

the boats passing into the distance beyond Port Chalmers.

On reaching Tairoa Heads, The City of New York, which is a wooden auxiliary sailing ship, was released from the tug, and taken in tow by the Eleanor Bolling and the vessels headed for the far South.

The Eleanor Bolling, being an iron steamship, is unable to go through the ice-floes until much of the melting has set in, so she is towing The City of New York to the edge of the ice-fields where the C. A. Larsen will be waiting to tow the first unit of the expedition through to the Bay of Whales, on the edge of the Antarctic.

The Eleanor Bolling returns to Dunedin to load the balance of the cargo, leaving finally about Christmas for the Bay of Whales.

Auckland Notes

(By Listener.)

1YA again rendered service to the big army of country listeners who cannot afford regular trips to the city, and to the many in hospitals and other institutions, when it relayed particulars of the Takapuna race meeting last Friday and Saturday. Soon the biggest racing week of the year, the Christmas carnival, will be upon us, and again thousands will be in the position of not being able to attend at Ellerslie and at Alexandra Park. For them there will be no certainty of participating "over the air" in the big meetings of the week, though it is certain the Broadcasting Company will do its best under harrassing conditions for them. Surely the time has now come when there should be some reconsideration of a ban which all sane people regard either as idiotic or as petty. New Zealand is a land which has a large number of peculiarities, and a remarkable series of restrictions, but the one upon the broadcasting of racing de-

scriptions is that which, of all, must create most amusement to outside observers.

A NEW concert party under Madame Steward made its initial appearance before the 1YA microphone on Wednesday night, and provided a delightful programme. There was something in it for all, and not the least enjoyable portions were the grand organ relays, most suitable for broadcasting, and the vocal items with organ accompaniment. The amount of static observable when distant stations were tuned in indicated that there would be difficulty in southern listeners enjoying the programme, but to those who did get it well it was a real treat.

INTERFERENCE from howling valves is again becoming a menace in Auckland, and on every side one hears growing complaints regarding a nuisance which we had hoped was a thing of the past. On Monday nights, when many wish to tune-in our two small stations, they find these programmes marred by the persistence in vain endeavour of the inconsiderate ones who wish to hear Sydney in summer time upon receivers which were never intended for such duty. There is keen interest here in the Australian crickets tests, but it is hard to make out the 2FC announcer's voice through the oscillation, and several have given up the attempt in disgust. 1YA, however, has come to the rescue, and, on time, it has beaten the Sydney stations with its information as to the state of play. The early information regarding the scores which Mr. Culford Bell has been able to supply has been much appreciated.

CHRISTMAS is approaching, the radio trade is looking forward to a busy time, and the Broadcasting Company is assisting by putting on midday broadcasts which will be welcomed by many who are not dealers. "Lunch to music" will be the order of the day in many homes and restaurants during the coming weeks. There is every indication that this season's radio business will far surpass that of previous Christmases. Good programmes have contributed towards this outlook, but the chief contributing factor is the wonderfully quick and reliable service which New Zealand radio is now giving in the dissemination of important news, and the broadcasting of great events.

FOR some time now we have had no band items, and listeners regret the absence. It is time that they combined and made such representations to the City Council as would make that body reconsider its exorbitant demands which have resulted in shutting the municipal band off the air. No one blames the Broadcasting Company, which is prepared to pay a fair thing, but, unless some further consideration is given, there is bound to be much heard regarding the broadcasting of municipal music ere the civic elections eventuate next year.

THERE is one radio to every three farms in the State of Iowa, U.S.A., according to a recent report of the Iowa Department of Agriculture compiled from figures gathered by township assessors. The number of radios on Iowa farms increased from 10,566 in 1926 to a total of 76,032 in 1927.

Our Mail Bag

Will correspondents please practice brevity, as heavy demands are now made on space. All letters must be signed and address given as proof of genuineness: noms de plume for publication are permitted. Address correspondence Editor, "Radio Record," P.O. Box 1032, Wellington.

2FB, Northland: The music you heard shortly before 3 p.m. no doubt was 2YA testing prior to opening. The other music was probably radiation as explained by "Switch" some few weeks ago.

An Uncommon American.

WHILST listening in on my six-valve set last Wednesday evening at about 7.30 I picked up an American station just a degree or two above 2BL. I could not detect his call sign (which was a four-letter one with, I think, a W and a K in it), but he said something about transmitting from Lucyana, U.S.A. Could any listener who has heard this station tell me who he is?

[This may have been WWL, New Orleans, Louisiana, broadcasting on a wavelength of 352 metres.—Ed.]

Seven Days a Week.

I HOPE you will spare me a few lines in your "Record" to make one or two suggestions. Would it be possible for 2YA to give a short gramophone recital during the news session, when there is no lecturette? Sometimes there is nearly half an hour between the end of the session and the beginning of the concert. I am sure it would not be much trouble to play a few selected items. I think that radio broadcasting in New Zealand has passed its infancy, and that the four chief stations could be on the air for seven days a week as in Australia. If this scheme were adopted it would give owners of valve sets an opportunity of hearing other stations without the howling of small sets trying to pick up stations beyond their reach.

Unsigned Letter.

WE have received an unsigned typewritten letter bearing the address "Richmond Avenue, Nelson," under date November 26, 1928, asking us to forward the "Radio Record" for one year. The letter states that a postal order for 12s. 6d. is enclosed, but this was not attached on receipt by us. As the letter is unsigned, we are unable to communicate with the writer. We would be glad to hear from anyone who can locate the sender.

A Correction.

IN your issue of November 23, "Northlander," of Whangarei, reports having received 2XAF on 280 metres, and he asks if this would be a harmonic. Your reply was in the affirmative—but is it not more probable that "Northlander" picked up a re-broadcast by 2ZF on 285 metres? This station has rebroadcast parts of the two-way conversation between 2XAF and 2ME, and it seems more probable that this was picked up, rather than a harmonic of a station as far distant as U.S.A., especially as it was of loud-speaker strength. Trusting you will correct the statement.—K. L. Collinson (Palmerston North).

[Yes, in the circumstances, your suggestion seems correct.—Ed.]

UNLESS your aerial is less than forty feet long it is better to use one wire than two, in most circumstances.

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