

Short-wave Jottings

MR. SELLENS, Northland, writes:—
Mr. R. T. Stanton, Christchurch, reports hearing a new station recently at extraordinary strength, with perfect modulation, calling "Here is Monte Grande." This was in English; all other talk was foreign.

This new short-wave station is at Monte Grand, Chile, wavelength 14.8 metres, call LSV. Mr. Stanton logged this station about a month ago at 11 p.m., but has not heard it since.

ANOTHER short-wave station, working on 30 metres, is reported to be transmitting telephony from wildest Africa. Until further notice, Major Court Treatt is transmitting on this wavelength from Bahr-el-Arab, Southern Soudan, between 5.30 a.m. and 8 a.m., New Zealand mean time, using the call sign FXCT.

Saturday, March 16.

PCJ commenced at 6.4 a.m., and was almost perfect reception at R9, a slight fade being the only defect. The popular "Musical Switch" was the first item after their usual opening piece. America and Canada were called when announcing items. PCJ went off the air before 6.30 a.m. and were not heard again.

5SW, also, was very good (R8-9) and very clear and steady, being 100 per cent. readable. After Big Ben struck at 7 a.m., Mr. Ernest Newman, the B.B.C. music critic, spoke. A talk on "Poetry" was heard later.

KDKA at 2 p.m. was just audible. Volume slowly increased to R8 by 4 p.m., when they signed off after a talk by one of their Senators (a weekly feature). This gentleman was also heard through **2XAD**.

2XAD at 2 p.m. was R5, broadcasting music by the General Electric Orchestra. After 4 p.m. a programme of dance music was heard from Hotel St. Regis. Strength R8-9. **W2XAD** signed off at 10 seconds before 12 o'clock (5 p.m. here), giving their frequency as 15,340 kilocycles, or 19.56 metres.

PCJ was only just audible from 4 p.m. till 5 p.m.

RFM at 10 p.m. was R8, with what appeared to be a debate between a man and a woman.

Sunday, March 17.

ZL2AX, Palmerston North, playing records, was well received during the morning.

KDKA at 2 p.m. was R2-3, with a musical programme. Later, messages were sent to members of the Byrd Expedition. At 4.32 p.m. the announcer said "It is now two minutes after midnight and Sunday morning. We will pause for a moment or two for listeners to offer a prayer for the safety and success of the expedition." After this short interval they continued with the messages.

KDKA, on 62.5 metres, same transmission as above, was very weak, but clearly readable.

2XAF signed off at about 4.30 p.m. after a programme of dance music. Strength R8. A stranger on about 55 metres was heard at 4.45 p.m., R2-3, but too noisy to be readable.

Monday, March 18.

3LO was testing on 31.55 metres before 6.30 a.m., when they commenced their regular weekly transmission. Strength was R9 at best, but faded badly. Excellent reception except for fading. **RFM**, after plenty of talk, some very good orchestral music was heard at R8. **ZL2BB**, Hastings, was heard at R2, very clear and steady.

Tuesday, March 19.

5SW was tuned in at 5.15 a.m. Music was heard at R8, and later calling Hitt or Hitch of **2XD**. He (the Englishman) stated that they were using beam antenna. Reception apparently was bad between these two stations; they closed earlier than usual on account of this. **2XD** was not audible here.

The 31-metre stranger, reported before, was heard at 6.30 a.m. A man was singing then, R2-3. When **5SW** commenced later on I was able to again check up this station as rebroadcasting the London programme.

5SW opened up just before 6.30 a.m. After giving their call, etc., they announced they would be radiating on aerial A for the next 30 minutes. After Big Ben, the dramatic critic was heard, followed by a lesson or talk in French. Just before 7.30 a.m. the "Soldiers' Chorus" from "Faust" was heard, apparently a relay, as the applause could be heard after the item. Reception excellent at R8.

Wednesday, March 20.

5SW was good strength, but the set was misbehaving and could not clear them up. **W6XN** (KGO) was tuned in at 6 p.m., R8. At 6.30 p.m. "Radio Keith's Orpheans' Hour" commenced. Mr. Harold Neuman, of the Golden Gate Theatre, was master of ceremonies. Am not sure, but think this was a relay from this theatre, as applause, talk and laughing by an audience was heard.

The following were a few of the items: "What the Blackbirds and Bluebirds Say," sung by the Harrington Sisters; "Love and Insurance," by —, Dutch comedians; clarinet and stories by George McLennan, etc., etc.

At 7.5 p.m. they "went over" to Los Angeles to continue the "Orpheans' Hour" from there. This continued till half minute past 12 a.m., Pacific Standard time (7.30 a.m. New Zealand time). In signing off the frequency of **W6XN** was given as 12,850 kilocycles or 23.35 metres.

The frequency of **KGO** was given as 790 kilocycles or channel 79, 350 metres.

2XS, of the Standard Telephones and Cables, Wellington, was testing till after 10 p.m.

PLG, Java, on 18.88, was tuned in at 10.30 p.m. Records were heard first at R9. Later they called **2ME** Sydney, and carried out duplex telephony with this station. **2ME** was also R9. Both stations very clear and steady.

Thursday, March 21.

At 6 a.m. musical items were heard from the 31 metre stranger. Call not heard, R3.

5SW: Big Ben at 6.30 a.m., followed by a debate between a man and a woman. R8, but not clear enough to understand all that was said.

