

Cable Merger

Epoch-making Event

AT the meeting of Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company, Lord Inverforth, who presided, recalled that the Government took the exploitation of Imperial beam wireless out of the hands of the company, which had invented and developed the system, and made it a Post Office monopoly. The Government license to the Marconi Company excluded its participation in wireless telegraphy to the rest of the Empire. In the circumstances, the only revenue the company could hope to derive from the beam service was a royalty of 6½ per cent. on the gross traffic. It also became certain that as Marconi's foreign services developed the cable companies would not sit quietly under wireless competition, but would embark on a rate war, which would certainly have reduced their revenue and been even more damaging to the Marconi Company. He believed that the establishment of one comprehensive system of Imperial communications would form a landmark in the history of world communications.

Resolutions authorising the merger were carried unanimously.

At a meeting of the Eastern Telegraph Company, Sir Denison Pender said that the invention of beam wireless resulted in the establishment by the British Government of beam wireless communication "in competition with our most remunerative fields of telegraphic correspondence. If we reduced the cable rates to wireless rates and recovered the traffic previously lost to the beam, the Government would reduce the rates still further."

Resolutions for the merger were carried.

4YA Church Advisory Committee Meeting

A MEETING of the 4YA Church Service Advisory Committee was held at the Studios Moray Place on Monday, May 27, the Rev. E. S. Tuckwell presiding over the following attendance of delegates:—

Archdeacon Fitchett (Anglican), Rev. C. Miller (Presbyterian), Rev. H. E. Bellhouse (Methodist), Rev. W. D. More (Church of Christ), Rev. A. Mead (Congregational), Captain Chandler (Salvation Army), Mr. S. J. Hayden, station director of 4YA, and Mr. A. L. Curry, announcer at 4YA.

The church service rota as decided upon at the previous meeting was confirmed, and delegates expressed satisfaction with the draft as drawn up and submitted.

A request came before the committee that an Orange service should be broadcast during July, and after discussion it was decided that the committee should adhere to the rota originally drawn up.

The question of special broadcasts on Thanksgiving Day was discussed at some length, and it was finally decided that services be broadcast from the Anglican and Congregational Churches on the date in question, one service to be broadcast in the morning and the other in the evening.

Catering for Numerous Requests

A Correspondent Reviews the Broadcasting Service

IN a recent publication of the "Radio Record," I noticed that listeners were requested to state their views of the programmes of the broadcasting stations. Before stating my own views on the subject, I would like to mention that I have followed with interest the various letters which have been published from time to time, and taking them collectively it clearly shows how utterly impossible it is to satisfy all the time all the numerous and varied tastes included in the listening-in public.

A great many complaints that have appeared at various times appear to me to be very childish, and often decidedly selfish, which goes to show how very narrow is the view taken by some of the writers. I have many times been reminded of the old fable of the man and his son who were taking the ass to market, and, incidentally, they were also taking the advice of one and the other met by the way.

Some of the criticism, on the other hand, is very intelligent, and no doubt it has proved helpful to the Broadcasting Company. Surely to the large majority of the listeners, who take a broad view of the whole situation, it must appear quite obvious that the Broadcasting Company are doing all they possibly can with the means at their disposal, to cater for the numerous different requirements of the public whom they serve. It is impossible, of course, to suit everybody all the time, so the next best thing is to suit everybody in their turn, and I believe the company are making an honest attempt to do it.

Marked Improvement.

I HAVE been listening in now for over two years, and during that time the improvement in the broadcasting generally has been very marked. I have many times remarked on the way the various stations pounce down on notable people who may be passing and get them to deliver over the air whatever may be in their particular line. So much we are inclined to take as a matter of course, giving little thought to the amount of trouble and expense involved in giving us perhaps just a few minutes of pleasure. These cases are too numerous to mention, but just to hint at one of them; we all knew, of course, that the description of the taking off of the Southern Cross from Blenheim was broadcast, but did we worry about how much was done and what it cost to give us just those few minutes?

QUITE recently I noticed one writer complaining about the broadcasting of the weather conditions from the various stations in the country. Now, for my own part, I have appreciated that very much. The writer remarks that it is of little interest to anybody but the shipping people. Surely he must be one of those who still believes in the long ago exploded myth that the moon controls the weather.

