

Radio in Persia

PERSIA is always looked upon as an out-of-the-way place where development has been retarded, principally owing to the distance from the sea and the difficulty of modern culture finding its way there. However, radio has at last gained a footing in this far distant land.

In 1924, when all the rest of the European nations were beginning to realise the use of wireless, the idea of wireless for Persia became a centre of thought for those interested, but the economic and geographical position withheld development of this science for many years, and it was through Russia that finally wireless became known in Persia. The Government approached the Leningrad Government for the installation of a number of wireless transmitting stations. Under the orders of an ingenious engineer, the first difficulties were encountered, and in 1925 the foundation for the first station was laid.

Innumerable difficulties faced this intrepid engineer, for the country was poor, and the means of transport were difficult. Imagine long lines of accessories, even those of the greatest dimensions, moving forward over the desert of this distant country on the backs of the only reliable carrier, the camel. Transport alone took up five or six months. Millions of tons of cement necessary for the construction were carried on the backs of the camel. Modern technique seems out of place in this land of the picturesque Marouf.

The official opening of the station took place on April 26, 1926, the day of the coronation of the Riza Khan. Within the space of six months, five new stations were erected.

One of the most serious difficulties was the training of operators, capable of assuring a regular service from the station. The Persian Minister of War, to whom the Persians are indebted for their stations, was obliged to bring in foreign technicians, but even now the Persian programmes seem poor in comparison with those of Europe. The excessive price of transportation renders good valves and good accessories almost impossible to the public, and what they do get has to come through Russia.

However, the Persians have realised the joys that even a little wireless, even if poor and elementary, can bring to those far distant from civilization.

Unexpected Notice

THE New York "Radio News" states: Did you ever find the set quite dead, and wonder whether to start "fault-finding," as our British cousins say, or to wait an hour or so for the station to resume after, presumably, an SOS? If there were only one broadcast station in the State, the question would be even more pertinent. The Wellington, New Zealand, Radio Society recently took up the question of

WANTED, Factory Representative to represent leading line of British Wireless Loud Speakers. Only competent persons of well-known business and financial standing need apply. Applications in writing, with full references, to Box No. 254D, G.P.O., Sydney.

1YA Play Competition

Awards by the Committee

THE sub-committee concerned supplies the following fuller details on the 1YA Play Competition:—

The entries for this competition closed on March 1, and we have to report that altogether 35 plays were submitted.

We have read the whole of the plays very carefully, and are pleased to say that many of them were of very good standard indeed, and many of the writers showed marked promise in their work, and they are advised to try again when the opportunity offers.

A number of the plays, though very good, were not suitable for broadcasting purposes, though we believe certain of them would play exceedingly well in a hall or theatre. We shall endeavour to indicate elsewhere which ones we refer to. In some instances the plays, though good, were too slight to be effective, except possibly as sketches; these could hardly be classed as plays at all.

Our placings are as follows:—

FIRST PRIZE.—Two plays are bracketed equal: "The Return," or "The Mystery of Devil's Rock" (by "Breeze"). (We advise that this play be called "Devil's Rock.") "The She-Male Bachelor" (Frank Hill). (We advise that this play be given another name.)

SECOND PRIZE.—Two plays are bracketed equal: "Interlude" ("Jehosaphat"). "No Imagination" ("Crystal").

THIRD PRIZE.—"Ebullitions" ("Hemi Pango"). (We advise that this play be called, say, "Leave it to Trixie," and the surname "Ilump" be changed or omitted altogether.)

If the plays are broadcast we advise that certain slight alterations be made in the dialogue, etc., at the discretion of the producer, or by arrangement with the authors.

This refers especially to "No Imagination," "Ebullitions" and possibly "The She-Male Bachelor."

We may add that the actual name of the author of each play has not been disclosed to us, all the envelopes containing the names having been in the possession of the Broadcasting Company, in sealed envelopes.

We shall attach to this report a list of the other plays which we considered are worthy of commendation.

Yours faithfully,

F. E. McALLUM (Sgd.),

J. F. MONTAGUE (Sgd.),

J. W. SHAW (Sgd.),

(MRS.) CARR-TIBBITTS (Sgd.).

ONE-ACT PLAY COMPETITION.

The following are the plays we desire to commend highly:—

"Goodwill Towards Man" (name not available).

"5000" by "Suffenus."—R. W. Cumberworth, 39 Stanley Avenue, Palmerston North.

