

# 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.

## Suggestions for Call Signs.

I ALSO notice a letter giving suggestions for call signs of the New Zealand stations. To begin with, I consider a short, snappy distinguishable sound made by the touch of a button, would be the most appropriate. 1YA seems to be able to raise some big fires; why not an electric siren? 2YA, plenty of motor-traffic passing the studio; why not an auto-horn preferably of the saxophone type. 3YA wants bells, being the cathedral city; why not an electric auto-bell? Chimes would be little better than the ordinary announcement from a time-saving viewpoint. As for 4YA I leave that to some South Islander, but perhaps the following may be helpful. First study the jazz band effect rack, comprising bass drum, side drum, rattle, baby-cry, growler, triangle, cymbal, cow-bell, cock-crow, cuckoo, ("one-man jazz") kazoo, nightingale, and swannee whistle. There are hosts of whistles and motor-horns of different sounds. Perhaps Mr. Announcer may be of the jovial type and would prefer to laugh into the "miko." Trusting that if the above are not suitable, they may lend ideas for further suggestions.—A.B. (Dannevirke).

## R.B.C. Service Appreciated.

I HAVE for some time had a mind to write you a word of congratulation to the R.B. Company, on the increasing excellence of their broadcasting service, and the splendid fare provided by their four stations. Of course 2YA hold premier position, still the other stations provide attractive programmes, which only lack the power to put them over to distance listeners. I have often wished I could shake hands with many performers and congratulate them. I had not intended to mention any particular performance as one and all with few exceptions provide first-class items, but I cannot resist handing a bouquet to the 2YA orchestra on the general excellence of their items. This letter is written after reading your article on "Ready to Raid Listeners' Funds." Your article is timely and to my mind states the case very fairly, and I believe you will receive the backing of all unprejudiced listeners.—T. WALKER (Winton).

## An Appreciation.

THOUGH rather late, I am writing to tell you how very much we enjoyed the most beautiful music given by 2YA, Wellington, Sunday, December 22, by the choir of St. Mary of the Angels. It was just perfect—a very great treat, such exquisite rendering and very lovely music! I do not think we have ever enjoyed anything so much before and hope very much that we may be privileged to hear the choir of St. Mary of the Angels again. I should also like to tell you how very much we all enjoy your afternoon concerts. We live in the country and all look forward immensely to the afternoon and Wednesday is a sad day! All are glad when it's over. We do congratulate you very heartily on the announcing of 2YA. It's quite the best we hear—always clear and well given. With congratulations.—I. J. BLYTH (Dannevirke).

## Mr. Dawson's Lectures.

I WISH—and I feel sure many others do—that you could see your way to publish the remaining lectures of Mr. Dawson's on "Valves," set down for October 27, and November 24. I found those that were published of particular interest and was looking forward to the final ones, to which I presume the first three were more or less introductory. It is of course impossible to absorb the matter of a lecture of that sort in one hearing or for the matter of that, at one reading and one likes to be able to refer back to the articles at some future time.—ORIGINAL SUBSCRIBER (Christchurch).

[Circumstances have caused Mr. Dawson to temporarily suspend these valuable lectures but listeners can be assured that they will be shortly completed. In accordance with our practice they will appear later in the "Radio Record."—Ed.]

QUITE recently, a marine service company in California inaugurated a regular radio-telephone service hourly between the Los Angeles harbour and a fleet of steamers and tugboats operating in the Southern California waters.

## Broadcasting the Second Test Match

### Keen Interest in Australia.

THE second Test Match between England and Australia gave the New South Wales Broadcasting Company Limited, another opportunity of establishing a record. This was the first occasion on which every ball bowled in one of these historic matches was described, and some idea of what a colossal task this covered may be gathered from the fact that 3035 balls were bowled during the game.

Commencing at 12 o'clock on the Friday morning, the Company's Stations—2FC and 2BL—were made available at alternate periods on each day right up to the close of the match on the following Thursday afternoon. The switch from one station to another was made during the interval between the overs, thus every ball bowled throughout the game was accounted for on the air. It was not alone in local broadcasting that this match created a record for, at different periods, no less than four States were broadcasting the description from the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Other records attached to this game were created by the number of traders who operated continuous services outside their establishments and the number of letters and messages of congratulation, received by both the Company's studios.

### Intense Interest Displayed.

SEVERAL examples of the intense interest that is created in sport by broadcasting might be cited. At the District Court held in Grafton, slips of paper were being constantly passed around among the various officials, the Counsel and the Judge. This caused a good deal of conjecture as to what urgent messages were being so conveyed. At last it was found that somebody outside the court was operating a wireless set and the slips of paper bore progress results as received on the air. Leyland, who has been chosen twelfth man for the English team, was taken ill suddenly but through the thoughtfulness of one of the Radio firms in Sydney, this English player was able to hear every ball of the match described, in his bedroom at the hotel. In hospitals and nursing institutions right throughout the State where wireless is installed, the receiving sets were worked continuously right throughout the match.

### Is Attendance Affected?

AT the present time a controversy is being waged in Victoria as to whether broadcasting from Sports Grounds has a tendency to interfere with attendances. Whatever evidence there may be in favour of this contention in the Southern State, it certainly does not exist in New South Wales. The attendance and gate receipts of the recent test match created records. It has been felt for some time that descriptive broadcasting has a tendency to improve afternoon attendances, and this was

## Historic Microphone Autograph by Noble and Hobbs

THE 2FC engineer displayed a characteristically enterprising spirit on Saturday afternoon, when he "seized opportunity by the felloek" and got Hobbs and Noble to autograph the microphone. The pencil signatures were "chiselled in" with meticulous care, and the control room at 2FC now proudly displays the little marble square, which will go down to posterity as the famous broadcasting medium in the second Test match.

## Classical Programme

MUCH controversy has raged around the all-important topic—"diversity in broadcasting." There are those listeners who frankly prefer popular music, and in deference to their wishes they consider radio entertainment should be in lighter vein. On the other hand, lovers of the classics protest against really good music rubbing shoulders with a jazz composition of the most frivolous order. The New South Wales Broadcasting Company has decided to devote Wednesday of each week to an entirely classical programme, which will delight the hearts of music lovers, and on the same night a programme arranged along popular lines will be carried out through the service of 2BL. The first of the classical series has been undertaken by Oliver King, and this is set down for Wednesday night, January 9.

## When on Holiday

IF you are taking or have taken your radio set away for the holidays be sure to notify the P. and T. Department, and have your license endorsed. Failure to do this may lead to expensive and annoying Police Court proceedings.

very strongly demonstrated during Wednesday's play. When Richardson's wicket was lost late on the Tuesday evening, there was a feeling abroad that Australia was about to fail once more. This considerably affected the attendance on the Wednesday morning, but after Hendry and Woodfull had settled down and a description of their play was broadcast up till the lunch adjournment, so great was the interest created that the crowd again poured to the ground to view the afternoon's play.

### Series of Talks.

ANOTHER successful feature of the test match was the series of progressive talks given by the ex-International player, Mr. M. A. Noble, who at the lunch and tea adjournments and again at night time, gave his impressions of the day's play. Throughout the whole test match every facility to make the transmission a feature was extended to the Company's representatives by the trustees and groundsmen at the Sydney Cricket Ground, and this contributed very much to the successful broadcasting.

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