

Short-wave Jottings

FOLLOWING are the reception notes from Mr. Sellens:—

Mr. A. Gledhill, Christchurch, reports having heard a new short-wave station on the morning of April 6. This was 4LO, Siam, working on 12.88 metres, with 60 k.w. Records were played and announcements made in three languages. Strength R4-5. "Wireless World" says: "We hear that a Singapore firm—Radioarts, Ltd.—proposes to establish a Malay broadcasting station for the special purpose of relaying short-wave programmes throughout the Straits Settlements and Malay States. Schedules are being arranged with the technical staffs of the Chelmsford, Melbourne, and Sydney stations to enable continuous programmes to be given each evening from 7.30. Last they be accused of excessive optimism, the organisers state that 2LO has already been received satisfactorily through 5SW, and that Malayan listeners have already enjoyed performances given in the London Palladium."

The mystery station reported several times on about 31 metres in the early morning is our old friend 7LO Nairobi. The call has been heard since last week's notes.

The Canadian short-wave station, GJ RX, is situated at Fleming, Saskatchewan, which is 200 miles west of Winnipeg. This station operates on a wavelength of 25.6 metres, with 2 k.w. They broadcast from 10 a.m. till 12.30 p.m. every day except Mondays, Mondays' times being 12.30 p.m. till 2 p.m., 2.30 p.m. till 3.30 p.m. Extra schedules are Wednesdays, 2 p.m. till 4 p.m., and Fridays, 1.30 p.m. till 3 p.m., New Zealand mean time. Reports of reception are appreciated, and should be addressed to James Richardson and Sons, Ltd., 1018 Grain Exchange Buildings, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The new Dutch short-wave station PHI was transmitting on three mornings during the past week from 12.30 a.m. till 2.30 a.m., New Zealand time—not a convenient time for listeners in this country. This station has been heard at wonderful volume in New Zealand and Australia.

My log is as follows:—

Sunday, April 7.

AT 10.30 a.m. KDKA was R3, transmitting a musical programme. Signals soon weakened and gradually disappeared. 2XAF was just audible at 11 a.m.

On about 26 metres at 11.30 a.m. a voice was heard calling "Hullo, Paree," strength R6. Short talks with long intervals.

KDKA was in good form till 4.16 p.m., when they signed off, volume reaching R9. W2XAF and W2XAD were both on the air with a special programme of music and messages for the Byrd Expedition, arranged by the "New York Times." Both stations were received at good strength till 5.25 p.m.

Monday, April 8.

THE 31-metre stranger was tuned in just before 6.30 a.m., when music was heard at R5. At the conclusion of the item, "Nairobi Calling," followed by the closing announcement, was clearly heard. They closed at 6.32 a.m. 3LO, through VK3ME, commenced their weekly broadcast at 6.30 a.m. Reception, except for slow fading, was excellent at an easy R9. RFM at night was about R8. Plenty of talk.

Tuesday, April 9.

G 5SW at 5.15 a.m. were playing records and calling 2XO; R8. Very clear, but a little unsteady. 2XO could not be heard direct, but at times through 5SW.

At just above 31 metres, slow foreign talk was heard in a very deep voice, from 6 a.m. Strength at first R3-4. Organ music followed, volume increasing to R5. A choir and solos were heard later, the organ playing all the time without any intervals. There were not any announcement or talk after the voice was heard at 6 a.m. This splendid programme was still on when I closed down at 7.25 a.m.

7LO Nairobi was just audible. 5SW was R8 at 6.30 a.m. "Big Ben" was followed by a talk which was not readable on account of a strong raffle.

VK2ME Sydney, and VK3ME Melbourne were carrying out a duplex telephony test at 7 p.m. Strength of both stations, R8-9. PLE Java was first heard at 8.30 p.m., and were still transmitting at 10 p.m. Duplex telephony with an unknown station was in progress each time I tuned them in.

Wednesday, April 10.

A SLOW-SPEAKING German on about 40 metres, probably DOR, came in well at R8-9. 7LO was R2-3, not clear enough to hear talk.

KGO was heard at 6.15 a.m. at R3. 5SW opened by asking listeners for reports on reception from their station, comparing signal strength from two aerials they are using—A and B—the first being used for 25 minutes from the time of opening, and aerial B afterwards. Strength R8, 100 per cent. readable. After the striking of "Big Ben," a talk, "Why I Like the British," was given by a gentleman from Brussels. This was about 90 per cent. readable. Another talk followed.

KGO was tuned in at 6 p.m., when it was announced that the "Acacia Male Chorus," under Mr. Robert Lloyd, would entertain listeners for the next hour. This chorus rendered some very enjoyable numbers. Strength was fully R9, with a slight fade. They signed off at 11 minutes past 11 p.m., Pacific standard time—6.41 p.m. here. VK2ME at 10.10 p.m., strength R9, was calling Java, stating they did not know if PLG, PLE, or PLF would answer. Records were played while waiting for the Dutch East Indian station. PLG replied later, clear and steady, at R8.

Thursday, April 11.

AT 6.15 a.m. 7LO was R3-4, unsteady and mushy. An orchestral item was audible.

5SW—A talk about the Disarmament Conference was 100 per cent. readable at R8. PLE on 15.74 metres was carrying out duplex telephony with another station, which I could not locate. "Hullo's" could be heard, followed by a conversation quite well at R7. A man and woman were doing a very great deal of talking from RFM; R8.

12BE Hastings was very good at R9, on the 80-metre band.

Friday, April 12.

