

## Love of Trees

### Valuable Lectures Broadcast by 3YA

#### Useful Community Work

Valuable community work is being done by 3YA in broadcasting a special series of talks on trees by Mr. D. E. Parton and Mr. Young, curator of the Christchurch Botanical Gardens, on the selection, care, and treatment of hedge and ornamental trees. In a talk on Monday last Mr. Parton explained the objective of the Public Utilities Committee in fathering this work as follows:—

"Mr. Young and I commenced this series of talks on tree life some little time ago, in the hope that owners would become more interested in their own property, and in their regard for public service. It was thought that citizens generally and the younger members of the community in particular might be awakened to the need for learning more about the trees that already exist in the city, and encourage more extensive planting.

"Mr. Young has offered to enlighten owners on matters of planting and pruning, or by means of lectures, and we expected some inquiries to be made in this direction. This unfortunately has not been done in the extent anticipated, and this address is being delivered in the hope that further interest will be aroused. The requirements of Christchurch have been closely studied by the P.U.C., and its investigations prepared in pocket size booklet form. Public bodies in New Zealand and Australia have been supplied with copies, and some valuable and interesting acknowledgments received in return. The booklet is available to Christchurch citizens at nominal cost, and it is intended to enlarge on the subject by broadcast and public lectures as the people increase their interest. These will deal with tree life and planting generally, and lead on at a larger stage to trimming young trees of all descriptions, fruit trees, flowering trees, ornamental trees more suitable for garden purposes, and to roadside trees and trees in parks and other public spaces. The main feature of these talks will cover such questions as:—Care in cultivation, selection of sturdy, well-developed trees, necessity from variety and appearance, determining physical state of soil and its preparation, careful pruning by experts and the special training of others, spacing and freedom for development, regard for service lines and pipes, removal of undesirable species and growth.

"If there is sufficient demand for information in this form, the addresses will be extended, but in the meantime I am content to continue with a general reference to planting, but with a more particular reference to trimming.

"Mr. Young will tell you that the importance of the work being carried out by properly-trained men cannot be over-emphasised. Intelligent gardeners can be taught, but the reason for adopting different methods under different conditions and the various kinds of cuts must be explained to them.

Even the care and use of tools suitable for the work is of great importance, and in the long run it pays to give all the details due consideration."

#### Tree Trimming.

DEALING then with tree trimming, Mr. Parton said it was essential for success to know something of tree life. This involved selection and planting, preservation and pruning. Where so many public services with overhead wires were concerned the proper care of trees presented some of the most difficult problems confronting city authorities, but the culture of suitable trees in public places need not be restricted even by telephone and electric light wires. There were certain principles that must be observed in producing the right species and in planting to ensure correct development. It would interest householders to know that in their gardens a weakly tree can often be coddled into natural vigour, whereas this was impossible in public streets. Where impure atmospheric conditions prevail the choice of trees was exceedingly limited. Conifers, for instance, were particularly impatient of such conditions and evergreens were unreliable.

#### Pruning.

IT was often necessary for an expert or even for line authorities to conduct a vigorous campaign against abnormal growth, but it must be realised that this was done for a very good purpose and that it was not always possible to bow to public opinion. Dangerous trees could not on any account be allowed to remain in public places. A nice array of trees properly trained by householders created an excellent impression upon visitors and the present system of the Horticultural Society in rewarding residents who have made special efforts to demonstrate to passers-by what can be done must ultimately lead to such a desirable condition of affairs being extended.

Some owners or their representatives in cutting up an estate or erecting buildings frequently planted trees along the boundaries or in front of each section to encourage a ready sale. Very often the wrong class of tree was planted or they were placed too close together and too near the footpath. Later they attained such dimensions as to interfere with overhead lines and vigorous lopping had to be resorted to in some such cases against the wishes of residents and subsequently charges were made regarding incompetent workmen. If owners would seek the co-operation of those handling tree trimming useless hacking would be avoided. To ensure that branches of trees near to service lines, etc., were not removed in a careless manner and that a proper method of healing the wounds was followed owners were strongly enjoined to get in touch with the engineering branch of the City Council for instructions as to the ways

## Australian Stations

### Greater Power Urged

NEW ZEALAND listeners will be interested in the agitation in Australia in favour of increasing the power of the "A" class Commonwealth stations.

