

From the Chatham Islands

Enthusiastic Listeners

IT is in places away from the centres of civilisation that broadcasting is appreciated to the full. The Broadcasting Company is continually receiving letters showing the great value which is placed on its service by people in the backblocks and in other isolated positions.

Such a case is the Chatham Islands, 500 miles from the coast of New Zealand. The importance of radio to the residents of the islands was told by Mr. F. W. Mitchell, the manager of a sheep farm, now on holiday in New Zealand. He came over on the little steamer "Tees" with a load of sheep for sale, and one of his first places of call in Christchurch was station 3YA.

The population of the Chatham Islands is about 500, including Maoris. There are twelve receiving sets at present, but two more are being installed. The advent of radio has revolutionised life on the islands, said Mr. Mitchell. Although they do not receive mails except at long intervals—he himself has to ride 30 miles for his mails—they are in daily touch with the life of the world. They get good reception of New Zealand, Australian, and American stations, but especially of 3YA. To that station they look for all their news, and the most important piece of news to them is the report as to the movements of the "Tees," which links them with the New Zealand markets.

All the happenings in New Zealand are closely followed—racing, football, churches, concerts, in fact, the whole broadcast service. Mr. Mitchell said he listened in to the flight of the Southern Cross from and back to Australia, and heard everything perfectly. He said it was just as good as being on the spot. Instead of being isolated for months at a stretch, the people in the Chathams are as much abreast of world affairs as are the people of Christchurch. There was now no hardship in living away from the centres of population.

Mr. Mitchell commented on the fact that when 3YA rebroadcasts 2YA the rebroadcast is generally received better than the direct broadcast from 2YA.

35 Countries Heard

FROM Pihiri Station, Gisborne, comes the following interesting note:

"We heard Berlin and Sydney talking for over two hours on Thursday last in the evening, after the day's toil was finished, and on Sunday afternoon we fixed it up on Kaiti Beach, Gisborne, and heard Captain Byrd, of Antarctic Expedition, and New York "Times" talking about one hour, and very clearly, although the weather was extremely rough, and the Northumberland steamer was just laying opposite. However, it shows what can be done with a low-wave set. We have heard about 35 countries so far, and all distinct. China has not started yet evidently, and we have not heard from Klondike."

NEARLY two and a-half million sets are registered in Germany at the present time, it is said.

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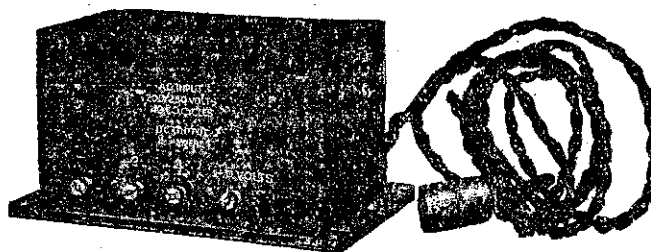
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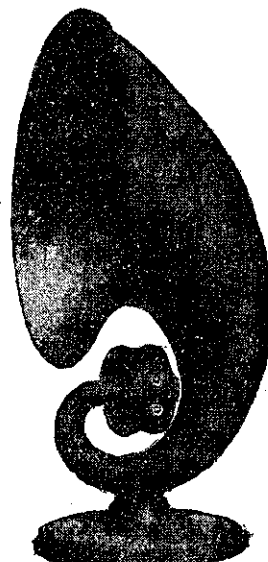
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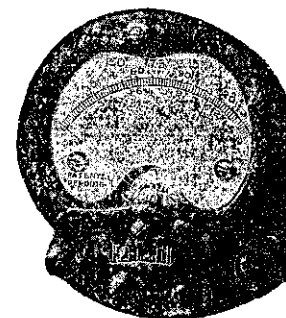
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