

## Hawke's Bay Notes

(By XYZ.)

WHILST one does not find much pleasure in having to report that reception conditions in H.B. are bad, at the same time there is no use in calling a spade other than a spade and, by the same token, one must candidly admit that most local listeners are just wondering when they're going to get a decent night. Saturday, the 11th, wasn't at all bad, but it was the only one worth while in the last three weeks. Static has been the bugbear, and if there's anything in that Invercargill claim for the discovery of a static eliminator, may it come to the market soon.

AS far as station strength is concerned, there is nothing to growl about. Our old friend, 1YA, is still top of the tree for all-round reception, with 3YA a close second, and both these stations are still received well ahead of 2YA. The second relay of the Wellington band concert from Auckland again provided further proof of the quality of local reception from the Auckland and Wellington stations. There was plenty of static about at the time, but, even so, it was quite tolerable to listen to Auckland, whereas it was impossible from Wellington.

ON Saturday, the 11th, at about 9.45 p.m., the writer made a test of the various New Zealand and Australian stations, working all under the same conditions. The same turn on the volume control was used in each case, and Auckland finished on top. Placing Auckland at R10, Christchurch came in at R9. 2BL, Sydney, was next, with little less volume, say R8, and 2YA, Wellington, and 2FC, Sydney, were about equal, R7. 4YA came through at about R5, and was on a par with 3LO, 4QG, 2GB and 3AR. Later in the evening 7ZL, Hobart, was about R6. These figures in actual fact may be a bit on the high side, but are used for comparison purposes.

THE Radio Society in Hastings is eagerly looking forward to the date of the broadcast of the special relay concert from Hastings. The president of the society, His Lordship the Bishop of Aotea Roa, is at present away, and until he returns, no date can be settled, as he is to arrange the Maori portion of the programme. This concert is surely going to be "some show." The present intention is to stage it in aid of the Napier Hospital radio fund and the H.B. Radio Society's clubroom fund. The latter is now working hard to raise funds to erect its own clubroom and experimental quarters.

DOING well! That's the position regarding the relicensing of sets in Hastings, and from what one hears, there is likely to be a good radio season

## Gramophone Merger

### H.M.V. and Marconi's Right to Wireless Patents

IT is announced that a merger agreement has been concluded between the Gramophone Company, Limited (His Master's Voice), and Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company, Limited.

By this agreement, says the "Morning Post," His Master's Voice Company acquire the Marconiphone Company, "as well as the right to use present and future Marconi patents and inventions in all fields of public entertainment and education."

It is stated that: "His Master's Voice has also acquired the exclusive right for these fields to the Marconi trade marks, including the trade marks 'Marconi' and 'Marconiphone' and certain factory facilities. The Marconi Company will receive cash and shares in H.M.V., thereby becoming interested in the prosperity of the combined gramophone and wireless broadcasting industry."

#### Jump in Shares.

GRAMOPHONE (H.M.V.) shares made a spurt on the London Stock Exchange on rumours of the deal and suggestions of a pending scrip bonus and a share-splitting scheme. The shares rose £1 7s. 6d. to £17 5-16 at the close. On March 1, they were quoted at £15.

In spite of a somewhat severe reaction in New York, Radio Corporation of America (New) and Victor Talking Machines provided outstanding features by rising eight dollars and ten dollars respectively. These two companies will shortly be combined as far as stock market quotations are concerned, and are intimately connected with H.M.V. Mr. Alfred Clark, for instance, who is managing director of the Gramophone Company, is also on the board of the Victor Talking Machine Company of America.

ahead. The advent of a certain new receiver seems to have bucked the trade along at a good rate and a local agent for these sets reports excellent business—so good, in fact, that the supply is not enough to meet his demand.

HAWKE'S BAY had a bad spin with the floods this week, but now that the bad spell has cleared, it is hoped that air conditions will improve. Whilst on this, it is worth mentioning as showing the enthusiasm of local listeners, that in the height of the flood, with the rain coming down in barrow loads, eight out of eleven members attended the last meeting of the committee. Those who turned up decided that they were "big mugs" to leave home under such conditions, but, with keenness such as this, there is little chance of the society being other than the live body it now is.

Much buying of Gramophones (H.M.V.) which has emanated from New York during the last few days has also been due to rumours of scrip bonus and a share-splitting scheme.

