

Auckland Notes

(By Listener.)

MR. W. J. MEREDITH, our most popular football announcer, returned to the microphone at Eden Park on Saturday, and, in his description, made the most of a highly exciting game. His return to football announcing will be hailed with delight by thousands of listeners.

IT is stated locally that regular facilities for land-line relays between Auckland and Wellington will be available in about three months. Then, it is hoped, Auckland may return the compliment paid us by 2YA, and send south a programme which will show just how we specialise in entertainment by radio in the north.

THERE is very general satisfaction here at the prospect of big developments of relay work. Not only the city, but the whole province is to hear the official opening of the Wai-kato Show, now the most important dairying function in the Dominion. A progressive policy of this kind cannot fail in bearing fruit.

NOW what is going to happen regarding the Municipal Band relays? The new City Council will again consider the radio fate of the finest band in New Zealand, and, if the wishes of the general public are considered, we shall again have those Sunday and Wednesday evening treats that are appreciated far beyond the confines of New Zealand.

THE figures of the first tally of licenses for 1929 have been very well received here, but even more encouraging are the reports from members of the radio trade, who generally remark upon a pleasing activity in business, especially in receivers of good quality. A gentleman who may be regarded as having his finger upon the pulse of radio business confidently

anticipates 60,000 licenses before the end of the winter.

ON Saturday evening 1YA rebroadcast 3LO, Melbourne, and gave us the pleasure of hearing the last three rounds of the Leckie-Wilson boxing contest. The writer had been tuned into Melbourne for some time before the rebroadcast eventuated, and found the Victorian station very faint. Yet, when 1YA picked it up, and put it on the air again, the result was an eloquent tribute to the receiver used by the station, and the way in which the reception was amplified. There was but little static, and every word was distinctly audible. Most enjoyable, too, were the instrumental items from Melbourne which preceded the fight description. Well done, 1YA.

THE Auckland Radio Society is decidedly alive. On Thursday next it has arranged a special concert to be given, gratis, to all interested in radio. The concert will be given in the Lewis Eady Hall, and from there will be relayed to 1YA. Most of Auckland's leading artists will appear, and there will also be a demonstration of a "talkie" picture machine, and finally a dance. A society which shows the enterprise that the newly-established Auckland body is displaying deserves the support of all listeners. It is out to assist broadcasting, not to make a futile effort to damn it. As a result, its drive for a big membership is progressing favourably, and there should be a big accretion to the society's roll after Thursday evening.

SO insistent are the demands for another "Night of Convivialities" that there is no question regarding the instantaneous appreciation of the novelty which 1YA provided last week. There is a promise that further entertainment nights of a similar type are to follow. Our programmes are certainly brightening up, though there is a feeling that some performers have outworn their welcomes at the microphone.

Sugar

Lecture at 1YA

THERE is no article in such everyday use as sugar. Therefore the lecturette given from 1YA on May 9 by Mr. Arthur Fairburn, of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, was interesting. Although the subject covers a vast range of industry, from the growing of the cane to the placing of refined sugar on the breakfast table, Mr. Fairburn showed himself capable of compressing it adequately and interestingly into the space of 15 minutes. With a brief description of the method of growing the cane and an outline of the operation of harvesting the crop, which ranges from 20 to 80 tons per acre, Mr. Fairburn passed on to describe the process in the mill. Here the cane goes under a row of heavy revolving knives, called the "leveller," and passes on to a preliminary "crusher" or "shredder." These processes are designed to present an even feed of shredded cane to the rollers. These rollers take the form of a giant mangle, consisting of heavy grooved horizontal iron cylinders 5 to 7ft. in length, and 28 to 36 inches in diameter.

The crushed cane is next saturated with limed water, which assists the extraction of the sugar from the cells of the crushed and shredded cane. The juice as it comes from the rollers looks like muddy water, and in this form contains the equivalent of 10 per cent. of the crystal sugar eventually attained, 86 per cent. water, and 4 per cent. impurities held in solution. The cane at this stage has served its purpose, and is fed to the furnace as fuel, the ashes eventually passing back to the land as fertiliser.

Separation is carried out by process of filtration and evaporation. Stage by stage unwanted water and impurities are removed, and a thick syrup evolved. In this form the sugar reaches the refinery at Chelsea. With specially conserved water the sugar is then melted and put through a further series of refinements. The final stages are for the brown liquor, heavily saturated with sugar, to pass through huge tanks containing granulated bone charcoal. This charcoal, or char, removes nearly all the impurities and allows a practically colourless liquor to emerge. Boiling under vacuum leads up to the final separation of the crystals under centrifugal force. These centrifugals revolve at the very high speed of 600 to 1000 revolutions per minute, and drive the liquor or syrup through the perforated sides, retaining the crystals in the interior. These crystals form the white sugar. The final action is to scrape the sugar crystals out, dry the mass under hot air, and pass the sugar through graders ready for packing.

At every single stage chemical control is maintained. There is no waste in the industry, every particle of the cane being put to use first and last. Apart from its use as fuel, cane fibre is made into wallboard with great insulating properties. It is also used as base for fibrous plaster, and even artificial silk may be made from it. Motor spirit is extracted from molasses, and finally the CO₂ gas given off in distillation is used by aerated water manufacturers.

A Distinguished Celloist

SINCE his return to New Zealand three months ago, Claude Tanner has been broadcast on several occasions by 2YA, creating widespread interest, and appreciation of his refined style and flawless technique. He has proved himself an artist of exceptional ability, his complete command over his instrument, beautiful gradations of tone and musical insight being most marked. At



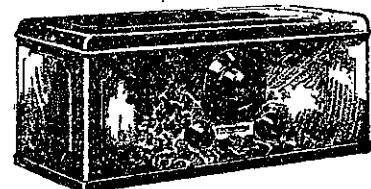
—Andrews, photo.

the early age of 22 he had the unprecedented honour of being appointed Sub-Professor of the Royal Academy of Music, London, where he was successful in securing the L.R.A.M. degree and the highest honour obtainable at the Academy, "Honourable Mention." Claude Tanner has had many varied and interesting experiences during his travels in Europe and North and South America. On one occasion in Lisbon he wished to purchase certain cello music. He was unable to make the assistant understand his indifferent Portuguese or Spanish, so he tried with French with very little success, when to his amazement she said "Do you speak English?" and turned out to be a London girl married to a Portuguese. No doubt there will be many more occasions when Claude Tanner will be heard over the air.

THE radio station which is to be opened at Point Barrow, Alaska, is thought to be the most northerly in the world. One of its functions will be the emission of reports which will be used for forecasting the weather in the U.S.A. This will be a startling advance for Point Barrowites, as hitherto the only means of making contact with the outside world has been by dog-sledge, or by sea during a few weeks in the summer.

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Sovereign's Birthday

Monday, 3rd June

Monday! That means a week-end holiday. What to do? Cheap rail fares for everyone, from and to any station, from Thursday, May 30 to Monday, June 3 provide the solution. Enjoy a pleasant holiday change at very low cost.

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