foreign station on about 41.5 metres was heard for a few moments. A talk finished just as I tuned it in at 6.15 a.m. R5-6. Static bad.

Friday, October 5.

PCJJ was tuned in just after 5 a.m. at R8, fading slight with a little static. At one time they called "Hullo Sumara; Hullo Sourabaya; Hullo," etc., etc., then a long talk in Dutch followed. Volume continued fairly even at R8—9 till after 6.30 a.m., when it reduced slightly.

5SW: A lady gave a review of the latest novels. Intelligibility about 90 per cent. Piano and orchestral selections were heard later. Volume was only slightly less than PCJJ till 7 a.m., and then was stronger than the Dutch station. A "Fritz" was heard on 41.5 metres calling Achtung, with a talk following. The call, if any, was not heard. Before the talk and after a metronome was heard ticking quite distinctly; this I understand is used by a number of continental stations, partly for tuning purposes and partly for identification, number of ticks per minute. This particular tick, although I did not attempt to count the number per minute, had a peculiar sound, the ticks being not quite equal spacing, but in twos, just enough to be noticeable. Maybe somebody can identify this station by this description.

PCJJ also has a metronome, as, of course, many readers know. The ticks from this are slow and equal spacing.

At 11 p.m. 5SW was about R3, but reception poor on account of rapid fading.

RFM was heard with a good orchestra at R8, but static was about R10.

Sydney's Difficulty.

A New Arrangement.

IN Sydney it has long been recognised that there are too many broadcast stations, and it is almost impossible to obtain inter-State reception in that city when 2BL and 2FC are on the air. It is now announced that to facilitate inter-State reception by Sydney listeners, an interesting step is being taken by the A class broadcasting stations in New South Wales. The services from 2BL and 2FC are now co-ordinated, and the directors of the stations have arranged for one station to cease transmitting early on one night, and the other to cease early on the following night, to minimise local interference and facilitate the reception of distant signals. At present both stations transmit until after 11 o'clock, and the interference they cause covers nearly the whole of the broadcasting wave band for inselective sets. In future one station will cease transmitting at half-past 10 o'clock every night. This will mean that on one night after that time the upper portion of the broadcasting wave band will be free from interference, while the following night the lower part of the band will be clear. It is hoped that by this arrangement many listeners with one valve, two valve, and even crystal sets, who have not yet been able to pick up stations outside Sydney, will receive 3LO, 3AR, 5CL, and 4QG.

Printed and published for the New Zealand Radio Publishing Company at the registered office, Wakefield Street, Wellington of the Wellington Publishing Company, by Archibald Sando, of 47 Freyberg Street, Lyall Bay, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1928.

A New DISCOVERY in Radio

We need Cash and you need a Set
COME AND LET US DISCUSS MATTERS.

What we are Offering are:—

The Famous "BREMER-TULLY" Counterphase Eight and Six Valve Sets

Some Counterphase Sixes are in Chassis Form. You Build Your Own Cabinet. All Guaranteed.

— AND REMEMBER —

These Sets have Never Been Beaten in New Zealand.
They constitute the Best Money Can Buy.

Other Sets are—

Zenith Ten and Six Valves; Federal Fives; Regent Five;
Polar Twins; and the Famous Crystaldyne.

We are prepared to take any reasonable offer.

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED. THEY ALL MUST GO. WE NEED
CASH QUICK. SO HURRY AND GET YOUR SET.
ABSOLUTELY ALL-MONEY-BACK GUARANTEED.

MACK'S RADIO CO., LTD.

76-77 KENT TERRACE

AT THE BASIN RESERVE, WELLINGTON. THE HOUSE OF SERVICE.