Gramophone Company, Ltd., was registered in 1900 as the Gramophone and Typewriter Company, Ltd., changing its name in 1907. The authorised capital is £1,700,000 in £1 shares, £100,000 in 5 per cent. cum preference, and £1,600,000 ordinary shares.

#### Previous Merger.

IT must be remembered that the Radio Corporation of America took over the Victor Talking Machine Company some time ago and the merger is now an accomplished fact. These two American companies own half the shares of Gramophone (H.M.V.), the English company, but, when the new shares of the Gramophone Company are issued to the Marconiphone Company (i.e. Americans will no longer have a controlling interest.

Mr. Walter Howarth Cooper, the secretary of Gramophone Company, stated to the "Morning Post" that H.M.V. acquires not only the Marconiphone Company, a subsidiary company of the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company, which has an authorised share capital of £4,000,000 (£2,270,133 paid up), but also the right to use present and future Marconi patents and inventions in all fields of public entertainment and education. This, he explained, includes gramophone amplifiers, etc.

Mr. Cooper added that H.M.V. was also taking over the radio factories of the Sterling Telephone and Electric Company.

The Sterling Telephone and Electric Company is controlled by Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company (under the directorship of Mr. F. G. Kellaway), which has an authorised share capital of £65,000.

### An Authentic List.

DX enthusiasts will find in the "Guide" a complete log of New Zealand and overseas stations. Almost every station heard or likely to be heard has been listed.

The lists of American stations are indeed complete. One list, those already reported, has been corrected to include the last station reported through these columns—that a fortnight ago. These have been carefully checked with several American lists, and are as authentic as possible. The second list contains the calls, wavelength, power, and location of some fifty of the more powerful stations that may eventually be heard here. This aids the DX enthusiast who hears but part of a call in identifying the station.

Other lists are Australian, Japanese, Canadian, and miscellaneous broadcast stations.

## A Correspondent's Report

TO many people there is now welcome variety to radio programmes per medium of shortwave, writes S.P. (Johnsonville), and to those who regularly listen in on shortwave there is considerable of interest. This afternoon was quite good to enliven the week-end, and several records were broken. W8XK, associated with KDKA at Pittsburgh, rebroadcast Morse messages from WFA in the Ice Barrier at "Little America," and these signals were rebroadcast by 2ME, of Sydney. Sydney's special programme to Commander Byrd was received by me as follows:—Item, "In a Chinese Garden." For benefit of American listeners Sydney time stated as 18 minutes past 4 Sunday afternoon. Mr. Farmer was introduced and said, "It is indeed a thrill to think that I am able to address a Sydney Commander Byrd, geographically 5000 miles away, but the message has to travel 10,000 miles to Pittsburgh and another 11,000 odd miles to him. There is really something fantastic about it, and I trust you will be able to get me clearly. We read of you and gallant crew at South Pole, and trust your work will further the knowledge of mankind in general. With these few remarks I close. When the long winter closes your expedition will have added considerable to the knowledge of mankind. Good-bye." "Wipers," by H.M. Grenadier Guards Band. At 4.25 p.m., Sydney time, Mrs. McDonald, known as Mrs. Sydney, said: "Very pleased to speak to you all, and convey message good-will from mothers of Australia. To Commander Byrd best wishes for very great success. Good-bye." H.M.V. record, "Serenade," by Salon Orchestra. 2ME stated they found lag in reception of their own signals through 8XK of about a second, though the interval could have been only 1-1-sec. Records, "In a Persian Market," H.M. Coldstream Guards Band, "Lieberstraume," and weather forecast for Sydney.

It was nearly 4 a.m. when Pittsburgh signed off with 2ME, Sydney.

#### Additional Stations Logged.

HERE are a couple of items to add to Mr. Sellens's excellent list in the "Guide":—VPD, Suva, on 20.795 metres. Often duplex with "Percy," of 2BE, Sydney, DGV Nauen, on 15.43 metres. Often late evenings with Bangkok, Siam. I have heard this station calling "Hullo" (all foreigners use English "Hullo") Zedem (Siam), "Commen ze bitter," etc. G5SW, latest schedule given on May 7. London transmission Monday-Friday, 11 p.m.-12 p.m.; 5.30-10.30 a.m. Tuesday-Saturday, and special gramophone recitals on Tuesday and Thursday, 10.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m., New Zealand mean time and London daylight time. If the shortwave page can be made a permanent affair it would be a good thing. The "Record" should be bigger when carrying heavy advertisement. It did last week (May 10).

**"FADA" Still the Standard of Radio Reception**

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