

The New Zealand Radio Record

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P.O. Box 1032, WELLINGTON.

WELLINGTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 1929.

THE RADIO SERVICE.

IN another column we quote in condensed form extracts from an article published in the Christchurch "Star" from the pen of Mr. E. J. Howard, M.P. We also append to that condensation the reply made by the Radio Broadcasting Co. While Mr. Howard's article is scarcely worthy of notice because of its discursive and rambling nature, we are taking notice of the incident in order to emphasise a material point made by the Radio Broadcasting Co. in the course of its reply to the insinuations fathered by Mr. Howard. Without making any direct statement Mr. Howard managed to convey the impression in his article that radio listeners were being unfairly treated in being asked to pay a fee of 30s. per annum for the radio service rendered to them. His article, therefore, was against the interest of radio rather than an effort to develop or improve the radio service. Mr. Howard, it is true, made the half-hearted confession that the Radio Broadcasting Co. "has to a large extent kept faith with their agreement to the Government." For Mr. Howard's benefit it may be well to particularise some points. Under its contract with the Government the Radio Broadcasting Co. is required to operate the four stations with a minimum service of 12 hours per week in return for the original fee of 30s. per annum (of which, of course, the Government retains 5s.).

INSTEAD of the minimum of 12 hours' service the company is now voluntarily giving an average service exceeding 30 hours per week from each of the four stations, without any increase of the proportion of moneys received from the funds of listeners, and without waiting for that proportionate increase in the total number of listeners which should be expected to warrant the increased service being given. This expanded service should show Mr. Howard and listeners in general that the company has honoured its agreement with the Government to the full (and more!) and is deserving of more than the grudging comment of Mr. Howard that it has "to a large extent" kept faith. It has, in fact, far exceeded its technical obligations, and is only too willing, as official statements have made clear from time to time, to expand the service to the fullest degree in line with expanding revenue. Under the broadcasting regulations it is defined exactly how the revenue is to be expended, and limit is placed upon any dividend which may be payable by the company—such a dividend (if and when it becomes possible to pay one) must not exceed 7½ per cent. interest on the capital subscribed by the company. Mr. Howard

should be aware of this fact, and doubtless is, and any suggestion that the company is exploiting the radio service is unworthy. We do not propose to treat Mr. Howard's article seriously to any further extent than to emphasise the points we have made. On Mr. Howard's own confession as to his motives in writing the article it would be more seemly, we think, for us to congratulate him upon his original method of earning the money to pay his license fee!

The Broadcast of Racing Events

To be Reconsidered by Racing Conference in July

BELIEVING that the New Zealand Racing Conference may possibly have been under some misapprehension as to the actual intention of the Broadcasting Company in regard to the broadcasting of race meetings, the Company recently renewed its application for permission to broadcast the main metropolitan meetings, and incorporated with its application a clear statement of the service. It is desirous of rendering for the benefit of many thousands of interested listeners. The application came before the Executive Committee of the Conference at its meeting in Wellington last year, and, after consideration, was referred to the Conference for decision at the annual meeting in July.

Radio Presentation of "Rigoletto" Next Week

NEXT week, at 1YA and 2YA, on April 10 and 12, and afterwards at 3YA and 4YA, on April 17 and 26, the first instalment of Verdi's famous grand opera, "Rigoletto," will be presented.

"Rigoletto" will be the second complete grand opera to be presented in radio form by the Broadcasting Company, and, as was the case in respect to the "Valkyrie," which was broadcast from 3YA and 4YA, it will be much appreciated by all who like grand opera but never have the chance of seeing first-class productions. The radio presentation will also be in the nature of informative entertainment to those listeners who are lovers of, but not well acquainted with, grand opera.

In "Rigoletto" we have one of the great works of the master Verdi. It was one of the operas which established his European reputation, for it possesses beauties of melody, harmony and orchestration, and subtleties in the presentation of character. "Rigoletto" had an interesting history.

GREATLY desiring a new libretto for the Venice Opera, Verdi requested Piave to adapt Victor Hugo's play, "Le Roi s'Amuse," which, in spite of its morals, was recognised by the composer to possess operatic possibilities. A libretto was soon written, the suggestive French title being changed to "La Maledizione." The work was urgently needed, and dismay followed the flat refusal of the police to grant permission for the performance of a work in which a king was shown in such dubious character. It will be remembered that Venice was then in Austrian hands, and but a short time previously, 1848-49, there had been an Italian insurrection. As Verdi refused to consider any other plan, the management was in despair. Help arrived from an unexpected quarter, for the Austrian police chief, Martello, was an ardent musical and dramatic enthusiast, and a great admirer of Verdi. He perceived that by substituting the Duke of Mantua for Francois I, and by changing the title to "Rigoletto" and arranging that all the curses should fall upon the duke of a small town, the work could be presented without any material changes in the original dramatic situations. Verdi was reasonable over all but fundamental things, and accepted the changes. He went to Busseto, near his birthplace in the mountains, and came back within six weeks with the completed score. The situation was saved, and a brilliant success was the result.

Shakespeare Night

Illegal Operating

Mr. Byron Brown at 2YA

Mr. Byron Brown has in hand the preparation of a special Shakespearean programme for presentation from 2YA on Shakespeare Night, April 23. Mr. Byron Brown is a recognised authority on the great dramatist. He arranged the Shakespearean programme for 2YA last year, and it was a most successful entertainment.

IN France four foreign financiers and two French operators have been prosecuted for the alleged use of secret wireless stations by means of which they sent to Berlin and Vienna news of the franc exchange, thus getting in ahead of foreign bourses. One should be surprised if a good deal of similar activity is not taking place elsewhere; low power and short waves make secret stations and illegal communications fairly simple.

Mullard
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The only Valve with
the wonderful P.M.
Filament. Gives longer
life — more power —
greater volume.