

Wellington Amateur Radio Society

Interesting Points Raised

THE last general meeting of the Wellington Amateur Radio Society was very disappointing from the point of view of attendance, there being not more than twenty present. However, the meeting was quite an interesting one, as some very important points were raised.

The first, and probably the most important question, was raised by one speaker, who asked if the report published by certain papers that the Society was urging a Royal Commission to investigate broadcasting, was correct. He was assured that no such suggestion had been put forward by the Society, the view being that expressed by one speaker, and not discussed by the Society.

A letter was read from the Post and Telegraph Department in reply to a letter from the Society, in which it was asked whether or not the Broadcasting Company had the right to accept advertisements over the air. The letter was to the effect that by an agreement in 1926, the Company was given power to broadcast advertising for a fee. What might be described as advertising was discussed, following the letter being read, but nothing definite was arrived at.

Titles of Records.

THE next important point raised was that of the titles of gramophone items which 2YA had been announcing after the record had been played. A letter from a correspondent urged the Society to pass a resolution requesting that the items be announced before the record was played. The feeling of the meeting was that the system was unpopular. In explanation, Mr. Ball, the Company's representative, stated that the system was inaugurated in response to numerous requests. That the system was generally unpopular, he was aware, and some alteration was to be made to compromise both points of view.

Commenting on the small attendance, one speaker said that if a greater attendance was desired, the Company should co-operate in either one of two ways. In the first case, they might shut down an hour earlier for a few nights, or secondly, put on a few "rotten programmes" for a change, interrupted another speaker. To make the meetings more popular, the chairman suggested a system similar to that in Christchurch, but it was not kindly received. That something should be done of a social nature was urged, and the question will receive fuller consideration.

Electrical Units.

A PAPER was read on this subject by the vice-president, Mr. I. M. Levy, for Mr. Hardcastle, who was unavoidably absent from town.

Mr. Hardcastle had given great thought to the preparation of his paper and treated the subject from its very elements. He had commenced with the three fundamental units, mass, length and time, shown how these were connected with the English and C.G.S. systems, and latterly with electrical units. Such terms as "potential," "resistance," "induction," "ampere," "ohm," "voltage," "henry," and "farad" were defined.

Dukes and Daggers and Jester's Bells

Wonderful Recording of "Rigoletto" to be Broadcast

THE proposal to broadcast from time to time some of the best of the grand operas, such as was done in the case of Wagner's famous "Valkyrie," which was broadcast by 3YA and 4YA, will be continued in the presentation of "Rigoletto." The first instalment will be presented by 1YA on April 10, and this will be followed by a later presentation at the other stations.

The broadcasting of grand opera in this way gives listeners an opportunity of hearing the music of these famous compositions, as sung by the greatest of living artists. Electrically reproduced, the renditions are perfect, and listeners are therefore privileged to hear grand opera presented in a way they could never hope to hear unless in the La Scala Theatre, Milan, the home of Italian Opera for two hundred and fifty years.

This comprehensive recording of an entire opera, with full choruses, arias, and orchestral score, is a wonderful achievement. The most beautiful operatic music in the world is interpreted by the foremost artists and orchestras.

Throughout the radio presentations the necessary explanatory and descriptive details will be given in order that listeners may more fully understand the story of the opera and visualise each scene.

Here is colour, intrigue, action... melodrama in its most gorgeous form... music at its lyric best... this swashbuckling, bloodthirsty, lurid and immensely loveable old opera called "Rigoletto." Here it is in its entirety, with its "Caro Nome," its "La Donna e Mobile," and its famous Quartet.

Could anything more delight the soul of the opera-goer? In fifteen double-faced records is contained one of the richest outpourings of Verdi's melodic genius. And every bar of it is performed with a spirit, an elegance and precision rarely heard on any operatic stage.

The libretto of "Rigoletto" was adapted from Victor Hugo's play, "Le Roi s'Amuse," in which Verdi saw distinct operatic possibilities. The Venetian police, however, flatly refused to countenance a work in which a king was shown in such dubious character. Verdi, himself, was equally obdurate, and matters were at a standstill when the local chief of police, an ardent operatic enthusiast, saved the day by suggesting the substitution of the Duke of Mantua for Francois I. This was done, Verdi wrote the music in six weeks, and the opera was produced with immense success on March 11, 1851.

