

**R**ECEPTION has been poor from most of the regular short-wave stations at the usual time they are best heard in New Zealand. This appears to be general throughout this country by reports and inquiries received from various readers.

A revised schedule of transmissions of the short-wave stations W2XAD and W2XAF has just been received from The General Electric Company, Schenectady, New York, dated November 3, 1928.

The times are as follow in New Zealand mean time:—

W2XAD, 21.96 metres.  
Monday: 10 a.m.—3 p.m.  
Tuesday: 6.30 a.m.—8.30 a.m.; 10.30 a.m.—4.30 p.m.  
Thursday: 10.30 a.m.—4.30 p.m.  
Friday: 6.30 a.m.—8.30 a.m.  
Saturday: 10.30 a.m.—4.30 p.m.  
W2XAF, 31.4 metres.  
Tuesday: 10.30 a.m.—4.30 p.m.  
Wednesday: 10.30 a.m.—4 p.m.  
Friday: 10.30 a.m.—4.30 p.m.  
Sunday: 10.30 a.m.—4.30 p.m.

These times differ slightly from the previous published list.

5SW on its new wavelength of 25.53 metres appears to be received in the morning about the same as that of 24 metres. It suffers from rapid fading just the same and is not any stronger. It has been coming in at about R5 at 7 a.m. On Tuesday and Friday, when testing with 2XAD, they have been better at R8.

PCJJ has lost its punch. Starting at 6 a.m. at about R8, it rapidly goes off. On Saturday it is not worth listening till the last hour or so. By the way, PCJJ did not appear on the air as usual on Wednesday morning up till 7.30 a.m. It is unusual for this station to miss one of its regular transmissions.

KDKA, 2XAF and 2XAD are all weak during the afternoon, except toward the finish. On the other hand, 2XAD comes in at least R7 with their duplex tests with 5SW on Tuesday and Friday mornings till 6 a.m., and then again with their television test, followed by musical items on these mornings.

A few weeks ago when reception was good in the afternoons from 2XAD it was very weak or inaudible during the early morning.

3LO, Nairobi at its best is seldom better than R3.

A correspondent to the "Radio News" (United States) reports to that magazine that he has heard a station on 24.5 metres operated by Societe Francaise Radio-Electrique, 79 Boulevard Haussman, Paris. Perhaps this is our friend "Ici Paris."

**T**HE following is the new schedule for PCJJ, Eindhoven, Holland: Wavelength 31.4 metres; Fridays 6 a.m. till 8 a.m., 11 a.m. till 3 p.m.; Saturdays, 6 a.m. till 8 a.m., 12 noon till 6 p.m., New Zealand summer time.

Standard Telephones and Cables (Australia) Ltd. were testing out a station on Wednesday afternoon and evening (December 12) on about 173 metres. The following particulars were supplied by Mr. Keith H. Thow:—"The transmitter used, with the exception of certain modifications, is a standard 50-watt equipment as manufactured by Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd., London. The 50 watts rating referred to is the actual input to the aerial of the unmodulated carrier. If we can complete some experimental work we have on hand in connection with the

## 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.

transmitter, we shall endeavour to be on the air again next Wednesday at 8 p.m. (December 19). We also hope to raise the wavelength to about 230-240 metres, in order to bring our transmission within the tuning range of the average broadcast receiver. We should greatly appreciate reports on the transmission, particularly in writing (P.O. Box 638, Wellington), referring to the following points:—(a) Quality of speech and music; (b) stability of wavelength; (c) amount of generator hum in carrier; (d) "sharpness" of tuning. It would also be helpful if reports gave us details of the receiver, e.g. type, make, number of valves, etc. We are particularly interested to receive reports of reception at distances greater than 50 miles."

**R**ECEPTION of distant short-wave stations is still below the average. The only exception is RFM, Siberia, this station is far better than it has been for some months.

My log for the week is as follows:—

### Saturday, December 8.

PCJJ at 6.15 a.m. was R2-3, and only just audible at 7.15 a.m.

7LO Nairobi about R2.

KDKA was R2 at 3 p.m., increasing to R5 at 5.8 p.m., when they signed off. During the same period 2XAD was slightly weaker.

PCJJ was not audible till 4 p.m.; strength increased to about R5 at 6 p.m.

### Sunday, December 9.

KDKA at its best was R7. The latter part of the transmission consisted of a message to members of the Byrd Expedition.

2XAF was weak till they closed down.

### Monday, December 10.

7LO, Nairobi, very weak. R2-3.

3LO with their weekly test on 32 metres, were very good. Records and news items were heard.

RFM were putting over a banjo solo at 10.15 p.m., which was heard at R9. Talk and musical items were given afterwards.

### Tuesday, December 11.

At 5.30 a.m. 5SW and 2XAD were carrying out duplex telephony tests. The English station was R8 and the American R5, both 100 per cent. readable.

2XAD, which was transmitting on about 2 metres lower than usual, was faintly audible through 5SW.

They, 2XAD, were heard again later on their usual wavelength (21.96).

A station on about 26 metres was heard calling "Achtung" and "Allo" at R3-4. At times it appeared as though duplex telephony tests were being carried out.

7LO, Nairobi, was R2.

