

## Auckland Notes

(By Listener.)

THE Good Friday morning service at St. Mary's Cathedral, which was put on the air by 1YA, rendered a splendid devotional cause in several other churches, where, through the medium of receiving sets, the service from the centre of the diocese was picked up and made audible to many congregations.

THERE is no doubt that there is developing in local programmes a definite and marked improvement. It would be difficult to decide upon any particular phase which marks this trend, but on all hands one hears the cheery comment, "Programmes have been better lately." New artists have certainly appeared and have given excellent items, but it is not to these alone that the improvements are due. There has been a recent betterment of transmission, but the main contributing factor seems to have been a more efficient handling of the programme material so that it is presented with the maximum of attractiveness. In other words, there has been more attention to showmanship, and this has undoubtedly reacted upon listeners. This is indeed a good augury for the new radio year.

UPON this new radio year listeners are speculating. Even the most optimistic do not anticipate that the first month will show for our district a renewal of the fifteen thousand licenses now existing. There are bound to be some crystal set owners who will not renew, and these, in the main will be responsible for a temporary decline, but a decline which will be overtaken in a couple of months. From then onwards we may expect a steady increase, and this postal district alone should reach the twenty thousand mark well before the end of the year. The winter time usually marks a big increase of country listeners in a dairying district. It is only in midwinter that a dairy farmer finds opportunity for holiday, and, during that holiday, for the purchase of many improvements for the home. Wireless sets rank as important items among such improvements, and dealers in the city know well when the milking season has ended.

OWNERS of valve sets, if reports of the radio trade are a reliable indication, must be a rapidly increasing percentage of licensed listeners. Business has been remarkably brisk of late, in many cases the purchasers of valve receivers being those who previously owned only the humble, but efficient, crystal.

There has been a heavy inquiry for A.C. sets, and for the all-wave types, several kinds of which are manufactured locally, and the demand has been so great that difficulty has been experienced in meeting it.

THE last gramophone lecture-recital by Mr. Karl Atkinson demonstrated forcibly how very attractive a well-arranged programme of records, suitably introduced and explained, can be. Even chronic grumblers who find cause for complaint in the use of records over the radio, must have been converted from their pessimism by Mr. Atkinson's hour. A further recital for Friday next will be equally welcome.

THERE has been little of moment for broadcasting of sports during the past two months, and the ban still operates against facilities for describing the Easter racing carnival, but football will soon be resuming, and those who cannot see the actual play will welcome the thrilling descriptions which are a Saturday afternoon feature of 1YA.

TO-NIGHT the City Council will further consider proposals for resumption of broadcasting the Municipal Band. From casual remarks heard, it appears that the Council are still trying to foist upon listeners the acceptance of organ broadcasts. On one point listeners are almost unanimous. They do not want the Town Hall organ, or its generally unsuitable programmes. If the Council does not realise this, and give facilities for relaying the band at moderate charges, much is likely to be heard of the matter at the forthcoming municipal election meetings.

## A General Loss

GENERAL regret will be felt in trade circles that Mr. D. G. Wyles, radio engineer of the National Electric Company, Ltd., has resigned his position in order to take up a post in Melbourne with the Philips Lamps (Aus.), Ltd., as radio engineer and sales promotion manager. Mr. Wyles has had a very extensive and valuable experience in broadcasting, and is unquestionably one of the most highly qualified men in the New Zealand trade, both from the technical and business point of view. Mr. Wyles filled the position of president of the radio section of the Electrical Federation, and in that position has played an important part in negotiations of moment to the industry that have taken place in recent years. The best of good wishes from his trade associates and others in New Zealand will go with Mr. Wyles to his new position in Australia.

## Reception in Vancouver

### Report on N.Z. Stations

A CORRESPONDENT, M. H. Thorau, of Vancouver, writes:—

The heterodyning of 1YA early evening is caused by KHJ, Los Angeles. Here in Vancouver 1YA puts a bad whine into KHJ's wave.

