

Byrd Expedition Calls.

COMMANDER BYRD'S ship, the City of New York, has been assigned the call WFBT, while its auxiliary portable transmitter is WFA. Smaller portables are KFK, 50 watts; WFD, 50 watts; and WFE, 7½ watts. The biplane Fairchild has the call WFS and the Floyd Bennett WFB.

In addition to the ship frequencies between 300 and 800 metres, the Byrd expedition may use these short waves: 91.2, 89.1, 53.57 (commercial), 53.10, 45.59, 34.05, 26.78 (commercial), 26.55, 22.75, 17.945, 17.857 (commercial), and 13.758 metres.

Short waves do not travel along the surface of the earth like ordinary wireless waves, but are projected into space and are "reflected" by the Heavy-side layer. It is this fact that gives rise to the curious "skip distance" effect which causes short-wave stations to be heard better at a greater distance than close at hand.

General.

The detector valve is more sensitive to weak signals when the filament is heated at less than its rated voltage.

Mr. Stanton, Christchurch, recently heard PCLL, Holland, transmitting simultaneously on 38.8 and 18 metres. Different programmes were being given, but the same call, PCLL, used.

Reception was very weak during the week end, both in Wellington and elsewhere.

Now that the American elections are over we shall probably hear more music and less talk from the short-wave stations in this country.

Saturday, November 3.

2XAD was much below their usual volume. Governor Smith was heard for a while. The same speaker was heard much better through KDKA. He was speaking at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Brooklyn, New York. Strength was about R5 at its best.

1FC was heard working 2GA.

For the first time since PCJJ commenced their special New Zealand-Australian programmes for reception here on Saturday afternoon I have been unable to receive them. This was the experience of others.

Sunday, November 4.

2BH, 2B1, and 1FC, New Zealand amateurs, were testing on 'phone during the morning. 2XAF and KDKA were both transmitting a political talk by the Democratic candidate for Pittsburgh, Penn. From KDKA the weather report and messages to the Arctic and Antarctic followed. 2XAF thanked the "Lucky Strike" people for giving up their usual weekly programme in favour of election talk. They then relayed music from Albany, New York,

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.

till closing down. 2AE, New South Wales, was testing during the evening. A lady singing at RFM about 9.40 p.m. came over very well.

Monday, November 5.

At 6 a.m., 7LO Nairobi, was R3. As usual, static and morse spoilt readability. Interference decreased slightly by 7 a.m. 3LO, Melbourne, was excellent at R8. Strength has been better, but modulation and steadiness was all that could be desired. Duplex telephony between 2ME (R9) and 2XAF (R7-8) was both clear and steady from both stations. Morse QRM was bad at times on the American's wave-length.

Volume was still better by 10.30 p.m. RFM at R8 was good, except for slight static.

Tuesday, November 6.

RSR was tuned-in at 5.30 a.m. to the metronome. Talk and musical items were received at R8, very clear and steady. 7LO was only R2 about 5.30 a.m., and was lost later.

2XAD was heard calling 5SW, England, and apparently had some trouble in getting in touch with them. After saying that there would not be any test on Thursday, and "See you again next Monday at the usual time," 2XAD closed down at 6.5 a.m.

During this period I could not hear a sign of 5SW.

2XAD was heard again from 7 a.m. at R4-5. Musical items were given and a lady was talking at 7.30 a.m. when I closed down.

5SW at 7 a.m. was weak (R4), with rapid fading. Big Ben was heard, but the talk following was not readable on account of rapid fading.

6AG, Perth, at 10.45 p.m. was very good. After some music, he told his listeners about his transmitter and the hours he is testing.

Wednesday, November 7.

From 5.30 a.m. till 8 a.m. PCJJ was received perfectly. Strength R9 at first, slowly decreasing to about R3, when it was still clearly readable. Static slight at first, increased later.

7LO, Nairobi, R4, morse R6. "Enough said."

RSR, with all talk, was R7 at first, but only R3-4 at 7.30 a.m.

5SW at 7 a.m. was R5. Rapid fading and a morse station on top spoilt reception.

Presidential Election Returns.

PROGRESS results were broadcast by stations 2XAF and 2XAD, strengths R8 and R6, respectively. Reception from both stations was very clear and steady, being 100 per cent. readable.

When first tuned-in at 6 p.m. the latest returns were being read. After this they "went over" to the Grill Room, Hotel Roosevelt, New York, for musical items. "Young Microbe," in speaking from the hotel, said he "was sure tickled to death on this hook up." The "hook up" referred to was the National Broadcasting Company and sixteen associated stations.

