

# THE RADIO RECORD

Published Weekly

REGISTERED G.P.O., WELLINGTON, N.Z., AS A NEWSPAPER

Vol II., No. 42.

WELLINGTON, FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1929.

## Mr. Owen's Radio Ramble

*Review of World Conditions Leads to*

*Satisfaction with  
Dominion Service  
and Prospects*



N speaking from 2YA on Friday last Mr. J. H. Owen dealt specially with radio conditions in Britain. He said:—

Our radio ramble commenced last week and took us from New Zealand through Canada, and on to London. In this city, those who listened may remember that I hired what is known as a transportable set of three valves. This set is generally housed in a polished mahogany case about 2ft. high. It can be carried from room to room, but is not intended for use out of doors the same way as the folding portable set.

After a fortnight in our Piccadilly Hotel, during which time I had frequent opportunities of listening in to 2LO, my wife and I journeyed to the Isle of Man to stay with relatives. In this beautiful little island in the middle of the Irish Sea we stayed at a residence, by name "Ballacallin," some three miles from Peel. On visiting the houses of several friends who had wireless, I was struck with the excellent results that they obtained with quite small sets, and so I determined to have one in my relative's house. A fine oak tree at a convenient distance and a chimney made excellent vantage points for an aerial, and with the assistance of a local radio dealer, who also kept a barber's and tobacconist shop, I installed a good little three-valve set of a well-known make, and hey, presto, we got Belfast, Dublin, Manchester, Aberdeen, Daventry 5XX and 5GB. Continental stations were easily logged and heard on loudspeaker from Radio Paris, Langenberg, Warsaw, and many others. My friends were delighted, and when I paid them a return visit some months later, they were so enthusiastic about the new joy that had come into their country home, that it remained as a memento.

AFTER further visits to friends in Lancashire, Cheshire and Shropshire, most of whom had their radio sets, we made our headquarters at Surbiton, 20 miles from London. Here I met several friends who had also radio sets, and to keep in the running I again hired a transportable set, but this time of five valves with an attachment for an outside aerial. With this I could get the London concerts, and most of the leading Continental stations. On Sunday night, when 2LO closed at 10.30, the foreign stations were heard at their best. A few of these gave their station's call, but most of them rang a bell, or chimes, a gong, or some similar instrument to designate their station, and I found it difficult to log the actual name of many of those heard. You'd could, of course, tell by the language whether your station was in Spain, Italy, Czecho-Slovakia, Poland, Germany, Holland, Belgium or France, but call names were seldom given and rarely repeated; or perhaps at times, not being a linguist, I failed to catch the station's name. However, delightful music was heard from most of the countries mentioned. Grand Opera seemed to be much in favour. The synopated music relayed from Continental Casino dance rooms is more tuneful, and bright, than our English or Colonial variety. The instruments were more musical, and the tone superior to ours. The quaint yodelling of Switzerland had some fine exponents, as also the castanets of Spain in the Cachuca, and other

dances. One gentleman I heard giving an address in a foreign language was fine. I wish I could have understood what he was saying or shouting, for he menaced the microphone in strident tones, brought down the wrath of Heaven on his enemies, and sounded as though he would break a blood vessel. The language was strange and I fancy it was Russian.

I CALLED one day at the offices of the B.B.C. in Savoy Hill. I asked for Major Menzies, whom I had met on a previous visit three years ago, but he had been appointed to a large station in the provinces, so I was ushered by a page boy into the office of Major C. F. Atkinson. After presenting my credentials, the principal one being an introduction kindly given by Mr. A. R. Harris of the Radio Broadcasting Company of New Zealand, Major Atkinson asked me what I would like to see. I said I should much like to meet Captain Eckersley, the well-known radio engineer. He explained that Captain Eckersley was a very busy man, and that he was attending a meeting and would on the next day be going to Geneva to a conference of the International Radio Union. I then suggested a visit to the studios and control room, and if possible to Daventry where the large central English station is situated. Major Atkinson kindly consented to all my requests. Since my last visit many additions and alterations had been made, the studios were more numerous, and the equipment brought into line with the latest idea in regard to effects, acoustics, and other improvements.

NEXT morning to my surprise I received a note from Major Atkinson to say that Captain Eckersley would be pleased to grant me an interview

—Continued on page 2.