

# THE RADIO RECORD

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## Effort to Provide Southland with Better Radio

Arising out of a conference between a local committee desirous of seeing established in Invercargill a radio station capable of giving satisfactory service to the district, and the general manager of the Radio Broadcasting Company, Mr. A. R. Harris, decision was reached to work actively for the establishment of a relay station connected by land-line with Dunedin as being the most effective and economical in the present conditions.



NUMBER of radio enthusiasts in Invercargill have, for some time past, been interesting themselves in the proposal to provide a broadcasting station for Southland district. The idea was to broadcast a programme once or twice a week, the items to be performed by voluntary local talent.

A local business man was interested in the project and agreed to find the capital up to a certain amount providing sufficient support was forthcoming to cover the operation and maintenance.

A committee was set up to go into the matter. Prices for equipment were obtained and listeners and dealers circularised in respect to obtaining the necessary support for running the proposed station.

FROM the information supplied to the committee from various quarters it was estimated that a 500-watt plant, including transmitting equipment, aerial system, furnishing of studio, piano, gramophone and land lines could be installed for about £1700, and that a bi-weekly service on Tuesday and Sunday nights of two hours from 8 p.m. until 10 p.m., and possibly a further night's programme of gramophone items, as well

as occasional relays of football matches, public functions of general interest to the public, such as Mayfair proceedings, operatic society productions, male choir and orchestral society concerts which had been offered, could be broadcast for an expenditure of £250 per annum. Amongst the quotations received was an offer to supply a complete plant, equal to that installed for Dunedin, for the sum of £800.

On account of the glowing statements made to the effect that this equipment would give Invercargill a station in his building equal in efficiency to anything in New Zealand, if not better, the business man concerned was about to give the order when natural caution made him hesitate unless some guarantee was forthcoming. This did not eventuate. He had since been gathering information and was subsequently convinced that it was not possible to install an efficient and up-to-date station at the figure quoted. Furthermore, the price of the station he considered should be installed could not be done at anything like the figure he had in mind, and neither, as far as he could see, was there any hope of getting sufficient local support to run it properly. In the circumstances he had already decided to drop the matter as far as he was concerned.

THE committee came to the conclusion that they would like to know what the Broadcasting Company had to say on the matter and endeavoured to find

The most interesting phase of the Invercargill meeting was the information placed before it by Mr. A. R. Harris as to the relative merits of various methods of providing provincial centres with suitable radio service. On his explanation the system of relay stations linked by land-line with the main stations is the only really efficient and feasible one, and is that which will eventually be likely to be adopted as circumstances permit throughout the country.

out if there was any way in which the company could assist them in their object to obtain a broadcasting service for Invercargill.

Mr. Harris, general manager of the Broadcasting Company, was invited to meet the committee and a conference was arranged.

AT the conference, which was held in Invercargill last Thursday, Mr. Harris expressed the opinion that endeavouring to run a broadcasting station which depended on voluntary assistance was like trying to run a business without capital. However, his company would be prepared to consider assisting an amateur radio organisation in Invercargill in its object to the extent of operating and maintaining the technical side on the lines of its proposals in connection with the North Taranaki Radio Society at New Plymouth. At the same time he expressed the opinion that the only satisfactory method of providing an efficient broadcasting service for Invercargill was by means of a relay station connected by land line to the self-contained stations erected in the main centres. This he stated was a matter that did not come within the scope of the company's arrangements and in any case the present

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