

Business Reasons are Opposed.

IT is not necessary at this stage to go any more fully into the question than we have done. It will be obvious to listeners that the business reasons against the diffusion of their money are unassailable. In round figures some £50,000 per annum is available on the present basis for the maintenance and operation of the YA stations and the provision of programmes. Experience shows that the provision of the necessary equipment and its operation absorb approximately 75 per cent. to 80 per cent. of all broadcast stations' revenue, leaving 20 per cent. to 25 per cent. for the provision of programmes. The stage is now being reached in New Zealand where practically all additional revenue received can be applied to better programmes. To raid the central fund and divert a few thousands here and a few thousands there in subsidising unnecessary new stations, merely duplicating the plant and equipment of a central station, would throw back the possibility of programme improvement for years. If a beginning is made with subsidising one firm merely because it wishes to achieve publicity on the air through a transmitting station, then there will be no saying where it is to end. If to one business firm, why not to another? The end simply would be diffusion without efficiency.

In fairness to country friends a distinction must be drawn between city and provincial stations. A station such as 2ZF as maintained in Palmerston North by the Manawatu Radio Club commands our sympathy, as it is in a totally different class from a business station erected by a city firm. It undoubtedly renders a service to its district and furthers radio. It is in large measure fulfilling the function of a relay station as contemplated in the original scheme between the Government and the Broadcasting Company. The original scheme contemplated provision being made for suitable expansion in rural centres as time and finance permitted, and that stage is now drawing perceptibly nearer.

Auckland Notes

(By "Listener.")

"IT was not actual vision, but it was the next thing to it." In this way a listener described the account of the wrestling match broadcast last Monday night. The contest teemed with excitement, humour, and situations that are best described as "peculiar." There was not a large body of spectators at the Town Hall, but there were many thousands who appreciated the fact that 1YA stepped into the breach again on its "off" night and gave us a rapid-fire and vivid piece of excitement which roused to excitement even those who understood nothing of the ancient Greek art of wrestling. Probably the Greeks of old did not disport themselves as their representative did on Monday, but Kilonis has the satisfaction of knowing that he contributed much to the gaiety of an Auckland home evening. Mr. Gordon Hutter handled the description excellently; it was easy to recognise that he was as much carried away as the other spectators, and he managed well to dispense his enthusiasm through the ether. It is quite safe to predict that on Monday next, when another bout will be staged, the Town Hall will be packed, for no newspaper account could possibly have the appeal that the spoken one had. Numbers of listeners have assured the writer that they thoroughly enjoyed the relay, and as a result they "intend to be there" at the scene of operations next time.

THE announcement of the forthcoming presentation of "Macbeth" at 1YA is creating quite an amount of discussion here. Lovers of Shakespeare

ALTHOUGH the wavelength of ten metres has only been recently allotted to amateurs, two-way communication upon this has already taken place across the Atlantic, the distinction being shared by an American and a French amateur.

are frankly pleased, for they see in the effort educational as well as entertaining advantages. There are others who declare that it will be a "dry" evening, and that Shakespeare is too highbrow for the generality of listeners. This is a selfish attitude to adopt. Shakespeare will not appeal to all. No type of entertainment can possibly be expected to do so. But the popularity of stage productions of the Bard is in itself sufficient justification for the experiment, which should result in the conversion of jaundiced critics. In the interests of our youth alone, we can do with regular Shakespearean presentations—not extracts, but the full plays.

IT was a real Gilbert and Sullivan night at 1YA on Wednesday. The vocalists were not there in the flesh, for such vocalists as we heard could never be expected in any one company performing in the Dominion. The opera was presented by means of records, and the outstanding feature of the presentation, even considering the calibre of the artists, was the wonderfully faithful reproduction of perfect enunciation. Every word of a solo came as distinctly as if direct from the lips of a thoroughly trained singer. The whole evening was a delight. Give us more of the same kind, and the station will be inundated with letters of congratulation.

LISTENERS seem highly pleased at the action of the late Government in settling amicably the vexed question of royalty claims regarding broadcasting patents. Many have feared that these would result in an increase of license fees, or such a drain upon the finances of the Broadcasting Company that there would be less money for the maintenance of the present good standard of programmes. The fear has passed, and Aucklanders look to their own Minister of Telegraphs to exercise as much care and foresight in the provision of broadcasting services as did his predecessor.

2ZF Palmerston North

THE annual report of the Manawatu Radio Club for the year ending November 30 portrays a very healthy position. The membership of the club has been 407, but progress is still being made, and it is hoped to reach the 500 mark in the coming year.

The service given by this station to this district has been appreciated, and the club has been the subject of a great deal of valuable assistance from all interested in radio. The station was opened on March 7 and has been on the air with three programmes per

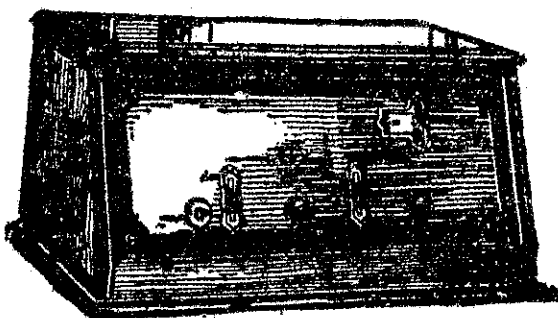
week ever since. The station is situated in the building of Collinson and Cunningham Ltd., whose generosity extended to a donation of £100 towards the cost of the equipment, and also free use of a large room on the first floor of the building for a broadcasting studio, besides alterations to permit of a private entry to same. The thanks of the club are due to this firm for their great assistance. Appreciation is also recorded of the donation of several thousand gramophone records by Messrs. Cole's Music Warehouse. The same firm has also supplied the gramophone and studio piano rent free. A subsidy of £50 was received from the Palmerston North Borough Council, this being the only case in New Zealand where a borough subsidises broadcasting. Record is also made of assistance and service received from a number of firms handling radio equipment.

ON the service side the report outlines the outstanding broadcast events of the year, these including special programmes during Winter Show week, relays from overseas and New Zealand station, and, most outstanding, the service in connection with the Manawatu floods. On this occasion, "Owing to the alarming rapid rise of the Manawatu river, the station was started up and warnings of the flood were broadcast. Although it was not a regular night for our station to be on the air, it has since been ascertained that our broadcasting of the danger was picked up by a large number of listeners in the danger zone of the flood. These listeners promptly spread the news, and all stock was removed to higher ground at once, while many families immediately vacated their homes. The operating of the stations entails a lot of work and requires the services of quite a number of club members to keep it going. Messrs. S. Hansen, R. Tanner and K. Lane are the licensed operators of the club, and have generously given their time for the work. The children's sessions have been conducted by "Uncle Jim" (Mr. I. N. Leet), "Auntie Pat" (Miss Daphne McAlister), and "Auntie Billie" (Miss Gwen Williams), while Messrs. I. N. Neet, A. Roe and H. R. Bell have done the work of announcing. Messrs. Barlow, Grey, Swindell and many others have also been regular attenders at the station and assist in broadcasting."

The balance-sheet of the club shows a credit balance of £75 8s., but it is pointed out in the report that considerable expense will be involved during the coming year in replacement of equipment, etc., so that it is hoped the support upon which the club depends will be maintained on a satisfactory level.

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