

## Isolated "Out-Back"

### Striking Testimony to Radio

THE value of radio to those who live lonely lives "out back" is expressed in this correspondence:—

"I take the privilege to thank your company for the splendid programmes that we receive over the air from the four stations. The townspeople cannot conceive what a blessing radio is to we who are isolated in the back-block country; it has changed our lives altogether. For two years a night has hardly elapsed without radio, but, of course, when static is bad we have to close down. From both Auckland and Wellington we get good daylight reception. The Sunday evening children's service at Auckland we have never missed since they commenced, and they come in always very well.

"Our farm where we have lived for about 23 years is in a very isolated district on the sea coast, about half-way between Farewell Spit and Kahurangi

#### Our Greatest Pleasure.

I MUST tell you of our greatest pleasure. It happened last night when "Rigoletto" was so ably explained by Mr. Drummond, and the volume with which the records were reproduced brought out their great beauties. The singing of the artists was a perfect dream of pure delight, and one was lost in contemplation of the marvellousness of all the details. The recording was so well done that each voice stood out in its proper place, the music was so balanced that the listener was entranced with the flood and combination of melodies that were so well timed that they did not clash, no notes were overlapped to the detriment of any, and the voices were glorious, whilst the music thrilled us as we have not been thrilled for a long time. 2YA's transmission was loud and clear—perfection itself. But, why was such music placed on so late? Last time I nearly missed it by falling to sleep before it started. I therefore suggest that 2YA make a feature for one night in every week of grand opera. Then one could reserve that night by hook or by crook, and make an effort to get one's friends along to hear the quality of radio. Critics who know what is really music will thus be given real pleasure. If sporting and "jazzers" are to be catered for by 2YA, then I submit that the listeners who want real music should also have a share of the week's programme, and not have their favourite food sandwiched in between any old stuff, making the atmosphere poor and degrading the tone. With Mr. Drummond to explain the plot of the operas, we can rely upon hearing each word, and, understanding what the music represents, we the more enjoy the listening. Another thing is the selection of the more tuneful operas for a start. The selection of the German, though quite all right, is, I think, too heavy for the untrained taste. Many people would become grand opera listeners if the atmosphere was considered a bit more. We could "hear to hear" "Rigoletto" every night without tiring of it.—GRAND OPERA.

lighthouses. Before living here we had good opportunities of church, music and entertainment. After being isolated from these privileges for about 21 years, you may be sure we welcomed the radio.

"It was a mystery and still is a mystery how we can hear such a variety of splendid music and entertainment brought right to our fireside. We could relate of splendid evenings spent with the radio going, of splendid songs we have heard, and of the very fine music by the orchestras and the various bands.

"We are also very fond of the organ, especially the music played by Mr. A. Wilson, at Auckland, and the Taranaki Street Methodist Church at Wellington. We have our own favourite singers and performers and we have very pleasant thoughts of some of the songs we have heard and of the singers, but perhaps it would not be wise to mention names here.

"Then we are interested in the news. Now we get news direct, whereas at one time it used to take over a week to reach us. At present we are anxiously awaiting any news that may be broadcast relative to the Southern Cross.

"No doubt radio covers a large field of amusement and useful information. I think that we enjoy best the simple old-fashioned songs and music. No doubt the high-brow that is often referred to by writers to the 'Radio Record' is very good when sung, but I think that often they are attempted by singers that would be received much better if they sang something that they could reach more easily instead of straining to get D or F flat. Often they just manage to reach B flat.

The records put over the air are very pleasing; no doubt we get some of the best singing from the records—they are just splendid. And the foxtrots give pleasure to many people, and I have noticed that a station given to fading, when giving a series of foxtrots records does not fade. But sacred music is our special favourite, and I think that most people must agree that sacred music is by far the best both for the broadcast singing and also by the records.

I remember now some very beautiful items of sacred music broadcast from the various church services, also at the Sunday night sessions at the studios, and I sincerely hope that you will still continue the Sunday church services and the sacred music from the studios on Sundays. These services are so very much enjoyed by us as it brings back memories of our younger days when we took part in the church and school services. They must be a great blessing to many isolated in the outlying districts. I see sometimes a writer to the "Record" complaining about too much of this kind, but I hope that your company will still continue Sunday church services.

I have often thought it would be such a pleasure to look through the studio and see how the different artists are arranged for performance, and have a look at our friend and benefactor, "Mike." I would like to meet some of the performers, although we have not seen them they seem like old friends, especially the announcers. We are indebted to them for the correct way to pronounce words that have been difficult to pronounce. I am very fond of Maori songs and music, and I hope that very soon another Maori concert can be arranged from 2YA.

## General Manager's Mailbag

### Interesting Correspondence from Listeners

#### Value to Farmers.

"I HAVE just heard from IYA that Kingsford Smith and party have been found," writes one keen listener signing himself "Te Pirri Hau." "As an old Australian prospector, I have seen some of the country they are in. On several occasions I have been miles from anywhere—at the back of beyond—in the Golden West, which, by the way, is my native State. An Australian is pretty resourceful. I have subsisted on 'possum which I trapped. If one cuts out the flanks there is no taste of gum leaves, and the flesh resembles chicken. Snakes are very good eating, provided one does as the Binghi does, kill him (but don't let him bite himself). There are also swan berries, and other edible fruits in these tropical jungles which are full of marshes that would bog a duck. No doubt the aviators found something to eat—if Binghi was friendly, especially if one asked for some nalgo, which is aboriginal for food in the West. Anyhow, we're very much rejoiced at the news.

"I don't presume to teach you your business, but I would like to suggest that the news session should be extended to enable us farmers in the backblocks to be up-to-date with the news. The farmers' best hours to listen-in are at night. You give us market reports, races, etc., which cater for a lot of fans, but the silly idea of the racing clubs to exclude radio from their courses is a penny wise and a pound foolish one. The announcer saying he is broadcasting IYA from somewhere in the vicinity of Ellerslie is very humorous in this utilitarian age, something like a comic opera in the racing world. Now, sir, farmers get

only one or two papers a week, and radio is the only solace the cow cockle has when he has finished extracting the lacteal juice from Strawberry and Company. Since we installed a set we are in touch with the outside world. (To-night the seven devils of static are out on the loose, and the reception all round is very poor.) The farming community would go for more radio sets if New Zealand and Aussie news were enlarged, for we can hear the YA's where the Aussie stations are inaudible."

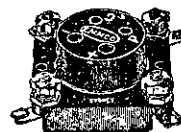
#### Different Tastes.

"IN writing to thank you for your invitation to visit one of the broadcasting stations, I must thank you also for the enjoyment I and many others have derived from the possession of a receiving set," says a listener. "I had much trouble to persuade the rest of the family to get rid of an expensive gramophone and invest in a receiving set, but I should have much more trouble to persuade them to revert to a gramophone. Having many differing tastes for entertainment even in my own family, I find no difficulty in satisfying them all by tuning in to one or other of the New Zealand stations, hardly ever bothering about Australia at all, even though my set is capable of receiving them perfectly."

#### Varied Programmes.

"I think the R.B.C. is to be complimented on the excellent varied programmes that we have the pleasure of listening-in to, and also for the very generous way that they have catered for the license-holders outside of the published programmes. Wishing the R. B. Company all success..."—Extract from another letter."

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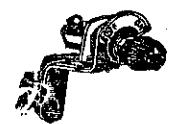
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