

# Short-wave Jottings

OUR short-wave correspondent, Mr. Sellens, of Northland, writes:—

It is reported that a new short-wave station will shortly be testing in Australia, on a wavelength of 40 metres.

"Popular Wireless" says that DHE is the call of the German station working on about 41 metres. This station is often heard here in the early morning, usually at good volume.

I am surprised to read that Mr. W. T. Webb (Devonport) reports good reception of 7LO, Nairobi, recently as the reverse has been my experience. Nothing stronger than a faint carrier has been heard for some time.

The following from "Wireless Weekly" (Sydney) will be of interest to all who listen to G5SW, Chelmsford, England:—

Some little time ago BCI, Mr. Russell Crane, wrote to the British Broadcasting Corporation giving his views on the 5SW service. The letter from the B.B.C. in reply, is very interesting, and is, by the courtesy of Mr. Russell Crane, published here:—

Dear Sir,—We have to acknowledge with many thanks your most interesting letter of January 22, in which you express your views on long distance short-wave transmission, with particular reference to 5SW. In the main we agree with all that you have to say.

Since their inception the transmissions of 5SW have been, and are, purely experimental, and we make no pretensions that the station is giving a service; for this there are several reasons.

1. Owing to the difference in longitude between the various parts of the British Empire a service would have to be on a 24-hour basis.

2. It is well known to any competent wireless engineer that a short-wave transmission of sufficient power can be received at a given time and under favourable conditions almost anywhere in the world; but there is a vast difference between mere audibility and a service which implies regularity and reliability of reception.

3. Given a "service" there still remains the difficult and involved question of payment for maintenance of the transmitter, programmes, and copyright, with all its implications.

It seems unfair to us that the licensed listener in the British Isles, from whom the B.B.C. derives the major portion of its revenue, should bear the whole cost of a short-wave station on a service basis, seeing that such a station is practically useless to listeners in the British Isles.

There are three main categories in which we can place those who are interested in a short-wave Empire broadcast service:—

(a) The "amateur" wireless engineer and experimenter. This class need not be considered seriously, as it is relatively small.

(b) Those who live in isolated parts of the world, where there is no broadcasting service, such as military and civil administrators, planters, and so on. Judging by correspondence and conversations with individuals of this class, broadcasting in any form, would be a godsend, and the persons concerned are not, and would not be, particularly critical as regards the quality or the regularity of their reception. Some, no doubt, come under class "A," but these are in the minority, the majority have no technical knowledge, and look upon their receiver as a means of entertainment and not as a scientific instrument.

(c) Those, like yourself, who live in the greater Dominions within the range

of an existing broadcast service, but who would wish to hear some items of special interest, such as mentioned in the postscript of your letter.

The problem of Empire broadcasting is intimately bound up with that of short-wave reception, and the purpose of our present experiments, which you know are being carried out with 2XAD, is to ascertain how far short-wave reception can be stabilised and improved by the utilisation of spaced aërials or other devices so that the chief obstacle, fading, may be overcome.

The idea at which we aim is that a short-wave transmission may be so well received as to be "re-broadcastable" throughout the local system in a manner that would not compare unfavourably with the normal output. It is probable that we are very far from attaining this ideal; but the results we have had to date are not altogether discouraging. For instance, we re-broadcast quite successfully from 2XAD the description of the landing of the Graf Zeppelin in October last, and the National Broadcasting Corporation of the United States of America relayed the London programme, received via Chelmsford, through a chain of 40 stations, on February 5. You will see, therefore, that our experiments tend towards providing a service that will be of interest to the listener in class "C." Class "B," however, has our very sympathetic consideration.

We have set forth the position at some length, and trust that the explanation is clear.

We would once more express our thanks to you for your letter of January 22, and previous correspondence.

BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION.

T. C. H. SHAW, Chief Engineer.

This letter put the matter in a nutshell, and there is no doubt but that the B.B.C. is working hard to overcome the many technical problems involved.

Saturday, May 11.

BIG BEN from 5SW was followed by the music critic, Mr. Ernest Newman. His talk was 100 per cent. readable at R8. A piano recital followed, then a talk about the French, after which the latest golf news was given. Reception was very good. PCJ was not heard during the early morning or afternoon.

KDKA and 2XAD were both R8, reception being clearer from the latter station. "Half-hours with the Senate" were broadcast from both, the usual musical programme following.

Sunday, May 12.

AT 11 a.m., 2XAD was tuned in, when music was quite good at R4; KDKA being R3 at the same time, with a talk spoilt by a H.F. hum. Later 2XAD was relaying dance music from the Crystal Room of the De Witzler Hotel, Albany, N.Y.

A stranger on about 49.6 metres at R5 was picked up. Music and talk were heard, but static on this wave was very bad, too much so to hear the call; by the voice, it was an American.

KDKA after their usual programme put over a special one for the Byrd Expedition. At 5.13 p.m. they called WFA, a short-wave station of the expedition, stating that they were ready for the message which was to be rebroadcast. The first message was to the effect that the programme had been well received by the party.

A full report by Mr. R. Leslie Jones appeared in last week's "Record" of this and the following interesting broadcasts.

Reception was very good from both KDKA through W8XK and VK2ME.

but signals from Sydney via Pittsburgh were badly distorted, though fully readable.

