

# 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.

## "Maori Places and Names."

PERMIT me to record my very great appreciation of the lecture by Mr. H. M. Stowell, on "Maori Place Names and Pronunciation." Coming from such an authority, it is especially valuable. I am eagerly looking forward to the next instalments. 2YA comes in well on my set: a cat's whisker crystal with bar amplifier. We use two headphones. I have tried a loudspeaker, but the tone was too low. At times we have to cut down the volume on the phones. We enjoy your programmes and the freedom from the low comedy element (although the "Story of Lady Godiva" comes near it); and rough talk, makes them all the more enjoyable. I am writing to Mr. Stowell, thanking him for his recent address. Not knowing his habitation, I have addressed it care "Radio Record." With best wishes.—A.P.G. (Heretaunga).

## Revise the Time Table.

I WISH to make a suggestion with regard to the arrangement of broadcasting periods at present carried out by the various stations. I am sure that the children's hour, viz., 6 until 7 p.m. is too late as most of the smaller ones should be in bed by 6 p.m. Their hour would be more suitable from 5 until 6 p.m. and I think that most parents will agree with me in this. The afternoon concert from 3 until 5, which are to my mind the most enjoyable of all, being gramophone records well selected, are of little benefit to us who live in the country and are out and about on farms all day. I do not advocate doing away with the afternoon concert, but in order that we country listeners-in should get a chance to hear lighter dance music, a dinner-time service, say, from 6 until 7.30 p.m., should be put on with the news service from 7.30 until 8. This dinner-time music would, I am sure, be well received and appreciated, especially if it was not too classical, as I am afraid most of the evening concerts are. It would be most pleasant to be able to sit down to dinner listening to good orchestras after a hard day's work. My idea is as follows:—5 until 6 p.m., Children's hour; 6 until 7.30 p.m., dinner-time music; 7.30: until 8 p.m., news session.—SHEEPFARMER.

## "Howling Valves."

CAN you inform me what measures can be taken to suppress the above? For some months now listeners in this district have had all programmes on an average of five nights a week terribly distorted or wholly cut out by one particular set which is in a state of continual oscillation. Besides this the operator of the set is continually twisting dials, running through the whole broadcast band, and never staying on one station for more than five to ten minutes at a time, so that other listeners are unable to get clear of him no matter what station they go to.

The writer has on behalf of others and self made a complaint to the telegraph engineer of the P. and T. Department, but was informed that unless definite information could be laid against the offender nothing could be done by the Department. And even though we were able to locate the set the Department could only remonstrate with the offender and endeavour to persuade him to neutralise his set. Situated as we are here, some 140 miles from 4YA, our nearest station, we have quite sufficient to contend with in natural disturbances without this sort of thing, and unless some means can be found to stop wanton howling and dial twisting I am afraid that March 31 is going to see a drop in licenses in Invercargill.

Apart from this the writer has no complaints against radio, and otherwise reception here has been very good, with very little static during the summer months. 2YA is especially good, although the extra daylight makes it about 8 p.m. before we can tune him in, while 1YA can also be fairly well relied on. 3YA is seldom heard, and 4YA, while always very good during daylight, is often marred by fading and general loss of volume on the approach of and during the evening sessions. The Aussies have not been brilliant for the last two months, but last night, 15/1/29, they were coming over in great style and quite free from static. The Japs are frequently heard by some listeners, but not much from the American side.

The programmes from the four YAs are on the whole quite satisfactory and greatly appreciated by the writer and friends. We hope for as good, if not

better, during 1929.—LICENSED LISTENER (Invercargill).

ANSWER: Yes, definite steps can be taken to prevent this howling nuisance. As it appears in this case the identity of the owner of the set is known there should be little difficulty in preventing further annoyance. According to regulation 59, any apparatus that unduly energises the receiving antenna is illegal and can, unless it is made to conform with the regulations, be compelled to cease operation. Now in this case it certainly appears that the receiver is unduly energising the aerial and thus making itself a nuisance to the neighbours. The steps to be taken are to lodge a complaint to the District Radio Inspector, stating that the set in question is infringing the regulation and causing general disturbance, and requesting that it be made to conform with the regulation or that it be prevented from operating.

## Auckland Notes

(By Listener.)

1YA gave us what may be termed a "super-programme" on Tuesday evening. The talented "Lyric Four" were the chief contributors in concerted and individual items, grave and gay, classical and popular, with the irrepressible "Mac," providing humour, which, however often it may be repeated, never grows stale. It would be well worth while if 2YA could secure this quartet for a Wellington broadcast on some suitable occasion. Miss Christina Ormiston's vocal numbers, and Mr. Eric Bell, in pianoforte items added to the strength of the programme, while our little orchestra also did its bit, and did it well. Mrs. Macandrew was the accompaniste. Further programmes of this type will make Auckland the most popular of the New Zealand stations.

A WRESTLING contest lends itself to broadcasting description even more so than does a boxing match. For the third time in the last two months 1YA worked overtime and devoted its usual silent night to a description of a bout which drew a crowded house at the Town Hall. Incidentally previous broadcasts must be regarded as the main advertising medium which brought this crowd together on what was the hottest and most stifling evening of the year. Mr. Hutter gave a very graphic account of the struggle between Kilonis, who somehow or other does not get too good a hearing from the Auckland public, and Sunni, the much lighter Indian who opposed the Greek. Unfortunately, the big crowd also seemed delighted to seize the op-

portunity of broadcasting itself, and there were times when it was almost impossible to hear the announcer's description above the wild shouts, cheers, and booing to which the spectators gave full-throated vent. Still, even this din added picturesqueness to the imagined scene within the ring.

On Tuesday evening the Auckland station sent out another family "S.O.S.," the call being for a resident of Waitara, to whom the information broadcast would doubtless be immediately conveyed. This high-speed and effective means of getting into touch with individuals in cases of urgency is one of the benefits which radio confers upon the public—a benefit that is appreciated fully only by those who have cause to bless the "radio call" which has brought them hurrying, perhaps, to a deathbed. Many people are of the opinion that had broadcasting been utilised when the initial discoveries were made in connection with what is known here as the "Elsie Walker Mystery," information would have been supplied that would have assisted materially the ends of justice.

"WHILE I had it, I thought it was little better than a toy in the house. I was not a listening fiend, but occasionally I would tune in and enjoy a programme from either Auckland or Wellington. Now my set has been taken away to the South Island, and I am beginning to realise my loss. There is undoubtedly something missing in the house, and that something is the availability of radio." These were the remarks of an Auckland professional gentleman whom the writer met on his way to order another set, which he wanted to be delivered immediately. This time nothing would satisfy him but the "latest electric." He secured it that very day.

THOUGH the time of year is the worst for daylight reception, we are hopeful that it may be possible to relay in Auckland 2YA's promised description of the Cook Strait swim which is to be attempted within a few days. New Zealand has not yet really tasted the "Cross-Channel" excitement that has been experienced in the Homeland, but we are looking to Wellington to give us all the vividness of the forthcoming attempts to cross the treacherous tide rips that swirl between our two islands. At the time of writing this no definite announcements re broadcasting have been made, but we know that the Broadcasting Company will rise to this occasion as it did to the historic one when the Tasman was flown.

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