

The New Zealand Radio Record

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WELLINGTON, FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 1929.

EDITORIAL.

LISTENERS will read with interest the comprehensive comment on radio matters made by Mr. J. H. Owen, former president of the Wellington Amateur Radio Society, in the course of an interview published elsewhere in this issue. Mr. Owen has made several journeys abroad, and on every occasion has devoted special attention to radio development. On this occasion, as on earlier trips, Mr. Owen made a prime point of making contact with radio transmission and development wherever possible. His criticism and comment on the position, therefore, have a value greater than that of the casual observer.

Whole-hearted endorsement of the system of unified national control is given by Mr. Owen. Specially asked for a comparison between the British method and that developed by America, Mr. Owen says that there is simply no comparison, and that the British method of unity and cohesion is the one and only way by which a comprehensive broadcasting scheme can be developed and maintained. In Britain the system is administered by the British Broadcasting Corporation, as successors to the former British Broadcasting Company. In New Zealand development has been entrusted to the private enterprise of an individual company, under strict Government regulation and control. In each case the principle of unified control, under a system of revenue contributed by the license fees of listeners, maintains the service. The advantages that Mr. Owen finds in this development are wholly in favour of the listener. The listener is given the best in musical entertainment that is possible. He is given an adequate news service, and beyond that, the attempt is made to use the radio as an instrument of culture and entertainment in the furtherance of national well-being. The demerits of the American system lie wholly in the undue dominance of the advertiser, and the superfluity of stations. Musical numbers are given over the air, but too frequently as bait for the boosting of commercial products or companies. There is no unified effort to distribute news or extend cultural talks. Further, there is chaos on the air in undue competition between station and station. Unquestionably much of great value is broadcast to listeners in America by the stations that are operating, but the listener, it is held, pays an undue price in interference and the arduous duty of selection imposed upon those seeking to avoid insidious advertising. Nothing stronger has been said, or, we think, can be said, against the proposal to unleash in New Zealand certain stations with the right to exploit the air for advertising purposes. "God help New Zealand," says Mr. Owen, "if either stations or amateurs are allowed to exploit advertising."

The merit of Mr. Owen's considered opinion lies in the fact that he is concerned only with the results from the listener's point of view. He has no end to serve save the good of the general body of listeners who provide the funds for radio. We commend his opinion to listeners in general.

4YA Dunedin Strengthening Equipment

Increased Service to be Given

FOR some time past improvements have been in progress at station 4YA, Dunedin, the latest being the erection of the new towers on the roof of the "Evening Star's" new building.

It is now, however, possible to make a definite announcement concerning the Broadcasting Company's plans in connection with 4YA.

It is only a matter of a few months now till Dunedin will have a station which will rank in every way with 1YA and 3YA. The necessary new plant has been ordered.

In the meantime, the present plant is being moved to its new location on the top floor of the "Evening Star" building, and broadcasting from there will commence on April 29.

April 29 will also mark the extension of hours at 4YA. A new timetable will then be introduced, and the two silent days which have hitherto obtained will be reduced to one. In future, therefore, after April 29 the station will be on the air daily except on Thursdays.

With the completion of the new studios in the "Evening Star" building, which work will be completed by the time the new transmitting plant comes to hand, when the official opening will take place, Dunedin will no longer be able to consider herself the Cinderella of the cities in regard to broadcasting.

Miss Edith Harrhy from 2YA

Two Recitals by Welsh Pianiste-Composer

MISS EDITH HARRHY, the eminent Welsh pianiste-composer, made her first appearance at 2YA on Monday evening, April 8, last, and delighted all listeners with her singing and playing. Miss Harrhy sang songs of her own composition and played selections by Chopin and Rachmaninoff.

Miss Harrhy will give her second song and pianoforte recital from 2YA next Monday evening, April 15.

This talented musician, who has been engaged by the Broadcasting Company to appear at all four New Zealand stations, is a very interesting personality. At the age of six she took her first music lesson, and when seven years of age passed the examination of the Trinity College of Music. In her early teens she won a scholarship to the Guildhall School of Music, where she went through the whole curriculum, including piano, voice, chamber music, and ensemble playing. It is interesting to note that Sir Landon Ronald, the principal of the Guildhall School of Music, followed her progress with interest, and had a silver medal struck for her playing in the solo piano competition.

Miss Harrhy's songs for next Monday evening will be "The Young Rose," "You," "Bells Across the Moor" and "There is a Fair Isle," all composed by herself. Her pianoforte solos will comprise two by Chopin. Palmgren and MacDowell will also be represented.

2YA Dinner Session

Particulars Next Week

Commencing on Monday evening, April 29, a Dinner Music Session will be a regular feature of 2YA programmes.

This innovation is likely to meet with widespread appreciation, not only by the townspeople but the country people as well. A session of music such as is proposed will to some extent recompense the farming community for the curtailed evening concert session, for country folk have perforce to retire early, and thus miss much of the evening's entertainment.

Full particulars of the dinner session will be published in next week's "Radio Record."

"Merry Wives of Windsor"

Stage Broadcast by 4YA

WITH the consent of Mr. Allan Wilkie, 4YA will broadcast on April 16 a portion of the stage presentation of the "Merry Wives of Windsor," by Mr. Wilkie's Shakespearean Company.

Football from 2YA

FOOTBALL enthusiasts will be interested to know that April 27 will mark the commencement of 2YA's football relays for the 1929 season. On that afternoon the first match of the series at Athletic Park will be broadcast.