

at over 40,000, slumped to below 30,000 at the renewal period, consequently the company, as was shortly afterwards announced, was compelled to adjust its intentions to financial actualities. Delays were also experienced in procuring suitable records. The incident proves to our mind the undesirability of making announcements of "intentions," and explains in all probability the preference of the company to allow actions to speak for themselves. Everybody will be glad when 4YA can be strengthened, but, with some knowledge of the facts, we do not feel called on to accept the dictation of our correspondent to "criticise" the company on this point. Plans are in prospect, we understand, and in due course will reach maturity; meantime, the P. and T. Department is watching listeners' interests in regard to the contract. The latest license figures are:—Wellington, 16,826; Auckland, 14,146; Christchurch, 8325; and Dunedin, 2938.—Ed.]

M.C.C. Tour.

BEING deeply interested in the tour of the M.C.C. team in Australia, will you be re-broadcasting the results of Tests and other matches played.—Cricket (Hastings).

[Full attention to the M.C.C. team's results will be given by 2YA's special sports service.—Ed.]

Radio for Way-Back Farmers.

MORE people on the land, is the great need of this Dominion, at the present time. How are we to get this reform? I maintain, that every farmer, say 10 miles or more, from any large town, should be supplied with a radio set, so that any new settler who might take up farming, would be able to keep in touch with the news, the reports of sales, etc., and might enjoy a good concert every night in the week, without leaving his farm. I am sure a receiving set could be supplied to every new settler at about £25 complete, and this cost to the Government would be negligible, and would assist to get more land occupied.—"Listening-in," Rangataua.

Nothing Like Candour.

ARE you aware that on the whole, your afternoon session's of gramophone items, especially the Sunday afternoon sessions are rotten. Why is it that you cannot get better records? The record you transmit are, to say the least of it, absolutely awful in their mournfulness. Cannot you look out and put on a decent record now and again? The majority of listeners in this district are of the same opinion as myself. Hoping for some decent music in the very near future.—Fred J. Martin, c/o J. W. Mills & Co., Pahiatua.

Notes for DX Men.

DURING the past few nights I have noticed stations hetrodyning behind 2BL, 2FC, 2ZF, 1YA, 2YA. I presume they are as follows:—KYA, WHXAL, WENR, KNX, WLW. Have other listeners heard these stations lately. There are two very notable stations, 2BL, every evening you can hear dance music with a heterodyne whistle till 7.30 p.m. On October 14, while 2ZF was on the air, you could hear WENR very plain in between 2ZF musical numbers. This might be of some interest to DX listeners as to a station below 200 metres. Has any one heard this one. It is harmonic of 3LO. It was at speaker strength on October 25. Cheerio—DX, Okato.

"The Pro's and Con's of 2YA's Transmission."

SINCE my last letter on the above subject, which you kindly gave space as a special article, I venture to submit a little more criticism, of a constructive nature, I hope, of the transmission. I have kept 2YA under close observation for a long time now, listening every evening it is on the air, without exception. Lately 2YA has not been fading so persistently as previously, but still mashes badly. My last remarks on this subject drew the anticipated "bites" from those—in two cases I have proof—who are inexperienced listeners who have only had sets for a few months and therefore cannot be expected to offer anything in the nature of reliable information on the subject; the other, an Auckland listener, apparently replied to boost his prowess as a constructor and the capabilities of his wonderful English set. The night that 2YA put over his "frequency" tests was, to my mind, one of the worst transmissions he has ever put on the air, or, at any rate, that has been received from him! He faded, mused, and blasted persistently, but, lo and behold, when he came on the air again at ten-thirty the same night he put over half an hour of the most perfect reception I have ever had from him—no fades, no mush, and no blasting! Several listeners to whom I spoke the following day referred to the vast difference in the two transmissions. Why?

A few weeks ago another experience: on each alternate night during the week he seemed, and was, different. The first he had an objectionable generator hum, faded badly, but no mush, and with beautiful full, round tone; the next and alternate nights throughout the week there was an entire absence of hum, slight fading, but bad musing and blasting, and the tone was harsh. This second condition was more like his general reception here, but since then, however, he has shown considerable improvement in all-round reception.

Another objectionable feature of recent innovation: when the announcer announces an item he comes in with great volume and good modulation, but as soon as the item starts the volume is only about half of that of the announcer. You raise the volume of the set to bring in the music, etc., at natural volume, and then when the announcer comes in again there is a roar and a blast, and, owing to the enormous volume, you can hardly discern what is being said. This is no doubt being done intentionally, as one effect of it has been to practically eliminate all traces of blasting during an item. So much for this time. I also heard the test transmission from Wanganui about the beginning of the month, and it came through very well indeed, and there appears to be no reason why re-broadcasts of this nature could not be satisfactorily staged. The "flight" re-broadcast was a triumph for the company, and they must be congratulated upon it. There only remains a little clearing-up of the modulation, and 2YA would then compare with the other YA's with, perhaps, the exception of 3YA. The "fade" is now not so bad, but the "mush" is still objectionable. Thanking you for your space.—"Napier."

