

Gramophone Records in Evening Session

Lengthy Discussion at General Meeting of Amateur Radio Society.

A LARGE number of radio listeners assembled at the hall of the Cambridge Terrace Congregational Church on the occasion of the general meeting of the Wellington Amateur Radio Society, on Tuesday, October 9. That the meeting was popular can be gauged from the fact that although the hall is slightly larger than that at the Dominion Farmers' Institute, it was packed, so that many were unable to find seating accommodation.

IN addressing the meeting the president, Mr. Byron Brown, observed that there was an absence of ladies and extended an invitation to all lady enthusiasts.

The Racing Ban.

The secretary, Mr. W. H. Taylor, having read the minutes, discussed a letter received from the racing secretary at the last meeting. This letter had intimated that the conference would not meet till 1929, and had advised the society to lodge their objection to the racing ban then. "It appears," said Mr. Taylor, "that a new committee is to be elected during the Wellington spring meeting."

It was decided to write this new committee on its taking office, asking it to reconsider the decision to place the ban on the broadcasting of races. A sportsmanlike attitude was shown by members of the committee. Some of them never approached race meetings and had no interest in them, "but," as Mr. Brown answered an interjection, "we must think not of ourselves, but those who do," and added his protest against the ban.

Whilst waiting for Mr. C. C. Fear, the lecturer of the evening, the meeting was thrown open for the expression of grievances or the "throwing of bouquets."

Gramophone Records.

THE first grievance was expressed against the inclusion of so many records in the evening session, it being stated that these could be purchased and played any time. The records played, it was contended, were not the best.

This opened a long, interesting, if not lively discussion. The feeling, however, was against the speaker—one speaker adding that, as the records were of a superior quality, they materially improved the programmes, being preferable to hackneyed items.

THE difficulty to please all was made plain by Mr. Ball, editor-announcer of the Broadcasting Company, who retold a recent incident that occurred at 2YA. "The announcer and I," he remarked, "were discussing some of the records being played during the afternoon session and had just decided that a certain record, which we thought not of sufficiently high standard to put over the air, would not be replayed, when 'ting-a-ling' went the 'phone. 'Could you replay that record please?'"

"Yes," added the president, "I agree that some of this music is objectionable, it is like a rip-saw going through

a kerosene tin——." (Laughter and applause.)

Still the discussion continued—the Broadcasting Company was accused of not adequately remunerating the artists it engaged, to which it was rejoined that with the money at its disposal, the company did excellent work, and it would be impossible to pay artists say £2 a night for six nights a week at all four stations.

THE coup de grace was given by a visitor who, stating that he came of a race who always take good care to get value for their money, was fully satisfied with his 30s. worth. The appearance of artists not fully ripe is a good thing—it gives them opportunity to widen their talent. The records, which the speaker contended were excellent, gave the world's best. "Could we expect Moiseiwitch for 30s. a year?—No! Such artists can be heard only by the medium of gramophone records." The speech was terminated with applause.

"Judging by your face you are not a Jew," added Mr. Brown. "You must be——"

"I am a Jew and proud of it," replied the speaker.

The argument was dropped.

MR. BALL, who was before the microphone when the airmen landed at Blenheim, was congratulated by the meeting for his very able and interesting description of the great event. Imagination was necessary for such an occasion, and Mr. Ball proved he was more than equal to meet the requirements.

The Browning-Drake.

MR. C. C. FEAR, of Messrs. A. J. Fear and Co., a well-known authority on the Browning-Drake circuit, was introduced and presented an interesting and illuminating address on that circuit. It was stated that for a four-valve set it was unequalled except by the screened grid in the first stage.

Commencing with a theoretical circuit, it was explained that the characteristic of the circuit lay in the slotted primary of the regenerator. This added distance and selectivity to the set. Browning-Drake coils were presented for inspection.

Extracts from this lecture appear elsewhere in this issue.

On conclusion, Mr. Fear was accorded a very hearty vote of thanks, and in replying told the meeting it was his first public address. Mr. Fear must be complimented on the very able manner in which he tackled his task, and this statement came as a great surprise.

A MOTION to the effect that the society approved of good gramophone music (barring trash) was put before the meeting and adopted. The mover stated he had had a long experience with 2LO (London), and he was confident it could not show the progress the N.Z.R.B.C. had made.

The meeting concluded with an appeal for members. There were two hundred to three hundred members, but more were desired. The subscription for one year was 5s.

The Flight of the Southern Cross.

Stirring Tribute Broadcast by 2YA

The following tribute was broadcast by Station 2YA, Wellington, relay from Blenheim, on the occasion of the arrival of the Southern Cross.

Four stalwart souls, encabined in their 'plane, essayed a task 'twould make the bravest quail;
Through Air's uncharted space with sure, unerring aim, scorning alike the Tempest and the Dark,
Smith, Ulm, and Litchfield with McWilliam flew, brave Pilots of the Unknown Way,
On man-made wings above the Tasman deep, and blazed beneath the skies an Applan Trail.

O vasty deep, O great illimitable void conquered at last by man's indomitable will!
To-day we greet the conquerers with acclaim, pay homage to the men who soared that mighty span,
Laughed at the Thunder, spurned the Lightning's flash, endured the dread loneliness of impenetrable night,
And with a modest courage, daring even Death, landed triumphant the whole world to thrill.

This flight historic, crowned with rich success, flings wide the door of aerial enterprise:
Opens to far-flung lands, wide-sundered by the seas, a dawn of radiant hope;
Makes sport of Time, cuts Distance to the quick, and with assurance by achievement gained
Gives to mankind a boon of priceless worth—the sure, unfettered transport of the skies.

—J.B.

And a Little Prayer for Their Safe Return

THE enclosed, states a letter to 2YA, are the thoughts of a little boy of six, put together by a boy of 40 into some kind of rhyme. We dedicate them to "Aunt Gwen," who does so much to make the children's hour so enjoyable. We all love your laugh, and your voice, which comes over the air with wonderful sweetness. Grown-ups love the children's hour, I can assure you, just as much as the kiddies.—With all good wishes.

The Children's Hour was nearly closing,
And many a tired wee tot was dozing,
But they knelt in their cots, with their heads bowed,—when,
"You'll pray for the airmen," said Aunt Gwen.

And each one muttered a tender thought:
"God, bring the airmen safe to port,
Guard and protect those strong, brave men,
And keep them safe,—and bless Aunt Gwen."

And through the clouds on that early morn
The airmen came safely through the storm;
And we cheered, and cheered, and cheered again.
"Thank God they are safe," said dear Aunt Gwen.

And on the day that they fly back,
Smithy and Charlie, Litch and Mac,
We'll cheer them to the echo; then,
We'll pray for their safe return, Aunt Gwen.

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