Heard in Nova Scotia

Long Distance Reception of 2YA

FURTHER letters have come from Canada and the States reporting reception of the New Zealand stations, especially 2YA. Many of the letters are from the Pacific Coast, but others are from further afield.

The furthest is from Nova Scotia, on the Atlantic Coast of Canada, where station 2YA was heard.

One correspondent in California, reporting on the election results as given out by 2YA, describes the parties as "Royalists" and "Laborers." He is evidently not abreast of New Zealand politics.

Another Californian correspondent has the true American advertising instinct. He writes on his letter in a way that cannot be overlooked, "Sunshine and Oranges."

A postal clerk in Alberta, Canada, said the temperature there was 40 degrees below zero.

Other letters came from Nebraska.

Overhaul of 1YA

STATION 1YA is at present having a general overhaul at the hands of two of the Broadcasting Company's engineers, Mr. J. M. Bingham (chief) and Mr. W. Huggins. The occasion is also being availed of to have the studio completely renovated.

From the Highways

3YA Seeks Entertainers

IN his search for variety for his programmes the station manager of 3YA goes into the "highways and byways" looking for talent.

The other evening he engaged a trio of Italian itinerant players, street musicians who were visiting Christchurch, and for three-quarters of an hour they played operatic, classical and jazz tunes, to the delight of listeners, one of whom saw fit to ring up from Greymouth. As the result of the entertainment provided by the Italians 3YA could not finish its programme till 11.45.

Striking Feature at 1YA

Humorous Mock Trial

ON Thursday, 21st instant, at 1YA, Mr. J. F. Montague will present the Auckland Comedy Players in a new feature for the air—a mock trial, which, with overture and incidental music, will occupy the whole evening. The trial is, of course, written on humorous, topical lines, and should provide a delightful evening's entertainment. It tells the story of a collision between the Hon. Fitzhugh's beautiful limousine (with the owner's patent stopping gear), and a taxi-cab, driven by one Charles Higham Larkin, and the claim is for £1500 damages. The bench will be occupied by Mr. Justice Dahling, and a strong "bar" is engaged, including Mr. Ellis Dee and Mr. Hugo Honne. There is a long array of "witnesses," including Miss Marion Earle (a nurse), Esau Backfyre (a chauffeur), Count Von Richman, Dr. Adeny Payne, Police Constable MacHinery, and a host of others. Among those taking part will be Messrs. Julius Hawken (the judge), Dan Flood, T. T. Garland, J. F. Montague, J. N. Gordon, George Helyer, Dyson Watson, Alan Gladfield, Miss Constance Gilbertson, Miss Ruby Palmer, and a great number of others, as counsel, witnesses, criers, messengers, policemen, and the "jury." The idea is broadly funny, and the fun should be fast and furious. The Auckland Comedy Players have already many successes to their credit, and the cause, "Larkin v. Fitzhugh," should add another to the list.

Radio Season at Hand

Boom Time for Broadcasting

THERE are good indications that 1929 will be a very successful year for the radio trade in New Zealand. The year should be a record one for the radio dealers owing to the greatly improved financial position of the country.

Heralding in the new license year, the Broadcasting Company is carrying out an advertising campaign in the city papers, which is calculated to speed up the renewing of licenses and enrol new listeners. Already there is a vigorous feeling in the radio trade.

It would appear that the occasion is a very opportune one for the radio dealers to take advantage of. The more enthusiasm they can add to the efforts already being made, the greater will be the mutual benefit.

Apart from its energies in the direction of advertising, the Broadcasting Company intends further to improve its service this winter. It is in anticipation of being able to do that that the present advertising campaign is being carried out, for the limits of what can be done depend a great deal on the number of licenses issued in the next few months.

The first essential to a boom year in radio is for all listeners to renew their licenses as quickly as possible.