

Our Mail Bag

Will correspondents please practice brevity, as heavy demands are now made on space. All letters must be signed and address given as proof of genuineness; noms de plume for publication are permitted. Address correspondence Editor, "Radio Record," P.O. Box 1032, Wellington.

Dealers' Licenses.

I WAS surprised to read in the last issue of your journal that the Government intend to impose a further tax on radio dealers. This seems to me to be unfair in the case of country radio dealers, whose turnover is generally small, but who nevertheless perform a useful service to the public. I have been a radio dealer for some years, in a small town some fifty miles from the nearest centre, but will discontinue the radio department of my business, as it is not sufficiently profitable to warrant the extra taxation. It is most convenient for country owners of sets to have someone near at hand who can replace a faulty transformer, supply a spare valve at a moment's notice, or trace and remedy some fault in the receiver, but it seems to me that the extra taxation will induce many country dealers to discontinue the business. This will undoubtedly benefit the larger city radio dealers, but it seems somewhat extraordinary that "the more stable sections of the trade" (as you say in your leader on the subject) should be able to induce the Government to impose a tax, with the object of forcing their smaller competitors out of the business. In this leader you also say, "The number of radio dealers . . . was in excess of actual business requirements." Unfortunately the same may also be said of many other classes of business, such as the motor trade, phonograph dealers, grocers, drapers, etc., yet in such cases the Government makes no attempt to eliminate competition by imposing a tax which would force many of the smaller dealers out of business. There is no sound reason for the present increase in the cost of a dealer's license, and I am certain that any further Government interference with private enterprise is undesirable and detrimental to the whole community.—Country Radio Dealer.

We quite sympathise with our correspondent and the case advanced by him. The object of the increase is not primarily to effect reduction in the number of dealers, although we did point that out as one of the likely results of the increase. The prime pur-

pose of the increase has relation to patent royalties, and under the new license all holders thereof are entitled without further payment or risk to use patents held by Amalgamated Wireless, Ltd. While sympathising with legitimate dealers like our correspondent, we still believe the effect of the new rates will be to benefit the radio business on broad lines, and improve the standard of service. Too many business failures and their legacy of bad debts necessarily force a high margin on goods placed by original wholesalers.—Ed.

The Protest Upheld.

I AM inclined to uphold "Country Dealer's" protest against the raising of licenses (dealers'). It is country dealers who will suffer most and the small amount of trade they do would not make much difference to the city dealer, and it adds a few shillings to the income of the country dealer. Also it is convenient for set owners to get their repairs done and any material they need for their sets. I take it that it is the small city dealer it is desired should be eliminated, but the country dealer who can make very little difference to the business of city firms is also eliminated.

Regarding announcing name of record after it is played. I understood it was to give those who tuned in during the playing of a record a chance to hear name, which is very convenient, in my opinion. It seems strange, no doubt, not to hear name before record is played, but one would become accustomed to it in time. Personally I would give name of record before playing (why bother with name of composer?), and then when record is finished: "Record is—" (whatever name it happened to be. R. S. Blunt suggests better class music and jazz kept separate. Why not give the last half-hour to dance music? In all stations "you would be pleasing some of the people some of the time. You can't please all the people all the time." Never mind, radio is a great boon and blessing to country dwellers and I doubt if you receive as many complaints from the country as from the city. City people need to go out into the back-blocks for a time. They would be glad to hear anything.—"Quite Satisfied," Waiau.

One of the Growlers.

I AM one of the "growlers" re the broadcast programmes. Will you kindly tell me where 2YA learned the idea of announcing the name of a record after it has been broadcast? In my opinion the New Zealand stations do not broadcast nearly enough sports, such as swimming, boxing, motor racing, and such like. These are my only complaints at present.—A.W., Seddonville.

GOOD containers for 2, 4, or 6 BA nuts, small screws, etc., can be made from the lids of old valve-boxes.

2YA Off the Air

60-mile Gale does Damage

"WINDY Wellington" justified its name last week, when a 60-mile-an-hour gust damaged 2YA's outside gear, and put it out of action for the evening. The wind carried away a couple of down leads which, becoming foul of the steel aerial masts, caused a leakage of the transmission current. An endeavour was made to effect repairs, but the force of the wind was so great, on the crest of the hill that this was difficult, and a little later the station ceased transmission. The station operators regarded the blow as the worst they have experienced since the station was erected, this certainly being so from the point of view of the damage done, for hitherto 2YA had stood up to the strongest blasts of Wellington's strongest winds, and at the summit of Mount Victoria they are felt in all their fury.

To carry out repairs with the wind blowing with such force was impossible, it being as much as any of the men could do to retain a foothold on the hill, several of them being blown over on more than one occasion. Efforts were made by Mr. Davies (the station director) and residents to effect repairs, but owing to the darkness and wind this proved impossible.

Announcement was made from the studio as to the mishap in the hope that listeners would be able to catch even the weak transmission possible in the circumstances. Speaking above the ordinary tones, the announcer explained the efforts being made to continue, but eventually the station was forced to close down.

Repairs were effected next day, and a compensating programme arranged.

It's An Ill Wind—

THE two mishaps from which 2YA suffered last week have proved to the advantage of listeners.

On the Monday evening the station had to close down in the middle of a splendid entertainment which was being given by Signor and Signora Marotta. The result has been that these two fine artists have been asked to accept a further engagement, and another concert will be arranged for a future date.

On the following Tuesday evening, Nature put 2YA out of action, and another entertainment had to be curtailed. The staff worked late that night and all next day to repair the damage done by the gale. It was late that afternoon before it was known for certain that the repair work would be completed that day, and then it was decided that, in justice to listeners who had been deprived of a full entertainment the previous evening, the station should go on the air that night, although it was the usual silent night.

At very short notice, therefore, a programme was arranged, and 2YA broadcast a good entertainment. It was an action on the part of the Broadcasting Company that earned the general approval of listeners.

Appreciation.

I FEEL I must express my appreciation of the manner in which 2YA compensated listeners for the unfortunate accidents which occurred on Monday and Tuesday. Great credit is due to the programme organiser, mainly for the high standard of the programme and the engagement of artists at such short notice. Let this evening's entertainment serve as a lesson to those who continually growl about the service of the Radio Broadcasting Company. Apart from the fact that Wednesday is usually 2YA's silent day, I think that the service is all that can be desired.—"Contented Listener."

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MR. G. R. McCARTHY

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Wellington

Wishes to inform his many Friends and Customers that he is in business at the above address. His objects are devoted to Radio Service, Repairs, Construction and Accessories for the home builder, who will receive every assistance and co-operation. To aid him in this he has arranged and re-built his Lab., and he is now able to undertake every possible test in Radio Parts, Sets and Accessories.