It was stated that this was the first time in history that the American Presidential election had been broadcast.

At 6.50 p.m. it was announced that a rebroadcast from Paloalto, California, Mr. Hoover's home town, would be put over.

This was picked up from the driveway of Mr. Hoover's home. A band was heard playing American national airs.

Mr. and Mrs. Hoover, on the balcony, were cheered by Yale boys. Theirs is a different cheer to what we are used to hearing, being "Rah, rah, rah." Later these boys sang the "Stamford Hymn."

Mr. Hoover thanked the crowd, some four or five thousand people, for their greetings.

Returning to Schenectady, further results were given, with musical items between times. It was stated that 100,000 persons had been compiling results since 1 p.m.

The two stations closed down at 2.43 a.m. E.S.T. (7.43 p.m. here), after asking for reports of reception from all over the world.

RFM, at R8, were heard with music and talk. 2HC, N.S.W., was calling 2GQ, N.S.W., also a Melbourne amateur.

On about 28.5 metres a Jap was having a lot to say. R6. 6AG, Perth, at R8 was very good.

Thursday, November 8.

STATIC was very bad on all stations received 6 a.m. RSR with talk and music was R8. 7LD only R3. PCLL R8-9. Strong and steady, transmitting gramophone records. I tuned in 5SW just too late to hear their hour of transmission for Armistice Day, the last few words only being heard. Big Ben came through at R7. The Jap was on again during the evening. Strength R8. A lady was talking. Sounded very much like the Maori haka.

Friday, November 9.

PCJJ from 5.15 a.m. till 7.30 a.m. was very clear and steady. R8-9 at first; R5 at 7.30 a.m. 5SW (R6) and 2XAD (R4-5), both 100 per cent readable, were having a chat about the weather, elections, etc. During the latter part of their talk, just before 6 a.m., it was snowing in Schenectady. At Chelmsford it was a typical November day.

7LO, Nairobi, R4. Morse QRM very bad. RSR R4. Music and talk, clear and steady.

During the evening a new amateur to me was heard transmitting records and signing 2AO, Lower Hutt. Strength R9 and quite good.

Our Jap friend on 28.5 metres was talking again. Call sign not heard.

6AG, Perth, "put over" some gramophone records and the latest cricket scores.

5SW, 12.25 a.m.: "Good-morning, everybody. This is 5SW, etc." He then gave the times for the Armistice Day services on November 11, and said: "We are switching over to London for the lunch-time programme." Big Ben strikes 12.30. Orchestra. Organ recital. Works by Bach. Reception R8. Excellent. Best yet for their midday transmission.

PCJJ's New Times.

Philips Lamps (N.Z.), Ltd., advise the following new schedule of transmissions from PCJJ (all New Zealand summer time):—Every Wednesday from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m.; every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; every Friday from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m.; every Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; every Saturday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.; every Sunday from 2 a.m. to 5 a.m.

Valve and Tube

ALMOST every radio enthusiast is aware that the Americans use the word "tube" where we use "valve." The latter term is, however, considered to be the most appropriate and there is a tendency for it to be generally adopted. With respect to this the editor of the New York "Popular Radio," who has made the substitution, says:—

"After having received a number of letters questioning the license we have taken in using the term 'valve' in place of 'tube,' we feel constrained to say something in defence of this policy.

"One slightly irate reader complains with some feeling that we have been 'high-hatting' him. 'Popular Radio' obviously has no interest in 'high-hatting' its readers; but it does have a sincere desire to keep its terminology as scientifically accurate as possible, and, following the growing tendency of the radio engineering profession, it has forsaken the ambiguous term 'tube' for the more descriptive one of 'valve.'

"After all, a tube may mean a container for toothpaste or the Hudson River Vehicular Tunnel."

THERE are over 61,000 license-holders in Norway, but the broadcasting company estimates that there are another 40,000 wireless pirates there.

RADIO's popularity is becoming world-wide. Denmark, for instance, numbers 200,000 receivers in its homes, which places it right up in the front rank of European radio nations.

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A Few Bargains at Mack's

Bremer Tully Counterphase Receivers (in chassis form)	£20
Submariner Short Wave Adapters	£3
Short Wave Coils, 10/100 Metres (Set 4)	£1/5/-
Transformers (unshielded)	5/6
Myers' Valves, with Holders	2/6
One Wet "B" Battery, complete with Charger (90 volts)	£5
34 and 39 Silk-covered Wire, per lb	5/-

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