

Short-wave Jottings

MR F. W. SELLENS writes:—

Philips New Short Wave Transmitter.
THE "Wireless World" writes: "The new 130 k.w. short wave transmitter at Huizen (Holland) was formally opened on January 16, to carry out a daily Morse service to the Dutch East Indies. Apart from the telegraph transmissions, the station will give a weekly concert on Wednesdays, on a wavelength of 16.88 metres. Huizen's call sign is PHOHL."

This powerful station has been heard in New Zealand. Several tests were carried out recently, the times of which I was advised, but too late for publication. The hours of these tests were inconvenient, but I tried for them twice, without any success.

Short Waves and the League of Nations.

TO enable the League of Nations to carry out a new series of short wave tests in the spring, the Netherlands Government is again placing the Kootwijk station at the disposal of the Secretariat for one experiment a week. The tests will be in three series. The first will be an endeavour to reach America. Japan will be the goal in the second series, and Australia in the third.

Similar experiments were carried out with varying success last summer.

Reports will be welcomed, and listeners should make such reports as accurate and as comprehensive as possible. They may be addressed to the Short-wave Division of the League of Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

Schedule of Transmissions, March, 1929.

Reduced to New Zealand mean time.
American Continent (in English, French, and Spanish).—March 13, 20, and 27. Time, 9.30 a.m.—10.30 a.m. Wavelength, 38.8 metres.

Japan (in Japanese).—March 13, 20, and 27. Time, 1.10 p.m.—1.40 p.m. Wavelength, 18.4 metres.

Australasia (in English).—March 15, 22, 29. Time, 1.30 a.m.—2 a.m. Wavelength, 18.4 metres.

My log for the past week does not contain much variety; it is as follows:—

Saturday, March 9.

PCJ commenced at 6.5 a.m. at excellent strength—R.9—with a programme for British India, Egypt, and South Africa. Volume decreased to about R8 by 7.30 a.m. A stranger, on about 81 metres, R.2. 5SW, Big Ben was heard striking 7 p.m. at R8. The talk following was spoilt by rapid fading and static.

PCJ was heard again during the afternoon signing off at 5.25 p.m. Reception was spoilt by a howler nearly all through the transmission.

Both KDKA and 2XAD were broadcasting a political talk by a Senator, through the National Broadcasting Co., and its associated stations. This is to be a weekly feature, so as to keep the American citizens in closer touch with Washington.

KDKA closed down at the conclusion of this talk, at 4 p.m., while 2XAD carried on with a programme of dance music

from the Hotel Saint Regis, New York, closing at 5.1 p.m. (1 minute past midnight). Their frequency was given as 15340 kilocycles, or 19.56 metres.

Sunday, March 10.

KGO, or to give it the short wave call, W6XN, was tuned in at 2 p.m., at about R2-3. Volume rapidly increased, and by 2.30 p.m. it was possible to follow every word spoken. This portion of the programme was presented by the General Electric Co. till 3 p.m. Then followed the "Lucky Strike Cigarette hour," originated in a New York studio, and carried by land lines throughout America.

At 3.30 p.m. this programme was interrupted owing to line difficulties between Oakland and New York, so they continued from their San Francisco studio till 4 p.m.

The "Singing Peaches" from the Sunshine Orchards of California commenced the next session. This was followed by the weather forecast, and Westminster chimes, the gong being struck at 8.34½ Pacific standard time. After this, they announced that a special programme was being broadcast by 2XAF for the Byrd Expedition, and that they, W6XN, would rebroadcast it. This was received very well, louder than direct from 2XAF, but, as would be expected, not so clear.

KDKA was tuned in at this time, when they were also putting over a Byrd Expedition programme, but different from the one from 2XAF.

After a short rebroadcast, W6XN gave one of a series of extracts from the Golden Legend, this one being "David Garrick." It was very good, but the characters were supposed to be English, and the American accent of the players was out of place, the lady being very noticeable. After their clock striking 10 p.m. (6 p.m. here), it was announced that "The Big Show from KGO," the Pacific Coast broadcasting station of the General Electric, at Oakland, California, would commence. The N.B.C. Trocadarians Orchestra, under Mr. Frank Harris, supplied the dance music, and Captain Bill Royal was master of ceremonies. The broadcast finished at 1½ minutes past midnight (8.1½ p.m. New Zealand time).

This, as far as I am concerned, is a record short wave reception, hearing a continuous programme for six hours, five of which were good speaker strength.

KDKA and 2XAF were both tuned in during the Byrd programme only.

Monday, March 11.

At 6.15 a.m., the stranger on 31 metres was tuned in, when organ music was heard at R2-3, increasing to R6, but became very noisy, closing at 7 a.m., call not heard. 3LO commenced at 7 a.m., a howler spoiling reception.

Talk was heard from RFM at 10 p.m., at R9. Static was bad.

Tuesday, March 12.

5SW, at 5.45 p.m., with records, was R9. Later he called W2XO. Could not hear the American, except through 5SW. At 7 a.m. Big Ben was R8. The "Literary criticism" that followed was 100 per cent. readable, being very clear and steady, the best for some time.

