

Wellington Symphony Orchestra

THE relay of the Wellington Symphony Orchestra's splendid programme of Tschalkowsky items was an outstanding success, and afforded substantial pleasure to a very large radio audience. Congratulations have been received from listeners over a wide area, and the indication is that the appeal by Mr. R. A. Wright, president of the orchestra, made at an opportune stage of the evening, for the co-operative help and financial support of country listeners, will not pass unheeded. The attendance of the public was very satisfactory, and it is sincerely to be hoped that the orchestra is now launched upon a career of outstanding value and interest to the music-loving community.

Not all listeners, however, were pleased with the performance. One at least was so dissatisfied that he made a special point the next day of calling on the director of 2YA. He wanted popular music, and nothing but popular music. His appetite for it was insatiable, and he for one bitterly complained that he had derived no pleasure from the performance given by the orchestra! As the actual attendance at the Town Hall to hear the performance is estimated to have been 2500 people, it may be admitted that there are others who do not share this gentleman's taste!

The Static Problem Elimination Claimed

IF the claims made by an Invercargill inventor are correct—and we sincerely hope they are—the static problem is solved. This will open up a new era in radio. A Press Association message from Invercargill states: "A revolutionary method of eliminating static, atmospheric, and blurring with opposition sets has been invented by a local man who has been engaged for the past three years in perfecting it. The inventor has used the apparatus under all tests, and is absolutely satisfied with the results it produces. He claims that all local electrical disturbances such as are caused by trams, power plants, and neighbours' sets have been cut out."

Municipal Elections

EFFORT was made at all stations to supply listeners on May 1 with the latest election news. All stations kept on the air to a late hour.

Naturally, the scattered nature of the polls, and in many cases the complex character of the issues submitted to electors, occasioned delay in obtaining finality in many of the issues. This meant that it was a late hour before information began to flow freely. All the actual information given during the evening could have been compressed into some two hours, but unfortunately for the reasons indicated, more protracted delivery took place. Nevertheless, an interesting evening resulted, intervals being filled by the broadcasting of gramophone records. The enterprise of the different stations was generally appreciated.

Long Distance Relays Proposed

Broadcasts from Invercargill and Hamilton

Following on the success of the Wellington-Auckland relay of a band concert, long relays are "in the air."

This week the "Radio Record" announces a relay of 3YA by 4YA. On Saturday, May 11, Dunedin will hear the entertainment to be given by the Revellers' Concert Party.

On the following Wednesday afternoon 4YA will broadcast, on relay, the opening ceremony in connection with the Invercargill May Fair. Sir Joseph Ward will be the principal speaker. Further relays will follow on Thursday and Saturday evenings.

On Tuesday, May 28, another important relay will take place, this time from Hamilton to Auckland. The official opening of the Exhibition which is to be held there will be the subject of the broadcast. Full details will be published later.

In connection with the Invercargill relays the programme on Thursday evening will consist of a burlesque of Parliament. It should be extremely humorous and gives ample opportunity for repartee between those taking part. A great crowd of spectators is assured.

During the evening the Scottish Pipe Band will play a march entitled "Sir Joseph Ward's Welcome to Invercargill."

On Saturday evening the programme will be in the nature of a Competition Evening, when all kinds of vocal and instrumental items will be presented. Included in the programme will be a selection by the Southland Caledonian Pipe Band.

The Saturday evening programme will be broadcast by 3YA as well as by 4YA. This relay from Invercargill to Christchurch will involve the use of 342 miles of telephone wire—128 from Invercargill to Dunedin, and 224 from Dunedin to Christchurch.

The Auckland to Hamilton relay will be over a distance of 85 miles.

Auckland Municipal Band

Bearing of Recent Election Results

AS a result of the municipal election in Auckland, eight new faces will appear round the council table, at which eighteen members sit. In those circumstances, it is possible that the question of the broadcasting of the Auckland Municipal Band may be reopened. The question was a moderately live one in connection with the election, a strong body of public opinion being at the back of the desire that the council should reconsider the matter.

The IYA Musical and Dramatic Committee engaged in correspondence with the council prior to the election. In writing to the council, the committee inquired what reason, or reasons, if any, prevented a contract being entered into for broadcasting the Municipal Band performances only, since relays of organ recitals had proved unpopular with listeners, and the city organist himself had freely expressed opposition to the broadcast of organ recitals on artistic and musical grounds. In those circumstances, it was felt that the council was adopting a peculiar attitude in insisting that the Broadcasting Company should not be allowed to broadcast the band only, but should also inflict upon listeners the unwanted series of organ recitals.

In replying to the representations of the IYA Dramatic Committee, the town clerk advised that the only reason preventing a contract being entered into was the fact that the Broadcasting Company was not prepared to pay the sum of £500 per annum demanded by the council for the right to broadcast the band and the organ.

A LETTER was also sent by the Musical Committee to the manager of the Broadcasting Company stating it to be the desire of Auckland citizens that arrangements should be made for the Municipal Band to be broadcast if possible.

In reply to these representations, the general manager of the Broadcasting Company recapitulated the facts covering the situation. These have been given in our columns before, but may be given again on the point that the council's offer included some 35 performances which were quite unsuitable for broadcasting and which the company could not use to the satisfaction of listeners. The company's offer represented seven guineas per broadcast, including 20 free Sunday evening concerts. Figured on the basis of the concerts for which charge was made, the company's offer represented approximately fifteen guineas per concert. "It need only be added," said the general manager, "that the council declined to consider the question from the community service point of view; disregarded the great publicity value of broadcasting to the city; failed to realise that broadcasting would help materially to justify the maintenance of the band at the expense of the ratepayers, and by attempting to secure an excessive fee, deprived the ratepayers of the substance of a reasonable contribution towards the cost of the band. It was to be noted that the City Council had not suggested that the sum offered by the company for the band was inadequate, but it insisted that the company should pay a larger

sum to include matter which was not wanted."

The matter now awaits possible reconsideration by the new council. Supplementing the comment already made, the council may be asked to say definitely whether the Municipal Band is or is not available for hire. If it is available for hire, then it is an extraordinary attitude to refuse to accept hire unless the hirer purchases something that is not wanted, namely, the organ recitals. If the band is not available for hire, then the ratepayers who foot the bill may fairly ask that the council make available to them in adequate fashion the services of the band for which they pay.

Radio in Guatemala

WHAT to do with our "howlers"!

Make the punishment fit the crime, and sent them to Guatemala which, according to report, must be the worst place on earth for a listener. It is stated that Guatemala is very mountainous, and has a poor climate for radio. From April to August reception is impossible; in September and October it is weak; between November and February it is only moderate; and in February and March it is weak. Only long-range reception is possible.—"Aerial" in "Popular Wireless."



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