I have noticed several who are wanting more news in the news session, and as a settler in a very out-of-the-way part of the country, I can quite agree with them, but at the same time, to those who have just read the evening paper, it must be rather boring. Personally I get very bored when all the racing news is put over, but then there are thousands who are very glad to hear it, so they are welcome to it.

Now a Growl.

HOWEVER, just to get on the other side for a wee while, there are one or two little things I would like to growl about, while I have the chance. One is that I notice that one of the announcers at 2YA, when reading out figures, after the decimal point, he reads them the same as those before the point. For instance, not long ago he was giving over the barometer readings, and for, say, 29.96 he read it as twenty-nine decimal ninety-six. It sounded bad to me, and I am sure it is never taught that way in any of the schools in New Zealand.

Another thing, the instances I will mention happened months ago, but still similar items may come along in the future. I allude to the cricket scores at the Australian test matches. They are many of us in the country who do not finish the day's work until after 8 p.m., summer time, so the only news we get is at 9 p.m. Now, it happened often from 2YA that at 9 p.m. all we heard was the latest progress reports. Say, for example, "England in their second innings had lost two wickets for 110 runs," and we were left to imagine what Australia had made in their first innings. That was probably put over during the news session or at 4.30, and was missed by all who were not tuned in at that time of day.

In conclusion, I will take this opportunity of thanking the Broadcasting Company for their very good class and variety of programmes that are put over the air, and also for their many little incidental items of interest that we hear from time to time.—"A Back-Blocker" (Coromandel Peninsula).

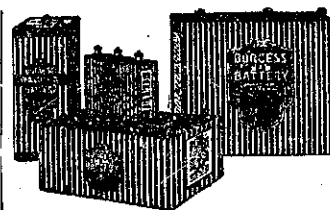
Relay from Hamilton

A Successful Event

THE broadcast on relay from Hamilton by station 1YA, Auckland, on Tuesday afternoon last of the opening ceremony of the Waikato Winter Show and the special musical programme arranged for the occasion was an achievement highly creditable. It had been arranged to put over a three hours' broadcast, from 2 to 3 p.m., but when the company's representative, Mr. John Ball, arrived in Hamilton he was concerned to discover that the official programme would in all probability occupy less than an hour. The entire programme comprised a bugle call (to call the assembled thousands to attention), the singing of an opening ode, four short speeches (estimated correctly to average not more than ten minutes), and the National Anthem.

It was only necessary to mention the apparent oversight to the keenly enthusiastic officials of the Winter Show Association. The secretary, Mr. Paul, whose outstanding ability as an organiser is so eloquently demonstrated by the magnitude of the splendid exhibition, was determined that there should be no "let down" so far as the broadcast was concerned, and promptly placed the company's representative in touch with Mr. T. S. Webster, the well-known organist and choirmaster, Mr. Webster, who, by the way, prior to his removal from Auckland to Wellington, treated listeners-in to many delightful organ recitals, was just the man to save the situation. Enlisting the aid of his Exhibition Choir and Orchestra, and some of the leading vocalists and instrumentalists of Hamilton, he very capably organised an acceptable programme which, with the official ceremony, enabled 4YA to keep on the air for the full three hours, save for a slight interval occasioned by the necessity of transferring the microphone from the official to the concert platform. The programme was so arranged as to enable Mr. Ball to put over several interesting and informative "talks" relative to the show, the town and district, and the great primary industry in which the Waikato holds such a foremost place. These "talks" included a specially-prepared description of the show and a statement of great value to dairy farmers throughout the Dominion concerning the wonderfully beneficent results accruing from herd-testing and New Zealand's unique system of calf-marking. Before leaving Hamilton the company's representative was afforded ample evidence of the pleasure occasioned by the broadcast, prominent officers of the Winter Show Association and leading citizens of Hamilton expressing to him their warm appreciation of the company's enterprise.

RADIO-CONTROLLED clocks are the latest indication of the uses to which the modern geni is to be put, according to reports originating at the Paramount-Express station KNX, Hollywood. One of the members of the technical staff is developing a device which he claims will enable listeners to regulate their watches and clocks by means of radio. Interesting, if true.



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