

Australian Radio

(Continued from page 1.)

there will be a local supervising committee, appointed to see that the terms of the contract are strictly adhered to. It is specified that "the programmes shall be of such a character as to be of general interest, and shall be of sufficient diversity to cater for the reasonable tastes of the community as a whole. The successful tendered shall avoid monotony, tedious repetition of items, and the unduly prolonging use of an artist in a particular State." The Post Office Department has not only the right to censor programmes and to prohibit the broadcast of matter considered to be of a debatable character, but the contract provides that the new contractor "will take into consideration any representations made by the local committee which the Postmaster-General may appoint for the purpose of securing co-operation towards the development of broadcasting services of the highest attainable order." Furthermore, the new contractor "shall do all in his power to cultivate a public desire for transmissions of educational items, musical items of merit, and generally for all items and subjects which tend to elevate the mind."

Educate the Public.

AGAIN, the new contractor "shall make all reasonable arrangements for the rendering of items provided by orchestras, bands, choral societies, and other organisations of high standing in the various localities from which the programmes are distributed, and shall pursue a reasonable policy of inducing the establishment and maintenance of organisations devoting their talent to the rendering of high-class competi-

tions." Conditions such as these savour a little of an endeavour to educate the public by broadcasting when the majority of listeners merely wish to be entertained. If such conditions are utilised by the local committees to foist "high-brow" education propaganda on listeners, the inevitable result will be the cancellation of licenses. Used in moderation and with discretion these conditions may lead to the improvement in the class of entertainment broadcast by some stations, but it will probably be found that the best policy will be to leave the manager of the "A" stations to exercise his judgment in providing the class of programme which he considers most likely to meet the requirements of the great majority of listeners.

One matter that almost all listeners will approve of is the complete elimination of advertising and paid publicity from the "A" stations in future. Listeners, by and large, do not pay 24/- a year to listen to advertising stunts.

THE B.B.C.'s new big studio at Savoy

Hill is probably going to be the only one of its kind in the world. It will be designed in a fantastic green, blue, silver and yellow scheme. The walls are felt-covered, and sound-absorbing walls have been constructed, also. On the walls are pictures of castles towering from a shore of a lake into the clouds, and the effect is heightened by subdued indirect illumination. Altogether it sounds rather like a dream palace. Much better ventilation has been secured and, according to an official of the B.B.C., the studio will no longer possess the old unnatural atmosphere of early designs, but it will now be a cheery, bright place, which will make artistes feel happy and will give them the right colour and atmosphere.

Auckland Notes Tribute to Radio Hero

(By Listener.)

Wireless Operator's Sacrifice

AGAIN a Wellington concert has been heard here even by crystal-set owners, and again the whole transmission was perfect. Mr. Clive Drummond's announcement, "2YA and 1YA broadcasting from the Grand Opera House, Wellington," seems to foretell great things. Wellington and Auckland have been brought much closer, and radio is going to play a big part in overcoming those petty jealousies and rivalries which too often affect the two North Island cities. When the installation of the new telephonic frequencies on the existing land-line is completed, the present capital and the old one will be linked in such a manner that their respective citizens must come to have better mutual understandings. The great majority of those who listened in on Sunday night, and also a fortnight previously, were merely delighted at the excellent entertainment provided. They failed to see a far bigger significance in the success of the two relays. Probably since then they have come to realise what the immediate future holds. The two most important centres in the Dominion, with due apologies to Christchurch and Dunedin, will share all big events in common. No erratic behaviour of the demon static will debar one city from listening to happenings in the other. An important speech in Parliament may be audible all over the island. When the British Rugby team plays in either centre, listeners in both may be able to follow the run of the game as it goes along. Vast possibilities open up, and among them, one, most important, New Zealand is likely to achieve, very soon, what Australia proposes to establish in four years by a relay system. Our Broadcasting Company is certainly alive.

BRIGHTNESS and variety continue to increase in our local programmes. On Saturday last the "Radio Scamps" commandeered the microphone, and made cheerful use of the opportunity. With song, sketch and anecdote they passed a most enjoyable couple of hours. If one were to make comparisons, however, he would declare that their entertainment did not quite reach the standard of that presented in a "Night of Convivialities" which preceded it by a week or two. There was not the same "connectedness," to coin a word, though this is said in no disparagement of the items rendered. There was a naturalness about the "Night of Convivialities" that gave it its greatest charm.