RFM: At 10 p.m. R8; static bad.

Friday, March 22.

5SW: At 5.15 p.m. was R8, duplex telephony with **W2XO**; this station not heard. An unsteady rushing noise spoilt readability.

PCJ commenced at 5.37 a.m., strength R7-8, increasing to R9 by 6.30 a.m.

British India, South Africa, Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Iraq were called. Greetings were sent to some friends in Iraq and Basra.

5SW: At 6.30 was still good strength, but mushy, readability being poor.

At 10.45 p.m. a station was heard on about 16.5 metres transmitting records without giving any call. Strength was R6-7 at first, increasing to R8 just before 11 p.m., when the "Blue Danube" waltz was heard.

Reception was spoilt by gurgling noises otherwise it was quite good. At 11.45 p.m. some talk was heard—Dutch, I think. Signals were weaker now; this, with the gurgling, spoilt chance of hearing call if given. This may have been Philips' new station at Huizen, which operates on 16.88 metres.

A revised list of shortwave stations has been compiled, which includes all the latest calls and wavelengths as far as it has been possible to obtain them.

5S.W. Followed Through

MR. E. A. PERRY, Queen Street, Wairoa, H.B., writes:—The following is a copy of a letter I have sent to Station **5SW**, Chelmsford, England, which may interest shortwave listeners. (I should like to know if any listener has followed **5SW**'s transmission through the daytime before, and, if so, would be pleased to hear from him as to his results). The letter states: "Reception of your station, **5SW**, over mid-day at a signal strength of R6-8 on a three-valve receiver is, I think, somewhat of a record for this country, and I would be pleased if you could give me a verification on the strength of the following items, which I heard from your station to-day:

11.42 a.m. (23.42 GMT), I tuned in to what appeared to be a xylophone solo or a dance number in which the xylophone had a prominent part. Then followed four or five dance items, with no interceding announcements; only one of the items was familiar to me, namely, a waltz "Melody of Love," which was played at 11.49 a.m. (23.49 GMT).

12 Mid-day (00.00 GMT), Big Ben struck the hour. An announcement followed, stating the station-call (**5SW**), and the wavelength in both meters and kilocycles. It was then announced that a gramophone recital would follow. The first record was a fox-trot entitled, "Climbing on the Hill Tops." This was followed by another fox-trot, the title of which I missed in changing a grid-leak.

12.10 p.m. (00.10 GMT), "Kathleen Mavourneen" was sung by John McCormack on an H.M.V. record, the other side of which, "Love's Old Sweet Song," also sung by John McCormack, followed. Then came an orchestral overture, during which I adjourned for lunch.

1.9 p.m. (01.09 GMT), I "resumed the dials," and heard the announcer say that Paul Whiteman and his orchestra would play "Three O'Clock in the Morning." The number following was a fox-trot, "Love and Kisses."

Signal strength by this time had increased to R7-8, and, when the speaker was plugged in, the music was clearly audible in the next room."

Old Water Pipe Earth

AN AMERICAN TIP.

A LISTENER writes to the American radio Press: "Having tried various 'grounds' for receiving sets from wells to water-pipes and from coils to sunken radiators. I find that the following serves me best. The parts required consist of a piece of 1-inch galvanised-iron pipe eight feet long, and some copper ribbon (such as is found in an old Ford car magneto and which

DX Notes.

Word from KFOX.

S. R. ELLIS writes: "I have received a letter from the proprietors of **KFOX** concerning about their change of call and the reason why. They were run by Piggley Wiggley Stores, operating in parts of the States, and their contract was up and so **KFON** call and station premises were taken over by the Hancock Oil Company, operated and owned by Nichols and Warinner, with new station call, **KFOX**, 239.9 metres, 1000 watts.

"Reception has not been up to the mark lately in this part of Taranaki. The Americans off and on, but have not heard a new station for a long while. I received a report from a DX enthusiast that he logged a station with the call **6AY**, Cafe Coal, Sydney, on March 13. Has any listener heard this Aussie? There are new Aussies on the air now. Has any DX enthusiast heard any of them?"

Near 4QG!

ONCE or twice recently, whilst tuning in to **4QG**, Brisbane, another "cut in." Who is it, I cannot say, as I have been unable to catch the call. Would you kindly let me know who this station is?—A. Shelton (Rewa Rewa).

WEXK on Short Wave.

"**I THINK** your correspondent J.O.H.T. (Hakataramea) did not hear the call sign of the short-wave American correctly, as one of the SW stations of **KDKA**, Pittsburg, broadcasts on 25.4 metres, the call sign being **W8XK**, not **WEXK**, heard by him." writes a correspondent.

may be procured for little or nothing from a Ford garage or auto parts junk man). This ribbon is covered with a shellacked paper, which may be easily removed after it is unwound by boiling in water for a few minutes. The copper is then sandpapered on both sides and is wound diagonally (like the handle of a golf stick) over the pipe, starting at the extreme end, and fastened either by a slot sawed in the pipe or by soldering or with a fine screw. The joint made by continuing the lengths of ribbon may either be soldered or fastened and may be hammered to follow the pipe closely. The upper end of the ribbon can be soldered, or it can be held by several turns of copper wire. The pipe can then be driven into the ground, until about one foot remains above the surface, and the ground wire from the receiver attached. In dry weather fill the pipe with water several times before using the set, and you will have a ground which cannot be improved upon, in my experience.

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