5SW at 7 a.m. was about R5. Rapid fading spoilt intelligibility.

6AG, Perth, was testing till about 11 p.m. Reception was excellent at R8-9. ANE at R9 were very clear and steady.

### Wednesday, December 12.

7LO, R2-3.

"Big Ben" from 5SW at 7 a.m. was

audible, but talk could not be understood.

At 8 p.m. 2ME, Sydney, was calling AGB2, Berlin, Germany, but could not get a reply.

Later 2ME had a long talk with VCB, Suva. The Sydney station was R9 and Suva R7-8. Both were 100 per cent. readable.

On signing off at 10 p.m., 2ME said they had a schedule with Java and later with PCLL (Holland).

Standard Telephone and Cables, Ltd. (Wellington), were testing on 173 metres. On their first harmonic, about 86 metres, they came in at full speaker strength. Not having a coil suitable, I could not get them on 173 metres.

### Thursday, December 13.

PCLL was tuned in at 6 a.m. at R6 playing records. Volume decreased rapidly.

5SW, before "going over to London," were R5 and 100 per cent. readable, but as soon as the relay commenced, signals were mushy and quite impossible to read.

7LO weaker than usual. R1-2.

2ME had apparently been talking to AGB2, Berlin, when I tuned them in, but I was too late to hear the German.

RFM was very good at R8.

### Friday, December 14.

PCJJ commenced sharp at 6 a.m. with the Dutch National Anthem at R8, very clear and steady, talk being 100 per cent. readable.

At 10 p.m. R7 was R9.

### A Fiji Shortwaver.

**M**R. J. D. O'LOUGHLIN (Masterton) writes: On Tuesday, December 11 at 6.48 p.m. I picked up another new station, viz., VPD, Suva, Fiji Islands, on 37.5 metres. He was testing and came in at great strength. Modulation was good and the transmission was very steady. He was again heard later in the evening, closing down at 10 p.m. On Wednesday, December 12, 2ME was working AGB, Berlin, who was on morse, and calling AGC. Later he worked VPD, Suva, ANE, Java, and finally PCLL. VPD was again very good, but faded slightly. According to 2ME, ANE now works on 15.74 metres, PCLL on 18.4, and 3ME on 31.7. At 5.47 a.m. on Monday, December 11, a stranger was heard on 37 metres. He was very weak, but the call was partially heard. After three musical items, he said: "This is station W—W." A short talk followed, but was not readable. He then closed down. On the 80 metre-band a station operated by Standard Telephone and Cables, Balance Street, Wellington, was heard testing at fair strength. Harmonics of 4YA, 2YA, 1YA and 2BL have been rather loud on occasions lately.

### New Stations on the Air.

**M**R. A. P. MORRISON (Brooklyn) writes:—On Saturday nights at 12 o'clock a S.W. station is to be found on 52 metres. This station I have heard four or five times, but who he is I do not know. I can never get the station call, mostly foreign language is spoken and some nights quite good music and vocal items are heard.

His strength is about R6 to R7. I think probably it is AFK, Germany. Has any other S.W. fan heard this station?

On Sunday, November 25, an American station was logged at 6.55 p.m. on 42 metres and were broadcasting a dance programme. Quite good music was heard, but no announcements, but every now and then different ones would come to the "mike" and say something humorous about what was going on. This continued till 7.45 p.m. and then the station was announced, but a Morse station started up and I lost most of what was said, but Warner Bros., Detroit, was mentioned and their time was given. This station I tried for again last Sunday, but failed to find him.

KDKA was heard on Sunday, December 2, sending out a special programme to the Byrd expedition, both on 25 metres and 63 metres. This is the first time I have heard him on 63 metres, and on that wavelength he came through quite good about R8 with me.

Mr. Sellens mentions in his notes last week of a number of stations heard, but too weak to get the call of same. Lately I have been experiencing the same thing. It seems a great many foreign S.W. stations are beginning to operate but on low-power, and it makes them very difficult to log. One instance is that an American station operates on 104 metres and I can pick him up practically any night from 7.30 till 8.30. I am quite certain he is a Yank because nothing else but jazz is played. We hope they will increase their power.

8XAL I have not heard for some time now—not since it was stated he was going to increase his power.

A good many New Zealand amateurs are coming in at good strength lately, especially 2BO, Wellington. I think perhaps he has that new transmitter working.

2XG, Rocky Point, America, has been heard a good many times lately. He also seems to have increased power.

Re Mr. T. Pascoe inquiring about a station on about 60 metres, I have heard this station and feel certain it is the harmonic of one of the Australian stations.

## J.P., Johannesburg

**S**HORT-WAVE enthusiasts will be interested to learn that a Wellington amateur has succeeded in hearing the short-wave station JP, Johannesburg, operating on 25 metres. Mr. R. Thomson, of Rona Bay, was the initial recorder of this station, and first heard it on the evening of Tuesday, December 4, at 10.30 p.m. Mr. Thomson secured other short-wave stations on the loud-speaker, but was reduced to the 'phones to log JP. On a succeeding evening a friend of Mr. Thomson also succeeded in logging the elusive Johannesburg station. Having regard to the power of the transmitting station, this feat is even more notable than the reception of 7LO, of Nairobi.

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