W8XK were also transmitting on 62.5 metres, which at 5 p.m. was receivable at R6. A strong harmonic on 31.25 metres was readable at about R3. This is the first time I have heard the first harmonic of their 62.5 transmitter. RFM was R9 at 10 p.m. Static was very bad.

Monday, May 13.

MUSIC was just audible on about 32 metres at 6.30 a.m. 3LO, Melbourne, was late in starting. Strength was R9, with excellent modulation, but severe fading.

Tuesday, May 14.

AT 5.27 a.m. the tuning whistle and call of G5SW were heard. After Big Ben the conclusion of an organ item was picked up. A talk about theatres followed, strength was R8-9, but readability was poor. Records and then a French lesson were heard. There was not any sign of another s.w. station on telephony.

RFM, ZL2BE, and ZL2AX were well-received during the evening.

Wednesday, May 15.

VERY rapid fading caused 5SW to be not worth listening to this morning. DHE (?) Germany, on about 41.8 metres was quite good at R8. Musical items with "Achtung," etc., between. During rather long intervals a metronome could be heard ticking. "Ramona" was heard soon after 6.30 a.m., when reception was rather better than it had been. PCJ commenced at 6.30 a.m. with what they termed a "special experimental transmission." This continued till about 7.15 a.m. Strength was R8, with slight fading. On 15.6 (about) and 15.2 metres duplex telephony (Dutch?) at R4 and R6 respectively, was heard. The same voices, a man and woman, were audible from each station. W6XN (KGO) was tuned in at 5.45 p.m., when the "World's News Service" was being given. An announcement was made that the programme of KGO was broadcast on shortwaves through W6XN each Tuesday night from 8 p.m. till 12 p.m. (Tuesday 8.30 p.m. till 7.30 p.m., New Zealand.) The "Spotlight Revue," from the San Francisco studio was heard till 6.30 p.m., after which Frank Ellise and his Trocaderoians entertained with dance music till 7.30 p.m. The station signed off at 7.31 p.m. VK2ME at R9, and VPD, Suva, at R7 were on duplex telephony.

Thursday, May 16.

DHE again was very good at R9. "Achtung—Berlin—" was all I could make of the announcements. Music was heard till 6 a.m., after which slow speech with long intervals was broadcast. 5SW were late in starting. Strength R7, with rapid fading. W6XN was R3-4 at 6 a.m. The two stations just above 15 metres on duplex telephony were both very weak. At 10.30 p.m., very weak speech was audible on about 16.4 metres. ZL2BE, Hastings, was very good at R9. RFM R8-9. Some static. PHI at 11 p.m. were R3-4, increasing to R5 during the short time I was listening. Music and talk was very clear and steady.

Friday, May 17.

A TALK about "China" was in progress when 5SW was tuned in at 6 a.m. R7-8, about 50 per cent. readable. At 6.18 a.m. Jack Hobbs was announced, who sang a comic song with patter, topical items such as the weather, the coming elections, etc. PCJ was R8 at 6 a.m., remaining at that volume till 7.30 a.m. British Colonies, America and Canada were called.

## Results of Exhibition

BUSINESS at the Wireless Exhibition at Olympia this year was of a record nature. One loud-speaker firm alone reckoned that it would sell at least 150,000 loud-speakers in the coming season. Already British radio goods are invading the American market, says a well-known manufacturer, foreign competition is no longer feared, and the Continent now looks to Britain for its supply of radio gear.

## FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE

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

PHILLIPS ELIMINATOR, new model, £5; also Crosley Pick-up with tone-arm, etc., £3. New condition. Any demonstration. "Dent," Box 893, Auckland.

SHORT-WAVE SET and number of Radio Parts, Condensers, Transformers, etc., for sale, very cheap. Apply P. J. Cannell, Rangataua, K.C.

WANTED SELL, 5-Valve Radio, complete, Accumulator, "A" Charger, "B" Eliminator, Loudspeaker. Cash £20. Apply "Calcutta," Box 1032, Wellington.

FOR PRIVATE SALE, Seven 20-Volt Units Fuller "B" Batteries; large capacity; in perfect condition; cost £9 9s. What offers? Write Radio, care 110 Southern Cross Building, Auckland.

TWO OMNIGRAPHS, will send up to fifty words a minute. Ideal for learning Morse. Lynn, Lyndon Road, Hastings.

KEEP your "Records" neat. Filing covers, strong, printed and pierced. 1/6 post free—"Radio Record," P.O. Box 1032, Wellington.

8-VALVE Fada Receiver, in new condition, with Valves. Also good Radiola Speaker, P.B. Eliminator. Apply "Valve," Box 1032, Wellington.

HAVE you obtained your "Listener's Guide"? 2/6 from booksellers and radio dealers, or 2/9 post free from publishers. Box 1032, Wellington.

SHORT-WAVE SET by Mack's Radio. Owner bought another set. Box 3, Stratford.

YOU can save money by writing for our special radio mail-order price list. Electric Lamp House, 27 Manners Street, Wellington.

RALEIGH 5-valve radio set, £10 cash. Valves in good order, also 6-volt A battery, 50-volt B battery; A and B battery charger. Freight paid to any address by owner. Owner going in for all-electric model. Apply "Receiver," Box 64, Henley, Otago.

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