[Some tests of a comprehensive nature were recently carried out by 2YA with a view to noting effects, and we are inclined to think some of our correspondent's observations apply to the period of such tests. Certain

changes in detail have been made as a result of the experiences recorded.—Ed.]

Curious Case of Induction.

THE following seems of sufficient interest to bring under your notice. I have a six valve set, the earth of which is practically at the same spot as the telephone earth. I am connected to the public exchange in the township five and a-half miles distance. The telephone line is a metallic circuit for three miles from the post office, the other two and a-half miles being earth return. Last night when listening to 2YA the exchange attendant rang me up to ask if I had the wireless going. He informed me that he could hear the music perfectly even though my telephone receiver was on the hook. I may mention that my aerial crosses the telephone wire at a height about 25 feet above it, and at an angle of about 45 degrees. I am interested to know if you have heard of this before and what the explanation is.—Interested (Lake Wakatipu).

[The cause appears to be audio frequency current inducting into the telephone circuit, owing to the proximity of the earths, and probably because filament circuit of the valve set is connected to the earth terminal. If this is so try disconnecting the earth connection from the filaments. The easiest way out of the difficulty is to shift the earth or failing that erect a counterpoise. Cases are on record in which the carbon granules in the telephone microphone have acted as a detector, thus enabling broadcasting to be heard in a telephone circuit. This, however, is not the case in this particular instance.—Ed.]

Praise for 4YA.

THE Wellington station seems to have received the greatest thanks for the Tasman flight broadcast. I wish to praise 4YA staff who to my mind achieved the best results. At one part of the flight (I think about 8.30 a.m. on the Saturday morning), 4YA gave the latest news from the 'plane received but a few minutes before. The announcer then said they would rebroadcast 2YA Wellington and to our amazement 2YA gave the "latest" news which was nearly one and a-half hours old compared with the Dunedin information. Evidently the staff at the Dunedin station is one of the best in New Zealand. Why then does not the R.B.C. pay more attention to its station? On an average the other company stations are on the air each twelve hours longer per week than 4YA. Why is this so? Is the 30/- obtained from Dunedin worth less than 30/- from any of the other three districts? I notice other listeners inquiring for dinner music. If they want dinner music or luncheon music let them tune in Dunedin and they will

get it—from our private stations 4ZB, 4ZL, 4ZM, 4ZO. Enough of growling. We hope the company will take more care of Dunedin in the future.—Dunedin Listener. P.S.—Many thanks for 2YA orchestra. It's great.

[2YA was working on official news which was given immediately it was available and summarised at each hour. Praise of 4YA is appreciated and needless to say all will be glad when it becomes possible for the Otago listeners to increase their numerical strength and the station to grow in importance.—Ed.]

All for a Penny a Night.

I HAVE only one complaint to make about broadcasting and the "Record" and that is that you publish the foolish letters of unreasonable amateurs who complain about everything under the sun being wrong with the Broadcasting Company, and the artists, times, items, etc. If these disgruntled people would stop playing round with toy crystal sets and buy a set capable of at least bringing in the four main New Zealand stations then, when hearing anything they did not like, what is easier than switching over to another station or closing down altogether? I have only a 4 valve reflex set but have a choice on good nights of 16 Australian and New Zealand stations for loud speaker work, and on off nights when static is present can count on the three main Australian and whatever New Zealand stations are running. If one can't get something to suit and please out of such a selection there are still lots of smaller powered stations to be picked up on earphones, etc. There is evidently no pleasing some people. It only costs a 1d. per night, for an entertainment one might otherwise have to spend 2/6 to go to a concert to hear similar music, etc. I for one am quite satisfied with everything connected with New Zealand broadcasting and wish to express my appreciation of both your paper and the 365 splendid concerts one can attend all for the modest sum of 30/- plus 12/6 per annum.—Frank H. Pearce (Bluff).

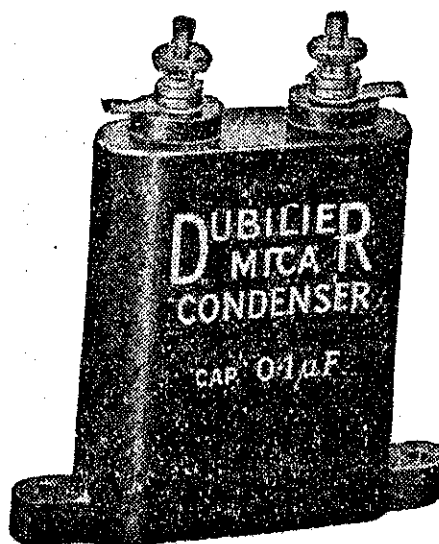
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