

Radio Round the World

AN alliance between a University and a broadcasting headquarters is a notable step. The announcement that T.Z.L. and the University of Tasmania are to join forces in a scheme of broadcast talks is of the greatest importance. Professors Brigden and Hytten are the prime movers on a committee which, in co-operation with T.Z.L. Hobart, is organising a series of talks. The British Columbia Telephone Co. is planning to use radio for long-distance telephone service to isolated districts. Under its charter the company has no power to go into the radio telephone business, but as this appears to be the only practical method of giving service to many isolated points, it is proposed to form a new company.

ORDINARILY a radio announcer is selected for his voice, his musical ability, and his familiarity with the art of programme arrangement. A member of the announcing staff at the Newark, N.J., U.S.A., station, WOR, however, has developed an act that never fails to bring guffaws and other forms of explosive laughter. He is Swanee Taylor, and, according to an American correspondent, his specialty is sneezing and snoring. He specialises in ten brands of the former and sixteen of the latter.

IN the search for some distinguishing note by means of which listeners can identify the transmissions, the proprietors of the Lubliana, Jugo Slavia, broadcasting station have installed apparatus which sends out the call of the cuckoo. The calls are transmitted at the start and end of each broadcasting session, and at the intervals between each number. Material for this station was supplied by the German Telefunken Co., being paid for by the

way to a score, with theatres in Manchester, Liverpool, and Leeds among the list, although, of course, London has the most.

The cost of installation of equipment for talking motion pictures is from £4000 to £4500.

Mr. John E. Otterson, president of a large American corporation, made an extended trip in Europe during 1928, when he concluded negotiations for the introduction of talking pictures on a scale the extent of which will be reflected as the year progresses.

Mr. Otterson makes the comment:

"I visited England and France and talked with producers and exhibitors from England, Ireland, Scotland, France, Germany, Central Europe, Italy, Spain, South Africa, Australia, and India, and the same interest exists throughout—the conclusion that talking pictures have come to stay, and the development of plans to meet their own needs, differing from the United States only as the activity in the foreign field differs from that in America."

The origin of sound in motion pictures dates back about 50 years, to the beginning of the telephone itself.

German Government under the head of reparations. The transmitter is operated by two priests.

FROM observations on static and fading conducted recently in Melbourne the results of which have now been published in booklet form by S.L.O. Melbourne, it was noticed that the duration period of a particular fade was not the same in two cases. This was probably due to the fact that observing stations were mostly a good distance apart. The new test has been decided on with the object of discovering, if possible, the average duration and the extent of the area covered by single "fades" and the observers will be located fairly close to one another so that local conditions will be the same at each station.

AN Auckland wireless enthusiast in search of something far afield linked up on Sunday evening with a special concert arranged by a Pittsburg (United States) company for the benefit of members of the Byrd Expedition in the Antarctic. Songs and bagpipe selections—the beautiful music of which was heard very clearly—were included, and a feature was the reading of letters from relatives in America to members of the expedition. While the concert was on a code reply came from the Byrd expedition saying that the items had been clearly heard, and the concert was much appreciated.

THE most famous patent litigation in the history of wireless telegraphy and telephony—which has lasted eleven years, and probably cost the litigants more than £200,000—has been terminated by a decision of the Supreme Court of the United States. The decision establishes that Dr. Lee De Forest, and not Major Edwin H. Armstrong, was the original inventor of the regenerative or feed-back circuit, which makes the audion of three-electrode valves—the original invention of Lee De Forest—a generator of alternating currents of both high and low frequency. It is estimated that at least one-half of the radio sets now in use in the world embody the "regenerative" or "feed-back" circuit which makes the three-electrode valve an oscillator or transmitter.

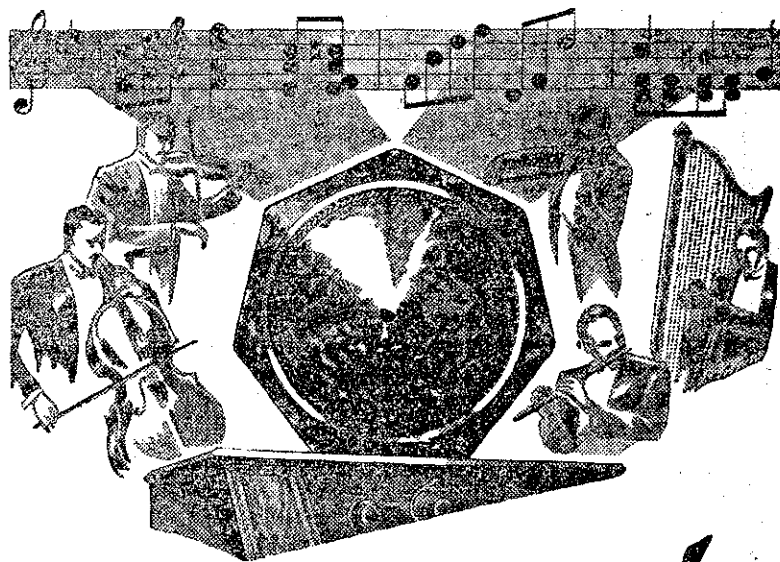
MR. FRED AARONS, who for some time past has been giving ten-minute talks from 2FC, Sydney, soundly condemns the ignorance of some of the Australian announcers as follows: "Probably in no other walk of life could so many people, so unfitted for the positions they occupy, be tolerated as there are in the profession of broadcasting. While our schools and colleges are turning out hundreds of well-educated young men and women seeking scope for their accomplishments, some broadcasting stations insist upon leaving the announcing and prefection in the hands of men who are not only devoid of a knowledge of common English usage, who mispronounce the commonest words with all the élan of a pundit, but who are, worse still, sciolists—dangerous know-all, know-nothings."

SOME idea of the excellent way in which the British broadcasting service caters for its supporters, over two and a half million subscribers, is gathered from the following: There are 22 stations and relay stations in operation, all completely connected by land lines. The power of the stations ranges from 30 kilowatts down to 200 watts, and the longest distance separating any two stations is 480 miles, less than that between IYA and 3YA. The greatest distance a listener can be from any station is roughly 100 miles. One house in every three throughout Britain has a receiving set. Victoria, by the way, claims the same proportion.

BANDITS held up the truck carrying the sets from the factory to the town shop, says an American magazine, and sent the driver away in a taxi, driving the truck in another direction. No one was able to find out who the robbers were. Not long afterwards a man drove up to the radio shop in a motor and placed a set down on the floor, asking the shopman to repair it. Upon the shopman looking at the num-

ber of the set, he found it was one of those stolen. He approached the man who brought the set to the shop, but the latter quicked jumped into his car and drove off, and has not been seen since.

THERE is not much general enthusiasm yet for picture broadcasting in Austria, and many letters of complaint have been sent to Ravag against pictures being broadcast at all after the close of the general evening programme, because listeners with three-valve sets want to try then for foreign transmissions, and often do not care much about receiving pictures. There is a steady demand for picture receivers, and many amateurs are making their own receivers, with more or less success. The Vienna picture transmissions will continue for the present. An interesting film showing "A Day in Ravag" was recently exhibited in Vienna. It has just been completed, and is similar to a German film, called "Tri-Ergon," which is, however, a "speaking film," illustrating German broadcasting.



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