

Static Eliminator**Women as Announcers****Why Incomes are Unequal****American Reception****Is It a Hoax?**

ON the appearance of the striking announcement from Invercargill that an inventor there had managed to succeed in his effort to provide a device for eliminating static from radio receiving sets, we telegraphed to an Invercargill correspondent asking him to get in touch with the inventor and give us full information of the allegedly successful device.

Our correspondent is a competent newspaper man, well skilled in the art of locating "persons wanted." After several days' inquiry amongst patent agents, local radio enthusiasts, and all likely sources, our correspondent informs us that he is quite unable to locate the inventor of the alleged static eliminator. Discussion of the so-called invention has been entered into with local wireless enthusiasts, and the consensus of opinion is that the matter is impracticable. It is even hinted that the thing is a hoax, more especially as the inventor has failed to give the least indication of the nature of his apparatus.

At this stage, we make no statement whatever as to the invention. We issue, however, a specific invitation to the inventor to come forward and give the radio world some details of his invention.

After the original announcement was made, an Invercargill paper published the following matter. Careful reading of this, however, leaves us very nearly as wise as we were before, and we, with listeners, still await details of the invention.

A further step in introducing to the world a local man's invention, which is claimed to eliminate static and interference in wireless sets, was taken on Saturday, when a gentleman enabled the inventor to patent fully the idea.

EXPERIENCE in Australia emphasises that women are not suitable as full-time announcers. In all the capital cities, a large proportion of the programmes is taken from outside concerts and entertainments, besides sporting grounds of all kinds. The inevitable result is that the service is frequently dislocated. Some boxer is knocked out half-an-hour before he should be, and the announcer suddenly finds a gap of perhaps 30 minutes in the programme. He probably has half-a-dozen artists in the studio, and with these and a good deal of showmanship, he manages to fill in time. This has been found work for men rather than women. Although some of the sessions conducted exclusively by women have been very successful, there seems but little chance of any full-time appointments being given to women announcers.

In conversation with a "Times" reporter, the fortunate inventor, while wishing to remain anonymous for the present, gave a general idea of the difficulties to be solved.

"In modern radio communication," he said, "the limitation to the distance that can be covered satisfactorily by a given transmitting station is imposed entirely by the inability of the receiving station to distinguish a signal, music or speech, from disturbing noises from other transmitting stations and from atmospherics. Weakness of the received oscillation by itself is not a limitation, for this can be amplified as much as desired after cutting out the amplification of disturbances and atmospherics by means of one of the devices. The most difficult disturbance to be coped with is that due to nature—the so-called static, stray or atmospheric. Some interferences are due to electro-magnetic waves radiated by charges such as those practically employed in spark radio transmitters. Others are due to gradual charging of the antennae from electric charges in the air such as are carried by snow-flakes, followed by sudden charges of high-tension cables. This is the true static and is eliminated by another device.

"Radio receivers frequently interfere with each other," he continued. "The modulation of the transmitter oscillation by the voice prevents harp tuning of the receiver. It is in this respect that the device is most revolutionary. It can nevertheless be placed in any set on the market. By a successive series of treatments, the waves finally reach the speaker in an absolutely clear reception, all static having been cut out."

Another W.E.A. Lecture

THE next series of lectures arranged by the Dunedin branch of the Workers' Educational Association, and delivered from Station 4YA, will begin on Tuesday, May 21, at 7.30 p.m., when Dr. Fisher, Professor of Economics at the Otago University, will speak on, "Why Incomes are Unequal."

Among the inhabitants of a besieged city, or a group of shipwrecked mariners on a not too desert island, it would soon be agreed that the only sensible plan for husbanding the limited supplies of food and other necessities that were available would be to ration them as accurately as possible according to the varying needs of the members of the group. This was indeed roughly the plan which was adopted in England and other European countries to meet the real or threatened food shortages of the war period. It did not always work smoothly, but the idea behind the plan was clear and sensible enough. When we are no longer at war, when we have been rescued from our desert island, or when the siege of the city has been raised, we usually give up the idea of rationing, or of distribution according to needs. The plan involves a great deal of difficult calculation, and interferes with our natural desire to decide for ourselves what we are going to buy; in normal times therefore we distribute our national income on principles quite different from those which have been suggested.

Perhaps the most striking consequence of the adoption of these principles is the market inequality of income.

It is highly important that we should understand the causes of this inequality, the results, both good and bad, which flow from it, and the connections which exist between inequality and the social and political problems of our day, for if we agree as most thoughtful people do that we would on the whole be better off if the national income were distributed rather less unequally than it is we shall have a better chance, if we understand the causes of inequality, of reaching our objective without inflicting upon ourselves more serious damage than we are attempting to remove.

Economists of every shade of thought have nearly all been agreed that it would be a good thing if wealth were distributed less unequally than it is. Even Robert Malthus, who is famous for his gloomy views about the pressure of population growth, and many of whose opinions would to-day be regarded as hopelessly reactionary, declared in 1798 that "the present great inequality of property must certainly be considered as an evil, and every institution that promotes it is essentially

A Touch of Home

IN an American paper appeared the following:—

Question: Have you any information regarding the New Zealand stations, their schedule, which are most readily received, power, etc.? New Zealand is my native land, and I would very much like to tune in on the stations there.—H.H.W., Santa Barbara.

Answer: There are four which may be heard, but only one with any degree of regularity. This is 2YA, at Wellington. It is a 5000 watt, while the others operate on but 500 watts. 2YA has been coming through in good shape from shortly after midnight, our time, until he signs off, which, as a rule, is between 1 and 2 a.m. The New Zealand stations of consequence are:—

1YA Auckland: 500 watts; 333 metres; Monday silent.

2YA Wellington: 5000 watts; 420 metres; Wednesday silent.

3YA Christchurch: 500 watts; 306 metres; Tuesday silent.

4YA Dunedin: 500 watts; 463 metres; Monday and Wednesday silent.

You understand, of course, that you must have a very good receiver and be in a favourable location for trans-Pacific reception. Even under these conditions, the best that can be expected is to recognise a few musical selections and to understand a few announcements. But I'll guarantee that it will give a New Zealander a thrill.

bad and impolitic," though he doubted whether governments could actively interfere with adv. tage. Marshall, the most influential English writer on economics in recent years, and whose work was characterised by an almost excessive caution, said that "the drift of economic science during many generations has been with increasing force towards the belief that there is no real necessity, and therefore no moral justification, for extreme poverty side by side with great wealth." But until fairly recently there have not been many satisfactory attempts to work out a theory of inequality of income as a whole. The best general explanation is to be found in Edwin Cannan's "Wealth," especially chapters XI and XII. A more elaborate and useful study is "The Inequality of incomes," by Hugh Dalton, once on the staff of the London School of Economics, and now representative of a London constituency in the House of Commons. The most persuasive account of the evils which flow from inequality is to be found in Bernard Shaw's "Intelligent Woman's Guide to Socialism and Capitalism."

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