

Are They Real Sports?

IT is not all joy answering the telephone at 2YA. Heavy requirements are imposed upon the staff in the matter of tact in meeting the demands of exacting and diverse tastes. One of the most strenuous periods from a telephonic point of view is Saturday evening, immediately after the opening of the news session. The sporting fraternity (or at least some of them, not to libel those who are really sports), prove quite a little trying and exacting at that time. Many of those who possibly have risked a whole two-shilling piece upon some race or other are very keen to know the outcome of their speculation, and in the few minutes that elapse between the start of the news session at 7 o'clock and the reaching of the sporting announcements, the telephone is kept very busy with sarcastic requests to "cut out" the shipping and weather reports, official news, etc., and get down to the "real business" of the evening, the distribution of sports results.

For the benefit of these "sports" it may be stated quite definitely that the news session is cast in a definite procedure, which will not be varied. The practice is to open with the shipping news, because that is of importance and value to a definite section of the community, and requires to be given

at a set period each evening, so that those intimately concerned with the proper conduct of the country's transport business can receive the information with which they are concerned. The weather reports follow because they also are of value to shipping and transport interests and the farming community, without whose success, it may be mentioned in passing, city interests would sadly suffer. Transport and primary production contribute not a little to the financial and commercial success of the whole life of this Dominion; and shipping and weather reports are of definite commercial value to those interests.

Succeeding these three essential items, the sporting items are reached usually at from eight to twelve minutes after 7 o'clock. While the 2YA staff has made no complaint on this point, we think it fair to place the facts before readers and listeners, with the request that the position be appreciated.

In contrast with the town listeners, reference may be made to listeners in Chatham Islands, where it is a matter of pride that there are no wireless pirates. Cut off as that island is from the daily paper and with irregular mail communications, they rely markedly upon wireless for contact with the world. Practically every minute in which the four YA stations are operating sees every set set on the island surrounded by keen listeners—and they don't ring up 2YA!

Notes and Comments

By "Switch"

THE modulation of 2YA, Wellington, has been giving great pleasure to local listeners for some time past. A beginner, nevertheless, asked "Switch" to listen to his outfit, as he thought 2YA had a rasping tone. The invitation was accepted by "Switch," and sure enough, the tone was anything but agreeable. A little testing and a try-out with another loudspeaker showed that the trouble was in the beginner's speaker. Still, he had been going about telling folk that 2YA was "rotten."

SOME Wellington radio dealers report a marked slackness in trade. It is thought that there are too many in the business having regard to the normal demand at this time of the year. Things are expected to liven up, however, with the approach of winter. The greatest falling-off in business is in ready-built sets. The sale of accessories is steady.

A LISTENER up in Japan reports hearing 2YA, Wellington. Writing to the Melbourne "Listener-In," he says: I am Minoru Nakamura, of Yamate, Oslo, Yangawaken, Japan, and I well understand that there are many DX hunters who picked up some Japanese stations in Australia. I have logged 37 stations in the following countries (I have received some Chicago, U.S.A., and some European stations since October, 1928, besides those given hereunder):—Australia: 2FC, 2BL, 3LO, 3AR, 4QG, 5CL. China: COMK, Moukden, 410 metres, 2k.w.; COHB, Kharbin, 445 metres, 1k.w.; COTN, Tientsin, 475 metres, 500w.; COPK, Peiping, 320 metres, 100w.; GOW, HongKong, 300 metres; KRC, Shanghai, 338 metres, 150w.; NKS, Shanghai, 350 metres, 50w.; SSC, Shanghai, 370 metres, 50w.; CRC, Tientsin, 280 metres, 50w.; GEC, Tientsin, 300 metres, 50w. India: 7CA, 7BY. Japan: JOAK, JOBK, JOCK, JODK, JOFK, JOGK, JORK, JOIK, JPAK (333 metres, 1k.w.). Kwangtung: JQAK. New Zealand: 2YA. Philippine Islands: KZRM (KZRR). Siberia: RL20. U.S.A.: KGO, KFI, KNX, KJR, KOMO. Germany: Lagenburgh. Burma: 2HZ (under investigation). My receiving set is a six-valve receiver, consisting of three stages of radio frequency amplifier, employing the new shield grid valve, followed by a regenerative detector and a two-stages audio amplifier.

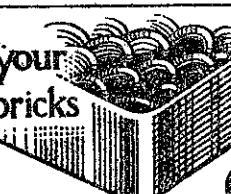
A NEW broadcast station has been erected at Johannesburg. It is situated on the highest point of a range which surrounds the city. The wavelength of the station is not announced. New Zealanders cannot hope to hear this station until the winter months, and then just before daybreak, as Johannesburg time is about 12 hours behind that of New Zealand.

THE other night 2FC, Sydney, put across a rather paltry competition, the first prize being a piffling 10s. A young female played seven items on the piano, and listeners were requested to send in a list identifying these items. The forwarder of the first envelope opened at the station containing the correct list was to receive 10s. "Switch" identified five out

of the seven items. They comprised: "When Other Lips," "Daisy," "Wait Till the Clouds Roll By," "The Man Who Broke the Bank of Monte Carlo," and "Two Little Girls in Blue." The other two numbers were excerpts from well-known musical comedies, familiar enough to the ear, but the writer could not identify them.

IN Australia, nearly every evening the broadcast stations send out a "missing friend" announcement by request of the police. This sort of thing is seldom requested in New Zealand. The Australian announcements generally refer to a son, brother, or father somewhere up country, who is requested to come home promptly owing to a death or serious sickness.

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