A writer in the Sydney "Wireless Weekly" says:

"It must be about eighteen months ago since a Royal Commission sat to inquire into the wireless question in Australia. It made many recommendations, and the report was very comprehensive. The cost of the Commission sitting in the various capital cities must have been considerable, but apparently both time and money were wasted (quite a usual thing with Commonwealth Commissions), as not one single recommendation has been carried out, and country listeners are still not catered for. As Mr. Allsop suggests, 5 k.w. stations have not sufficient range to cover the wide distances, especially as the actual aerial power is not 5 k.w., but, according to the tests made, only 4100 watts.

"When the Commission had finished its report we were told that nothing would be done until Mr. Brown returned from the International Radio Conference in U.S.A. He prolonged his absence by many months, remaining in England, and on his return was promptly given a huge increase in salary. The only thing he has done is to announce that the stations are to be taken from private ownership and transferred to Government control and ownership. Listeners, and they are the people who pay, are very much concerned, as Government enterprises generally turn out to bear excessive overhead costs, and are eventually run at a loss. If this happens, both programmes and services will suffer, and certainly improvements will never be made. In a short time Australia would be further behind than ever in broadcast matters.

#### 50,000 Watts Suggested.

I AM quite convinced that if, say, one high-power station of 50 k.w. were erected, say, 100 to 150 miles from the coast in each State, many more licenses would result, and people would have the real pleasure of wireless. To-day one must have a powerful receiver, and even then so many months of the year it is impossible to listen, owing to fading and atmospheric. Curiously enough, yet easy to explain, country listeners use, or try to use, their receivers much more than suburban residents, for the simple reason that they have no other entertainment. Go to any home in the country, at any time of the day, and you will hear the receiver working, and many listeners do not know what it is to receive a programme free from disturbance and

and means of doing the work. The booklet issued by the Christchurch Public Utilities Committee would show how unnecessary mutilation was avoided, how the beauty and symmetry of trees could be preserved and how wounds could be protected against decay. The manner in which branches were cut and the dressing of wounds was of much greater importance than at first appeared and would be dealt with in greater detail later.

fading. They think radio has not developed sufficiently. One day they go to the city or suburbs, and at a friend's house they hear a programme, and are astounded at the freedom from static and fading.

#### Change of Wave-lengths.

ANOTHER recommendation of the Royal Commission was an immediate re-allocation of wave-lengths. What has been done? Nothing! A correspondent in the same issue raises the point by quoting the fact that our stations are being interfered with nightly by the heterodyne of Japanese stations. I wrote to the P.M.G. a long time ago, also to S.L.O., Melbourne, who passed my letter on to the P.M.G., but from the latter not a word in reply.

"I have here two of the latest and most selective six-valve receivers, and it is impossible to cut the whistle out, simply because the wave-length of the Japanese stations is right on the wave-lengths of 4QG and 3LO, and also 5OL. After these stations close down, the Japanese come in with a roar, on increasing the volume in the receivers.

"The suburbanite can get all he wants from a small 3-valve receiver, which must be selective, but not necessarily sensitive, but the country listener must have a multivalve sensitive receiver to get any reception at all, and if he lives on the southern tablelands he has to put up with distortion, fading, and statics. In four years I have not received a single programme after dark without one or all of these troubles.

"Now, sir, you and your technical men can render great service by hammering away until Mr. Brown does act, and if only the Listeners' League (rather a mysterious body, which never answers letters), were an active co-operation of all listeners, which would assist you, then we might get something done, and thereby place Australian radio on the same plane as that of any other country."

"As regards programmes, well, that is another story, and I will leave the subject over to another occasion."

## A Memorable Relay

### "Stations of the Cross"

OF the many relays put over by 2YA since its inception, not the least interesting was that from St. Gerard's Redemptionist Church, Hawker Street, on Good Friday, when the ceremony of the "Via Crucis," or, as it is more commonly termed, the "Stations of the Cross," was broadcast.

The "Via Crucis" depicts the final hours of Christ's life, from the time of His condemnation until He was laid in the tomb.

Rev. Father O'Connor, C.S.S.R., detailed the various episodes depicted in the "Stations," and his description of the sufferings and death of the Redeemer must have turned many thoughts to the first Good Friday in Jerusalem, whilst the exhortations of the preacher doubtless found ready response in the hearts of many listeners.

The music incidental to the "Stations" was well rendered by the choir of St. Gerard's under the baton of Mr. Frank Oakes, Mr. Henry Mount being at the organ.

This relay was a particularly interesting one because it is the first time the "Via Crucis" has been broadcast in New Zealand or Australia—possibly the first time in the world.