

The New Zealand Radio Record

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HOW TO DEVELOP OUR RADIO SYSTEM.

WHEN Sir Joseph Ward was recently in Gisborne a deputation from local radio enthusiasts waited upon him to urge, amongst other things, the payment of a subsidy to the local station. The arguments advanced in favour of this course were that crystal users in Gisborne and its immediate locality were unable to receive the transmissions of any of the YA stations. They secured their sole entertainment from the locally-controlled station. The revenue from their license fees went, however, to the Radio Broadcasting Company, from whose stations these particular listeners were unable to secure any benefit. It was accordingly asked that arrangements should be made that the revenue from local listeners should be diverted to the support of the local station.

FROM the local point of view, that argument is unassailable. From the national point of view, it is fallacious—how fallacious, indeed, may be shown by examination of the suggestion of an extension of that policy. There is nothing to prevent an enthusiast at, say, Waipapakauri—a distant point in the North Auckland Peninsula—establishing a transmitting station. There is nothing to prevent the establishment of a station at Golden Bay. A station might even be established at Reefton, Nelson, Wanganui, Masterton, Whangarei, or any one of a dozen points throughout the country, each serving a reasonable population. On their establishment, local enthusiasts, attracted by the novelty of radio, would doubtless be found to invest in crystal sets for the sake of the reception thus made available. Application of the logic of our Gisborne friends would mean that all local listeners, whether valve or crystal, would provide funds for the support of the local station. How far would those funds used piecemeal go in maintaining a chain of local stations?

WHILE sympathising keenly with the lot of listeners in places such as Gisborne, where even valve listeners, quite apart from crystal users, are unable to be guaranteed absolute efficiency in reception from the YA stations because of their distance, we must contend quite definitely that diversion of the moneys made available by listeners throughout the country from the maintenance of one central organisation, would be suicidal and lead to disruption and dislocation of the New Zealand service. New Zealand has the opportunity, by reason of its isolation and distance from other parts of the world, to learn from the experience of other countries. That experience, as made clear in the case of Britain and, from another angle, in the case of the United States, definitely is that the most effective results will accrue only from the maintenance and development of a single unified system of broadcasting. The problem of local reception represented by the plight of Gisborne was experienced in Britain. The B.B.C. met it by the establishment of relay stations at suitable strategic points throughout the country, so that now it is possible for practically the whole of the inhabitants of Britain to receive satisfactory reception from either the main or relay stations throughout the United Kingdom.

IN the present stage of development in New Zealand the four YA stations are able admittedly to serve efficiently only a portion of our population. The larger provincial towns certainly represent a market which it is desirable to exploit. A satisfactory service will be made available to them, however, only by a faithful prosecution of the policy laid down in this country, viz., the maintenance of a central unified system, using to the best advantage the funds made available by listeners for radio service. The only sound and natural system of development is for that central authority to extend, as circumstances warrant, relay stations into those different parts of the country calculated to render the greatest service to populations not now adequately covered. That is the logical system of development, and a way for its prosecution will, we believe, ultimately be found.

THAT a local relay station linked with the main YA stations by land line is the only logical way of satisfactorily serving the needs of the populous provincial centres, is interestingly shown by the outcome of the conference at Invercargill between Mr. R. Harris, General Manager of the Radio Broadcasting Company, and the local committee interested in the establishment of such a service. Meeting the committee by invitation, Mr. Harris traversed the methods available to them of achieving this object. The result was a decision on their part to remodel their ideas and to work for the establishment of a relay station connected with 4YA, Dunedin. This will involve approach to the Post and Telegraph Department as to the land-line facilities available, and opens up the whole question in an interesting way. In all probability it will be found that to permit of the system of local relay stations being launched, some adjustments of the position between the Company and the Government will be necessary. Having regard to the growing interest of the whole community in the best possible service by radio and the wisdom of achieving it by widening the circle of listeners and revenue by tapping the large provincial centres, the Government, anxious to serve the people, will doubtless be found prepared to give full consideration to the question. In that event we are satisfied it will be in the capacity of a business administration to find a means of achieving the end desired and permitting the necessary expansion of service as opportunity offers.

1YA and Shakespeare

Tuesday, April 23

ARRANGEMENTS have now been completed for the great "Shakespeare" programme at 1YA on Tuesday, 23rd inst., particulars of which are published elsewhere. The programme, which is under the direction of Mr. J. F. Montague, will be of a varied and interesting character, and should therefore make a strong appeal to every class of listener. Comedy items will include scenes from "Much Ado About Nothing" and "The Merchant of Venice," the graveyard scene from "Hamlet" and the recruiting scene from "Henry IV., Part II. Historical scenes and excerpts will be given from "Henry V., Part I," "Henry VI., Part III," "Henry IV., Part I. (the great 'Hotspur' scene)," "Julius Caesar," and "Henry VIII." (Queen Katherine's Trial), and other items, with the beautiful casket scene from "The Merchant of Venice" and the "Quality of Mercy" from the same play. In addition to these the studio trio will play two charming Shakespearean selections; there will be several specially selected gramophone selections (Shakespearean), and Shakespearean songs will be contributed by Mr. Len Barnes (station director), and Miss Mina Kronfeld, who is making her first appearance. Among the artists who will appear in the Shakespearean scenes and excerpts will be the following:—

Charles Bertram, Rosie Stratton, J. N. Gordon, Eunice Norwood, Culford Bell, Mary Gordon, Alan Gladfield, Gladys Gamman, J. F. Montague, Millie Earl, Constance Gilbertson, F. W. Barker, Julius Hogben, Dan Flod, Rev. George Coats, Gordon Hellyer, and many others.

This striking programme should make a strong appeal, not only to lovers of Shakespeare, but to the general public as well.

Signor and Signora Marotta

Another Concert on May 6

ALL listeners will be interested to learn that Signor and Signora Marotta have been engaged for another concert at 2YA on Monday, May 6. On the occasion of the previous appearance of these two artists at 2YA the programme was great, curtailed owing to a mishap at the transmitting station, and it was then arranged that the Signor and Signora should give a further concert, if possible before they leave for Italy. It has been found that May 6 is the only available date and a concert programme has accordingly been arranged.