MADAME CORA ELVIN and Mr. Norman Day will be assured of a warm welcome when they make another holiday re-appearance on Tuesday night. The talented Tauranga vocalists are available for broadcasting only during school holidays.

IT is to be hoped that the hundreds of Auckland vocalists who love choral work will rally round in support of the broadcasting choir which is contemplated for 1YA. To a broadcasting station a choir is a great asset—as great, almost, as an orchestra. Though it may start in a small way, the facilities for rehearsal, music, and training which such an organisation offers, should prove attractive to all

SOME considerable time has now elapsed since the ill-fated Vestris met with disaster, but the subject has been brought to greater prominence by a glowing tribute paid by "Le Haut Parleur," one of the leading French radio magazines.

It will be recalled that the Vestris met with disaster on the New York-Buenos Aires route, and through the supreme sacrifice of its radio operator, Mr. M. J. O'Loughlin, and his two subordinates help was summoned in time to save the majority of its passengers and crew. Had it not been for the devotion of these gentlemen, the fate of this vessel would have been listed as a mystery, comparable only with that of the "Marie-Celeste."

The Vestris was equipped with a very fine wireless outfit, capable of communicating a distance ranging to 15,000 miles. When it became evident that the Vestris was doomed, the operator commenced transmitting and carried on for three hours with his main transmitter, following up with the emergency transmitter until the ship was abandoned. After the ship heeled over and the engine-room became flooded with water, it is evident that with power cut off the operator had to switch over to his emergency set, operated by battery power. It was then, with the wireless cabin rapidly filling with water, O'Loughlin and his subordinates continued their gallant work, and enabled a considerable number of lives to be saved.

In publishing on its front page a photograph of the operator in his cabin, "Le Haut Parleur" states: "Among those who each day in life's drama simply and magnificently make the supreme sacrifice of their lives, must be named in particular these wireless telegraphists of the Vestris, who died at their post to save the lives of others. They knew at the tragic moment when their ship began to fill that no one would bear witness to their sacrifice, and spurning the instinct of conservation of life, remained to die. Obsessed with the greatest idea—duty—they let slip before them their hopes and ambitions, visualising for the last time those who remained at home—now so distant. Governed by their unwavering hands the sparks continued to fly until the critical moment when the waves drowning the apparatus came in their turn to seize these indefatigable and to cut short their last SOS. Dragged in the depths, they became the victims of an unselfish devotion to remain in those silent waters, the sole guardians in death of that submerged vessel."

who love part-singing, and appreciate the joy it will give to tens of thousands, for no other choir can hope to secure the vast audiences which await the performances of a radio choir. Listeners themselves can do much to help the new movement.

THE latest models of electric receivers are now being landed by several local firms, and are exciting keen interest and appreciation of their performances by those who have been fortunate enough to hear them.

DEPARTMENT OF TOURIST AND HEALTH RESORTS

When Travelling in New Zealand book your tour with

The Nearest Government Tourist Bureau

BOOKING BUREAUX AT:—

AUCKLAND	Government Life Insurance Bldg., Queen St.
TE AROHA	Whitaker Street
ROTORUA	Fenton Street
WANGANUI	Rutland Buildings (Opp. G.P.O.)
WELLINGTON	Dominion Building, Wakefield Street
NELSON	Hardy Street
CHRISTCHURCH	83 Cathedral Square
GREYMOUTH	Mackay Street
DUNEDIN	Rattray Street
INVERCARGILL	Esk Street
NAPIER	Hastings Street
WESTPORT	Next Bank of N.Z.

AUSTRALIAN OFFICES:—

SYDNEY	London Bank Chambers, 20 Martin Place
MELBOURNE	Dominion Chambers, 59 William Street
ADELAIDE	Director South Australia Intelligence Bureau
BRISBANE	King House, Queen Street
PERTH	285 Queen's Buildings, Murray Street