

The New Zealand Radio Record

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N.Z. RADIO PUBLISHING CO., LTD.
P.O. Box 1032, WELLINGTON.

WELLINGTON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 1928.

COPYRIGHT LAW.

IN another portion of this paper we publish a very full summary of the Report and Recommendations made by Mr. S. G. Raymond, K.C., the representative of New Zealand at the International Copyright Conference held in Rome last year. It will be remembered that Parliament, in order to provide time for the decisions of the Conference to be available for its consideration, passed temporary legislation, which will be reviewed during the forthcoming Session of Parliament. It will then be necessary for a more permanent basis to be determined upon.

Mr. Raymond's report is a very informative and comprehensive one, and will be the foundation upon which Parliament will consider the question. In his summary of the proceedings of Conference, Mr. Raymond points out that the initial efforts of the Conference to protect in absolute fashion the rights of authors and creators of artistic works have been trenched upon on two separate occasions. The first was in connection with the development of the gramophone industry, when, owing to the unreasonable restrictions imposed upon artistic and musical works by authors, a system of compulsory license was instituted. This has had the effect of securing to the public use of artistic and musical works. Unfortunately radio was not then in existence, and was not foreseen, consequently when radio developed, the same system of compulsory licensed use of musical copyright was not available. In those circumstances, the right to broadcast musical works has been limited and subject to the yea or nay of the musical author. It will be a matter of general agreement that the creator of any musical work shall be rewarded for his genius, but, having regard to the interests of the public to share in musical joy, the opinion has developed that there should be no unreasonable restriction of the right to use musical matter. If the public were prepared to pay a reasonable price for the privilege, then it is held there should be means to secure the general use of that music. Development of this line of thought was strongly made at the International Copyright Conference by the delegates from Australia and New Zealand, and as an outcome the Conference recognised the right of each individual country to administer in detail the conditions under which the rights of ownership should be exercised. It is thus the determination of Conference that, while preserving the copyright of the author, each individual nation is at liberty to impose rules and regulations by which the

interests of the public in the use of musical matter shall be preserved, and provision made for, if necessary, the compulsory use of such matter, with adequate payment in return therefor. This is a very important principle, and congratulations are due to the capacity of New Zealand's representative, which enabled him to strongly represent New Zealand's point of view at the Conference, and have this point of view recognised. Credit should also be given to the Radio Broadcasting Company, Limited, for its original resistance of the claims made by the copyright owners. Its development of the claims of the public to fair treatment have won for the world recognition of a new principle.

SUGGESTIONS are advanced in the document, which has been presented already to Parliament, for legislation to deal with the position in New Zealand. These suggestions set out that the existing copyright law, conferring absolute right upon the holders of copyright, needs alteration to meet present-day conditions. It is proposed that these alterations be along the lines of establishing some system of compulsory license on the lines of that afforded to gramophone companies, and that a competent authority be established to deal with the question of compensation, in default of ready agreement on the part of owners of copyright with those desiring to broadcast the music in question. These suggestions will be the basis of New Zealand's legislation which, it is pointed out, should be uniform with that of Australia.

Radio Licenses Steadily Mount

Total Now at 45,000 Mark

THE latest figures relating to radio licenses, as supplied by the Post and Telegraph Department, are as follow:—

	Receiving.	Transmitting.	Dealers'.	Total.
WELLINGTON	17,467	59	605	18,131
AUCKLAND	14,602	60	423	15,085
CHRISTCHURCH	8,275	37	282	8,594
DUNEDIN	2,063	25	164	3,152
	44,307	181	1,474	44,962

Featherweight World's Championship

2BL will be on the air on Saturday, January 26, to broadcast a description of the featherweight worlds championship contest between Fedil la Barba and Billy McAlister.

Filing Covers

THE provision of our cover for filing copies of the "Radio Record" at a price of 1s. 6d., post free, has apparently met a felt want, as extensive orders have been received, necessitating the printing of extra supplies. These are now available, and orders will be promptly attended to. The filing cover is a substantial cardboard job, neatly printed with the title of the paper and pierced for ties or laces. The file will enable readers desirous of preserving copies of the "Radio Record" to maintain them neatly and compactly.

Orders should be forwarded to the Manager, Box 1032, P.O., Wellington. A few have asked for covers for the old style of our first year's issue. These are available at 2s.

The Study of Fish

One of the finest talks given on the air for some time past was that given last week from 2YA by Dr. Johannes Schmidt, of the Danish scientific vessel, Dana. Dr. Schmidt proved enthrallingly interesting in his remarks and many expressions of appreciation have been received from listeners.

The lecture was rebroadcast by 3YA, reception by crystal-set users in Christchurch being absolutely perfect. Dr. Schmidt's address and the quality of the radio transmission received warm encomiums from the Christchurch Press.

THE RADIO BROADCASTING CO.
OF N.Z., LTD.

APPLICATIONS are invited from Youths with sound knowledge of Radio, preferably with Amateur Operator's Certificates, for the position of RELAY OPERATOR at one or other of the Company's Stations.

Applications, stating age and qualifications, should be addressed to the—

GENERAL MANAGER,
Radio Broadcasting Co. of N.Z., Ltd.,
Box 1079,
Christchurch.

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