Talk again was heard from RFM at 10 p.m., at R8, static being bad.

Wednesday, March 13.

5SW was not on this morning, at least, I did not hear them, neither did Mr. Morrison.

The 31-metre stranger was very weak, about R2.

Two New Zealand amateurs were heard during the evening, on the 31-

metre band. ZL2BO, Wellington, and ZL2GH, Wanganui.

Thursday, March 14.

KGO was picked up at 6.25 a.m., being about R4, increasing to R5-6. 5SW, at 7 a.m., was R8. The talk following Big Ben was not readable, except for odd words.

Friday, March 15.

At 5.45 a.m., a strong carrier only was audible from 5SW. At 5.55 a.m. they announced that they were closing till 7 p.m. this evening.

PCJ commenced at 6.30 a.m., at R8, decreasing at R7-6 by 7.30 a.m. Although speech was 100 per cent. readable, signals were mushy. This also applied to London later on.

5SW, at 7 a.m., was R8, only about 50 per cent. readable.

31-metre station, about R2-3.

Additional Notes

Mr. A. P. Morrison writes:—

THE Californian shortwave station, W6XN, sw. transmitter, of KGO, Oakland (California), was heard on Sunday, March 10, at good strength. It was first heard at 2.45 p.m. with the jazz item, "Button Up Your Overcoats." W6XN was linked up with New York, and was broadcasting musical items by the Lucky Strike orchestra. At 3.20 p.m. they discontinued the long relay from New York, and continued from the Californian studio. The first item was by Mr. Irvin Kennedy, one of KGO's leading tenors. Following this a saxophone solo, "A Precious Thing is Love." It was then announced there would be items from their San Francisco studio. The first item, was by the Californian San Tan Girl, a vocal item, "The Song I Love," and was followed by an orchestral item, "Henry VIII," a vocal item by Mr. Harry Stanton. The Waitona Harmony Four sang "If You Want the Rainbow." At 4 p.m. there was a very pleasing entertainment by the Sunshine Peaches, from its peach canning company, of California. At 4.35 p.m., New Zealand time, W6XN linked up with W2XAF, Schenectady, New York, which was broadcasting a special programme to the Byrd Expedition in the Polar regions. W6XN closed down at one and a-half minutes past 12 p.m., Californian time, or 8.1½ p.m., New Zealand time. Throughout the whole programme strength and modulation were perfect. At 3 p.m. he was R7, and volume increased to R9 before he closed down. I understood the announcer to say "W6XN, wave in kilocycles, was 15,489R," but I think I got him wrong. There was quite a number of American s.w. stations on the air apart from W6XN. There were W2XAF, W2XAD, Schenectady, N.Y., and KDKA. At 2.15 p.m., our time, W2XAD, on his 19-metre wave, was coming in at good strength; R7, and clear.

THE presence of lumps of sediment in the bottom of the electrolyte of an accumulator is an indication that the cell has been misused and that it needs careful handling or overhauling.

BY dividing the total filament consumption into the actual ampere-hour capacity of your accumulator, you can tell about how many hours the latter should last without recharging.

Short Wave Helping Empire Friendship

MR. J. O. H. TRIPP, Glen-Cary Station, Hakataramea, writes the following interesting letter:—

Another link in Empire friendship is being forged daily, due to the advent of short-wave receiver. Short-wave reception has come to stay, and the "man in the street" is just waking up to the fact; especially as all the chief stations have regular times of transmission.

Personally I think that 5SW and PCJ are the most pleasant to listen to, especially as they both come in during breakfast. For instance at 7 a.m. this morning Big Ben, in London, boomed from the loudspeaker, then 5SW gave two most interesting talks, followed by some music. They then switched over to Liverpool Cathedral, from whence we had a fine organ recital. Immediately after this we were taken to Glasgow, which was broadcasting "Madame Butterfly," acted by the Carl Rosa Opera Company from Theatre Royal.

All this was at full loudspeaker strength to start with, although the volume gradually decreases as daylight increases. I think that to hear 5SW, Chelmsford, is in itself well worth while paying the price of a set and license. Of course, to anyone hailing from England, 5SW has an added interest.

Another point in favour of the new short-long wave receivers is their economical running costs. A four-valve receiver at four volts low-tension uses only one-quarter the power of the average five-valve broadcast receiver. This is a great saving to those in the back country, where charging facilities are few and far between, as the A battery holds its charge nearly four times as long as with the average five-valve.

I also find that for short-wave reception the ground wire is better left disconnected.

The only point that does not at first appeal to the novice, is that a certain amount of skill is required in tuning in to short-wave stations, however, a week's practice should be sufficient to overcome the difficulty.

I hope that before long it will become a habit for many New Zealanders to listen to London from 7 a.m. onwards.

As a people, New Zealanders are not narrow-minded, but their isolation from the rest of the world does not tend to quicken interest in world affairs, the papers being practically the only

(Continued on page 31.)

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