"The Fairway" by "Cyril."—C. R. Allen, Dunedin.

"The Simpler Sex" by "Sandy."—P. V. McNabb, Tasman Street, Collingwood.

The following are the plays we desire to commend:—

"Retribution" by "Navy."—Charles Hill, 47 Third Avenue, P.W.W. Camp, Purewa.

"He Laughs Best" by "Momus."—Miss E. M. Gilbert, 61 Smithfield Road, Wanganui.

"Era of Errors" by "Motor Maniac."—Mrs. W. J. Ward, Thornton Road, Cambridge.

"A Cure for Influenza" by "Vesta."—Margaret Sheehy, 53 Garden Road, Wellington.

"That Awful Tom" by "Berwyn."—Mrs. Beryl Windsor, 1 Gay Street, Ross.

"Stung" by "Honour Dare."—W. Nye, care Box 108, Te Aro.

"An Exciting Night" by "Edenite."—C. McCracken, No. 1 East Avenue, Mount Eden, Auckland.

"Don't Wake John" by "Quo Vadis."—Janet E. Johnson, Whangarei.

The authors of the winning plays are:—

"Breeze."—Miss Betty Kerr, Kingsdown, Timaru.

"The She-Male Bachelor."—Mr. Frank H. Goodey, Wanganui.

"Jehosaphat."—Miss Una Currie, care "Sun" Office, Auckland.

"Crystal."—Mrs. Jean Boswell, Grey Lynn, Auckland.

"Hemi Pango."—J. P. Black, 56 Hector Street, Seatoun, Wellington.

asking their local 2YA to hoist a red light on an aerial mast whenever the transmitter unexpectedly shuts down; but one humorist suggested, instead, that a cannon be fired for the benefit of the listeners out of sight of the towers (2YA is a five-kilowatt). The "Radio News" missed the mark, however, in assuming there is only one broadcast station in New Zealand.

The DX Club

Further Jottings

Byrd Expedition.

COULD some listener kindly let me know what station was broadcasting a talk about the Byrd Expedition about 11.15 p.m. on Thursday, February 7, the wavelength being about 81 metres?—"SHORT-WAVE."

Another Station.

HAS any other reader heard station WSOA? This station I hear nearly every night. The frequency is given as 1480 kcs., or 203 metres, and it comes through as loud as CNRV. On February 19 I heard a station on this wavelength with the call WAP, but WSOA has always been on lately so that I cannot pick the former up now. WSOA usually closes down about 8.20, New Zealand time. I could not hear the location of the stations, but last night the announcer said, on closing down, "1480 kcs"—(then followed a long burst of static)—Washington, D.C. Good-night, everybody. This might be the station's location.

Other stations heard since I wrote last are: KFI, KMIC (268 metres), KPO, KVOO, KMTR, KPLA, KSL. I heard KMTR on March 1; they closed down at 8 p.m.; then KPLA came on till 9; it was coming through a bit louder than KPO.—KAUSPANKA (Hastings).

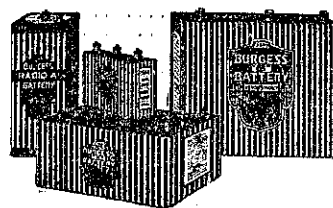
What Is It?

LAST evening (Thursday) at 8.45 p.m. I picked up a station one point on the dial above 2YA. Plenty of speech in a foreign language, which I took to be Norwegian. The only speech received in English was at 9.25 p.m., when the following was heard: "Roll her over, captain." After 2YA closed down at 10.10 p.m. I received a further four minutes of foreign speech and then lost the signals altogether. Strength equal to 2YA and very clear. No call sign. Would this be the C. A. Larsen?—HENRY JAKEMAN (Huntly).

KOIN, Portland.

MR. A. E. Ireland, Taradale, writes: I have not seen this station listed in the DX Club yet, KOIN, Portland, which I heard last night, Sunday, March 10, at about 7.50, New Zealand time. When I tuned in the announcer stated that they had concluded a relay from the Portland theatre; he then gave their programme for Sunday, after which they closed down. The wavelength is 319 metres and power 1000 watts; strength was fair loudspeaker on a four-valve set.

In H.P.G.'s notes, "Radio Record" for March 1, I notice he lists KGO as 234 metres. Is this correct? I couldn't find him last night, but heard 4ZL, Dunedin, relaying KGO on 240 metres. My list for February gives their wavelength as 380 metres.



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