P CJ commenced at 5.30 a.m. with an orchestral item, which came through "as clear as a bell" at R8-9. South Africa was called several times, stating that a special message would be given them at about 7.30 Greenwich mean time. Reception was excellent. Strength from R8-9 at first, to R7 at 7.30 a.m. 7LO was very weak at 5.30 a.m., and but little better at 6.30 a.m.

Some talk was heard on about 15 metres, too weak to be readable. 5SW was R7 and 100 per cent. readable from 6.30 a.m.

Except on the very short waves, static was too bad for listening during the evening. At 10.30 p.m. a station on about 17 metres was transmitting dance music at R4. This was probably PLF.

An Additional Report

"W.G.L." (Southland) forwards the following additional notes:—

The reception for the last week has been good. My log is as follows:—

Monday, April 8, 3LO has heard at good volume, the announcer stating he was on 31.55 metres.

Tuesday, April 9, 5SW calling at 1.25 p.m. This is the first time I have heard 5SW. Two short-wave foreigners were testing at about 10.25 to 10.40 p.m.

Wednesday, at 7.30 a.m., 5SW was rather weak. There was another station a little below 5SW's wavelength, broadcasting music at 7.30 a.m. At 8.20 p.m. these two foreigners were testing. This time I heard one of them say, "Hello, Amsterdam," so I took the other to be PCIL Holland.

Thursday, 5SW was tuned in at 6.55 a.m., and a talk about fishing was heard. This talk finished about 7.13 a.m., when 5SW said they were going to work on Antenna A for the next 15 minutes. Strength was R9. There was another station about one degree below 5SW, at 1.45 p.m. I waited quite a long time, but could get no call. Another station, about 5 degrees below 5SW, was rather weak with much talk. At 7.45 p.m. the two foreigners were at it again. I heard them starting up at 7.45 p.m. The one I took to be PCIL was heard to call Bandoeng. Both stations being R8, and 100 per cent. readable.

G5SW, on Two Valves

N. C. GILCHRIST (Oamaru) writes:—

Following are my results on a two-valve factory made short-wave receiver:—Thursday morning, April 11: At 6.30 a.m., New Zealand time, I heard "Big Ben" striking the hour. G. 5SW. A lecture on disarmament followed, then announcement G.5SW will be an antenna B for the next 20 minutes; 7 a.m. New Zealand time. A lecture on fishing was then delivered: "The sky was a dirty grey. After landing the fish I began to walk up-stream full of swirl eddies and cross-currents. Drop the fly 'on their nose' as we say, put it right into their mouths. All this constant casting is very trying. After several bad shots I got the fly in front of him. He made a bolt right up into the pool. It was no use lamenting. I laid the fly down too flat. We fought out a desperate battle, and I got a lovely trout weighing 7lb. 3oz. The fly will keep knocking against the grass and floating back. He rushed across the river in a succession of jumps. I looked at my watch; it was 6 o'clock, and I got six fish. That ended a day of hard work with great success, and what more could one want."

G.5SW then transmitted for 15 minutes on antenna C at 7.15 a.m. New Zealand time.

Thursday, April 11.

FROM 5SW: Piano solos, two pieces by Schumann, and the Twenty-second Cantata (Bach). G.5SW then changed to antenna B. I received 5SW at 11 a.m. New Zealand time; also at 12.20 p.m. Two fox-trots were being relayed.

5SW announced at 12.30 p.m.: "Columbia record 9664"; at 1.15 p.m.: "This is G.5SW at Chelmsford, England, 25.53 metres. We would like replies from listeners on the different antennas, A and B." Gramophone record followed, H.M.V. 1649, the first side, "Kathleen Mavourneen," the other "Good-Bye" (Tosti). Cello by Squire, No. 2186, Columbia record.

Hawke's Bay Notes

MATTERS in the radio world are fairly quiet up this way at present. All the local fans seem to be waiting for the visit of Mr. Ball, which is due some time this month. It is a great pity that Mr. Ball was not through here last week, for then he would have got an excellent idea of local conditions.

On three consecutive nights I found 2YA come through with poor volume. It was practically impossible to hear the station with anything less than five tubes, even with the five good, room volume wasn't available. On these same nights, 1YA and 3YA were reasonably good, but the volume from the "Aussies" was terrific, even 3LO in the early evening leaving 2YA badly in the lurch.

This is the first time it has been so weak in my experience. On nine nights out of ten it is possible to tune in 1YA and 3YA with more volume, more clarity, and less fading than 2YA, yet these stations have only a tenth of the power of 2YA. There seems something strange somewhere. One cannot suggest that the station is at fault, for in other quarters 2YA seems to be received O.K., and maybe location is the cause, but, whatever it is, it should be ferreted out and local listeners should be helped as much as possible.

WHETHER a relay station on lines similar to the New Plymouth station will fill the bill or not remains to be seen, but in some parts of the Hastings district 2YA is reported a first-class station, so one concludes that a relay station in one of these "good" localities would have the desired effect of giving improved reception to town listeners.

EVERYONE is delighted with the announcement of the R.B.C. that the dinner music sessions are to commence on April 29. This session will be appreciated, for up here at any rate afternoon and early evening reception is generally preferred to the night transmissions, on account of less fading and static.

LICENSES have not as yet been renewed by many local listeners, but mostly it is a case of laxity on the part of set-owners. When the numbers finally go up the total will probably be found somewhere in the vicinity of the number at the year's end. The dinner music sessions should shake them along.

THE promised Napier "B" station is not a reality yet. It is understood that the promoters are still waiting for their permit.

Printed and published for the New Zealand Radio Publishing Company at the registered office. Wakefield Street, Wellington, of the Wellington Publishing Company, by Archibald Sando, of 47 Freyberg Street, Lyall Bay, FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1929.