

The New Zealand Radio Record

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N.Z. RADIO PUBLISHING CO., LTD.,
P.O. Box 1032, WELLINGTON.

WELLINGTON, FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1929.

NOT yet has finality been reached by the Auckland City Council in relation to the broadcasting of the Auckland Municipal City Band, but it is a tolerably live matter in the local politics of that city. The immediate position is that the IYA Musical and Dramatic Committee recently discussed the matter and made the suggestion that the Auckland City Council should undertake reconsideration and permit the Band being broadcast. Popular as the Band is, it is definitely to be noted that listeners in general, on the facts as given, are quite averse to an unnecessarily high fee being paid the City Council. In a nutshell, the City Council spends upwards of £2000 per annum in providing band and organ music for the citizens of Auckland. The Broadcasting Company is prepared to pay a fee of £350 for the right to broadcast the Band recitals (although some are given free to the public!). The Council wishes to compel the Broadcasting Authorities to pay £500, and to take what neither broadcasters nor listeners want, viz., the organ recitals as well as the band concerts.

IT is felt by the Broadcasting Company that the sum of £500 is unduly high. In order that Auckland listeners should not be deprived of band music, the Company arranged for the services of the Auckland Artillery Band at a fee less than that sought for the Municipal Band. This band is rendering satisfactory service to listeners, as correspondence which has appeared in our columns definitely shows.

WE refer to this matter again at this stage in order to allude to a statement made by Mr. G. Baidon, Mayor of the City of Auckland. Mr. Baidon is reported to have said that the Broadcasting Company was making huge profits out of the funds provided by listeners, and that accordingly, by inference, it could well afford to pay the fee demanded by the Auckland City Council for the Municipal Band. May we invite Mr. Baidon to specifically state how he knows this to be a fact? Our understanding of the position, from information available to us, is that, far from making a profit last year, the Radio Broadcasting Company of New Zealand, Ltd., overspent its revenue to the tune of £3000! In those circumstances, it would seem that a false aspect of the position has been given to the public by the statement made, and the amende honorable is called for. Far from concentrating upon undue profits (which its agreement debars it from making), it has been the definite aim of

the Broadcasting Company to improve and expand to the fullest degree possible the service being given. To this end it is its duty to resist demands such as are made by the Auckland Council, and see that it pays no more than is necessary for services for listeners.

INCIDENTALLY, opportunity presents itself for comparison between the enterprise of Auckland City and that of Wellington. Wellington, amongst its municipal enterprises, has no Municipal Band absorbing £2000 per annum. Wellington, however, has two very competent and efficient bands, which jointly provide the public regularly throughout the winter season with very excellent Sunday night concerts. These concerts are broadcast by Station 2YA, and constitute definitely one of the enjoyable features of the week. These concerts represent a triumph of private enterprise efficiently managed. The Bands organise their concerts as successful financial ventures. They employ and pay for the best local talent available. The public responds so satisfactorily to the fare offered that all expenses are met and a reasonable margin provided. Auckland has a population twice that of the City of Wellington. The private enterprise of Wellington provides its citizens with two bands, which regularly present fine concerts. Auckland, despite its double population and its maintenance of a £2000 a year municipal band, runs a business system of alternate free and "charge" concerts which, however satisfactory the former may be to those attending, leaves a deficit for the ratepayers to meet. The plain facts are that, while thus spending £2000 a year for music, the Auckland City Council refuses to recoup itself to the extent of £350 a year available for the right of broadcasting the band concerts. Instead, it demands £500 for the band plus the organ—and nobody wants the organ! So £350 goes begging—or at least is diverted in part to the Artillery Band.

Listeners to March 31.

THE following is a summary showing the total number of radio licenses issued as at March 31, 1929:—

	Receiving	Trans- mitting	Dealers' (private)	Broad- casting	Experi- mental	Spec- ial	Free (Blind)
Auckland	15,008	58	436	2	1	3	82
Canterbury	8,478	37	290	1	—	—	50
Otago	3,107	21	166	4	—	—	29
Wellington	18,016	56	617	3	1	4	33
	44,609	172	1,509	10	2	7	194

TOTAL: 46,503.

1929-30 Listeners' Guide

IT is with great pleasure that we are able to announce that the first of the new edition of "The N.Z. Radio Listeners' Guide" will be available for distribution this week. Already a great percentage are sold. Orders are coming in rapidly and those who have ordered will not be disappointed. The publication has been delayed but we feel its delay has been justified for in every section the most up-to-date data has been collected and included.

Proved Beyond a Doubt

Comment from U.S. and Canadian Correspondents

WHEN the last mail left America reception of New Zealand stations was very good. A big batch of letters came to 2YA. As far afield as Saskatchewan is represented, and the U.S. postmarks show frequently Colorado, Texas, Idaho, Oregon, and Arizona. There are, of course, the usual number of letters from California.

In asking for verification, a Texan correspondent states by way of proof that he heard the announcer at 2YA say at 4.25 a.m.: "Good, night, everybody. G-o-o-d night," this being followed by a musical selection, "God Save the King." There could be no doubt 2YA it was!

A Californian writes to 2YA: "I have just had the great pleasure of hearing your programme. It was doubly a pleasure, as I have a friend of mine visiting me here who happens to be from Wellington, and to him it was indeed a voice from home, and to say that he almost crawled into the loudspeaker is putting it mildly."

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