

Short-wave Jottings

Mr. Sellens writes:—

A LETTER and card have just been received from Messrs. James Richardson and Sons, Ltd., Winnipeg, Canada, owners of radio stations CJRM, Moose Jaw, Sask., CJRW, Fleming, Sask., and CJRX, Winnipeg, Man., in reply to a report sent on reception of the latter station.

CJRX operates on 25.6 metres with the power of 2000 watts. They state that all programmes are "tied in" with CJRW.

The schedule of this station, reduced to New Zealand time, is as follows:—Daily except Monday, 10 a.m. till 12.30 p.m.; Monday, 4 a.m. till 7.30 a.m.; Tuesday, 2.30 p.m. till 3.30 p.m.; Wednesday, 1.30 p.m. till 4 p.m.; Friday, 1.30 p.m. till 3 p.m.

Central standard time is observed at Winnipeg. The owners of CJRX state that they would appreciate further reports as they would like to know if their station is reaching this district consistently.

The "Wireless World" report having had a message from TLO Nairobi, Kenya, to the effect that their daily transmissions are now made on 31 and 400 metres.

This station has not been heard recently by the writer, either on the above or their previous wave. They do not appear to appreciate reports from distant countries, as a Christchurch friend and myself have sent detailed reports with copies of the "Radio Record," which, after some months, remain unanswered.

The following hints should be of assistance to the inexperienced short-wave listener:—

Hints on Short-wave Tuning.

ON the short waves it is often essential to allow the set to oscillate mildly whilst searching in order to pick up the carrier wave, since a station may easily be passed over if this is not done. But do not, once you have found a speech carrier, go squeaking up and down all over the place and cause interference with others who are listening to the transmission. As soon as you have found the carrier loosen your reaction a little, and then slightly re-adjust the grid tuning condenser. In this way you will be able to tune in the transmission very quickly, and will cause a minimum amount of

interference to other people. A transmission which can be heard only by keeping the set in oscillation and tuning to the silent point is practically never worth hearing at all. The proper adjustment for hearing telephony, and the one which gives far the best quality and the greatest signal strength, is that which brings the set to a condition just below the point of oscillation. This desirable state of affairs can take place only where reaction is perfectly smooth. Should your short-waver show any tendency to flopping into oscillation you will never have any success worth talking about upon the wavelets. When these symptoms are present there are three points worth remembering.

Grid-leak Values.

FIRST of all try a higher value of grid-leak than you are using. If this does not make things right disconnect the grid leak from "A" X and wire it instead to the slider of a potentiometer wired across the "A" busbars. In many cases smooth reaction control will be secured when the slider is somewhere about the middle of its travel. Supposing that neither of these remedies is effective, the high-frequency choke is the next component to be attended to. One that suits most circuits of the Reinartz type can be made by winding from 60 to 80 turns of fine enamelled wire in a single layer on a piece of ebonite or paxolin tube 1 inch in diameter. There is one other point that is worth noticing. Sometimes even if the circuits and components of the rectifying valve are up of the mark reaction is unsatisfactory because the low-frequency transformer that follows the valve is of an unsuitable type. A tip that sometimes works wonders in such a case is to fix a variable grid leak across the secondary of this transformer.

Saturday, May 4.

5SW was R8 from the commencement at 5.30 a.m., readability was very poor. This was much better by 6.30 a.m.

PCJ was 100 per cent. readable all through from 5.30 a.m. till 7.30 a.m. At about R8-9. At 6.12 they called Mr. Gledhill, of Christchurch, and hoped that he was receiving their signals well.

They were again tuned in at 1 p.m. when strength was R2, increasing R8 by 3.30 p.m.

At 5 p.m. a special transmission for the Sydney Radio Exhibition commenced. Greetings were sent to the Mayor of Sydney, and others. The station went off the air just after the commencement of the special programme for about five minutes. Signals were very unsteady, after the temporary stoppage.

2XAD was R6 when first heard at 1 p.m. The usual "General Electric" programme, "Half-hours with the Senate," etc., were well received.

KDKA were heard at good volume, but not so clear as they should be.

The "Slumber Hour" was broadcast from 2.30 p.m.-3.30 p.m., followed by a clock striking 12. Weather forecast and baseball scores completed the programme, signing off at 3.35 p.m.

At 2 p.m. a station on PCL's wavelength, 18.4, was heard at R3, increasing quite a great deal by 2.30 p.m. Several musical items were given, but no call was heard.

W2XG on about 32 metres at 6.35 p.m. called, "Hullo, London, calling you." Then the usual "write down—" followed.

Sunday, May 5.

AT noon 2XAD was R3, increasing rapidly in strength. From 2.30 p.m. the programme was dedicated to the Byrd Expedition in "Little America." It was stated that a specially constructed antenna—the Byrd antenna, was being used. This was a directional aerial pointing due south from the transmitting station.

The first item was appropriate to the occasion, being named "Sway Down South."

KDKA was good strength, but not so clear as 2XAD or 2XAF. The latter station was transmitting simultaneously with 2XAD.

Monday, May 6.

On about 31.2 metres at 6.20 a.m., a foreigner was talking at R4. The time signal was heard at 6.30 from the Melbourne Observatory, via 3LO, followed by the regular musical programme Strength R9, with uneven fading. VK2ME, Sydney and VPD, Suva, carried out a long duplex telephony test till 9.10 p.m. Both were received at R9.

Wednesday, May 8.

AT 5.50 p.m. W6XN (KGO), were giving news items till 6 p.m. From

then till 7.30 p.m. the programme was by the "Trocaderoians," from the San Francisco studio of the National Broadcasting Co. Reception was excellent at R9.

Friday, May 10.

AT 5.30 a.m. the Big Ben from 5SW was R8. The title of the following talk was missed, but it was about "Operas." It was 100 per cent. readable. Two Columbia records were heard next, followed by a talk on "China." At 6.15 a.m. the musical programme opened at the studio with an orchestra item by Coleridge-Taylor, followed by solo solos. Volume was still better now, quite good in all respects. On about 15.4 metres, a foreigner was talking at about R3. A little lower—about 15 metres—a man and woman were talking, duplex telephony, I think. Strength R5.

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The rate for small advertisements under this heading is 2/- cash for 20 words, and twopence for every other word thereafter.

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Printed and published for the New Zealand Radio Publishing Company at the registered office. Wakefield Street, Wellington of the Wellington Publishing Company, by Archibald Sando, of 47 Freyberg Street, Lyall Bay, FRIDAY, MAY 17, 1929.



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