March and April seem the best for reception of your stations here. Last year at this time they were coming in good, and for several nights lately 2YA has been particularly good, with 1YA and 3YA fair at times.

What do you New Zealanders do for radio after 10 o'clock? Maybe you go to bed. There are several stations on the Pacific Coast which are going all night and many until 1 and 2 a.m. Even with the great difference of time I have heard your stations sign off and then tuned in a dozen stations here on the coast.

From a friend who recently visited your part of the world I learn that particularly the Australians retire much earlier than those on this continent. Apparently the "best-sellers" with us to-day are the kits which tune both grid and plate, using shield grid type of valves.

I would be glad to hear from any motion picture projectionist-radio listener (combined) who might care to waste a stamp.—MARVIN H. THORAU, 3281-34 West, Vancouver, B.C.

## Looking Backward

"FIFTY years ago I read Edward Bellamy's "Looking Backward," writes a correspondent from Auckland. The gifted writer describes "Wireless" in which one switched on to his particular church for morning and evening service. Listening to the service from St. Gerard's Redemptorist Church in Hawker Street, Wellington, reminded me of looking backward to the early 80's of last century when I read that prophecy and I little thought then that it would be my lot to listen to the Rosary and Benediction at Wellington. Father Robinson's voice was beautifully clear during the Rosary and myself and family joined in with our brethren in Wellington. The reception on the whole was excellent, for the wind came in gusts and the rain came down in heavy showers, but 2YA came through clear and steady, for which we express our deepest thanks. "It is a pity that the Roman Catholic Church does not relay more services for the Catholics of the backblocks where there is no church nearer than twenty miles."

"Wireless, as Bellamy saw it, will be in every home before the next ten years, and will be a necessity and not a luxury, as it is now. It will take the place of the telephone, and newspapers will be broadcast before the century ends. Instead of a studio for broadcasting news culled from newspapers it will relay Australian, English and New Zealand news like the 1YA's broadcast or another now. Newspapers will be a thing of the past and the world's news and music will be on the air."

## Race Broadcasts

### Referred to Conference

USE of the word "year" for "week" last week in our paragraph announcing the move made by the Broadcasting Company in again approaching the racing authorities in connection with permission to broadcast the more important race meetings, was calculated to give a wrong impression. The position is that a detailed proposal outlining the Company's point of view, and specifying the meetings chiefly desired for broadcasting, was recently submitted to the Executive Committee of the Racing Conference, was considered by its members, and referred to the July conference of racing delegates for decision. This move was made by the Company in order that the position should be clearly understood, and the hope is entertained that the analysis made of the position and objectives will help to a fuller understanding and a favourable outcome.

## Thanks to 4YA

### Flood-time Service Appreciated

"PLEASE allow me," writes a farmer, "to thank you for broadcasting information regarding 62 sheep which, by mistake, had been left in the sale yards at Milton on the evening of Wednesday, the 20th. I, along with all other wireless listeners-in around the district, received your message, and was able to make arrangements to have the sheep shifted to a good paddock that night. I am positive had we not received your message there would have been several deaths before the next morning, and a serious loss to me, as the night was bitterly cold and wet. The drover had missed them on Tuesday afternoon, so that they had been in the pen one day and night before your message came through. I now realise what a boon wireless and an effective broadcasting station is to country people."

## Mr. Sydney Francis Hoben to Broadcast from 3YA

The well-known New Zealand pianist, Mr. Sydney Francis Hoben, will give a series of pianoforte recitals from 3YA, commencing on April 17.

## Easter in New York

NEW York's Easter services were heard in New Zealand last week by reason of 2YA on Saturday afternoon (New Zealand time, re-broadcasting 2XAD's Easter performance of "Parsifal." The reception was good, and the effort quite successful. With the growing interest in shortwave activity, such events are specially appreciated, and are calculated to intensify interest in radio.

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