

# Short-wave Jottings

**MR. A. R. MORRISON, Brooklyn,**

writes:—  
Regarding the tests of the Dutch station P.H.I., wave 16.88 metres, the first time I heard this transmitter was on January 28, 1929, on this transmission his strength and modulation was perfect, they were also heard in February during one of his special tests 4.30 p.m. New Zealand time, Saturday. Reception was heard here very well indeed, but lately P.H.I. has again been carrying out tests, but I have not been too successful in hearing him.

Last Saturday, June 22, he was supposed to begin at 11.30 p.m. New Zealand time. I tried for him for an hour, but could not even get a whisper of his carrier wave. I think probably the reason he is not audible here late at night is that the time is not suitable for New Zealand, because it would be broad daylight in Holland.

By announcements made by PCJ it seems P.H.I. is heard very well in Australia. I would like to see reports from other shortwave listeners outside of Wellington, such as Christchurch and Auckland, of their success, if any.

## Programmes to Byrd.

THE special programme to Commander Byrd and party in Little America (polar regions) given by the Paramount Film Company on Sunday, June 23, the broadcast commenced at approximately 2.35 p.m. New Zealand time, when many introductions were made.

Mr. John L. Laszky was the first to speak to Commander Byrd, others were Buddy Rodgers, film star, and Mary Bryan, who seemed to be a little shy of the microphone. We heard a couple of humourists talking about a trip to the moon. I did not catch their names, but believe they were the original Black Crows we often hear on the records.

A message was read to Commander Byrd by the Hon. George Atkinson, secretary for President Hoover. We next heard Rudy Vala and his "Yankees," who rendered a few musical items. The general manager of the Laszky Corporation was then introduced and had much to say to Byrd. It was then announced that a great friend of its commander would speak (who, I think, had the best radio voice of them all). He was announced as Jimmy Walker (not Johnny Walker), Mayor of New York. His first words were: "Hullo, Dick." He made a very fine speech, every word was heard, and I am using a detector and a two-audio, which gets anywhere.

This programme concluded at 3.20 p.m., N.Z.T. I should state that this hour's programme came from the Ambassador Hotel, Atlantic City, broadcast by KDKA, Pittsburg, on W8XK., S.W. They then went over to William Penn Hotel for messages for Byrd and party, and a little after 5.30 p.m., our time. W8XK stated they would then rebroadcast VK2ME, Sydney, another special broadcast for Commander Byrd. As far as I am concerned this rebroadcast was a failure; at times modulation was good, but to make a short story of it it was not a success, as the American announcer stated, because of receiving conditions there. I found on tuning to 2ME, 28.5 metres, modulation was perfect only for a slight fade now and again, so it will be seen that the R.B. Company of New Zealand are not the only ones who find that S.W. rebroadcasting is not always successful.

I have heard SXAL or WLW quite frequently lately. He seems to be on the air every day, and has been tuned in as early as 3.15 p.m., but at that time not with any great strength, his transmissions continued till 5.30 p.m., and at that time he sometimes reaches R7 to 8, but he is not consistent. He comes on the air again at 10.45 p.m., N.Z.T., for one hour, for "the farmers' hour" (early risers there, I guess). The programme begins with "Hullo, everybody"; station call, time given generally a little after 6 a.m., their time; weather conditions, and weather report, followed by a musical item or two, then market reports, vegetables and such like, and very often its announcer continues with the cures for diseases in fruit, flowers.

His strength is about R7 for its first twenty minutes or so; he then gradually goes down. It can be expected, because SXAZ's power is only 750 watts, wavelength 49.5 metres, or 6060 kilocycles.

W3XL, Boundbrook, New Jersey, was on the air again last night, Tuesday, June 25, conducting a test. He came on as soon as SXAL concluded his transmission at 5.30 p.m. I listened to him for about a quarter of an hour; he was playing musical items, strength R8, modulation good. Again to-night he was heard

(26th). Opened up about the same time and announced that this was a test programme, and gave his wave as 49.8 metres, or 6020 kilocycles, and asked listeners to report on his transmission and to address mail to W3XL, Boundbrook, New Jersey, U.S.A.

I listened for him again at 7.30 p.m., and he was still on the air. He closed down not long afterwards with the concluding item, mentioning that it would be of interest to those in Australia and New Zealand—a recording of the Westminster organ. He closed down, giving his time as 4.15 and 45 seconds a.m. This concludes this period of test programme, and "We are now signing off. Good-night all" (instead of good-morning). Strength and modulation was R8, with slight fading.

## Byrd Broadcasts

AN excellent programme was broadcast by KDKA (Pittsburg) on Saturday night, June 22 (Sunday afternoon, New Zealand time), film artists providing the very fine items on an acceptable menu. Mayor (Mickie) Walker, New York, a friend of Commander Byrd, spoke specially to Commander Byrd, and President Hoover's secretary also spoke to Commander Byrd.

2ME (Amalgamated Wireless, Australasia, Sydney) also broadcast a special musical programme for KDKA, the latter rebroadcasting same to Commander Byrd. Reception in Wellington, states Mr. R. Leslie Jones, of Lyall Bay, was excellent throughout.

## Children's Sessions

### 4YA SESSIONS.

MONDAY, JULY 8:

K stands for Kensington,  
S stands for School,  
M for the melody  
They bring as a rule.

TUESDAY, JULY 9:

If you're a Scout, so people say,  
You must do one good deed a day;  
St. Martin's Scouts their debt will pay

This Tuesday night at 4YA.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10:

Just what they'll do it's hard to tell,  
What they won't do is stamp and yell;

You'll find they sound a happy band  
When led in song by Kirk-Burnand.

FRIDAY, JULY 12:

An old grey College built on a hill  
Where maidens go their minds to fill,  
Columbia's the name, and you'll be quite wrong

If you think they know nothing of laughter and song.

SATURDAY, JULY 13:

Here comes a school that sings as a rule

Without the piano's aid;  
They're from Moray Place and it will be the case

They'll have to come again, I'm afraid.

Have you secured your copy of

"N.Z. Radio Listener's Guide?"

Dealers and Booksellers 2/6; Post Free 2/6—P.O. Box 1032, Wellington.

Now Available.

## News Items

THE Radio Wien short-wave transmitter recently carried out satisfactory preliminary tests, and will shortly be brought into nightly operation with the relay of the ordinary Vienna broadcast programmes. Details of the official times of transmission, wavelength, and power will be available within the next few days.

THE air mail liners on the new route from Croydon to India are in wireless communication with the ground throughout the entire journey. The usual wireless organisation is used on the London-Basle section, this comprising the stations at Croydon, Le Bourget, and the Marconi station at Basle. R.A.F. stations form links in the chain after Alexandria. From Basra to Karachi the machines can communicate with the Marconi stations at Chabar and Bunda Abbas, in Persia, while in the concluding stages they are in continuous touch with the powerful station at Karachi.

THE taxing of valves has often been suggested, not only in France, but in other countries, but it has usually not been found to be a very practical scheme, owing particularly to the fact that the design of receivers is continually changing, with the consequence that a valve tax which at one time seems to be equitable may within a very short period become unfair either to the Government or to the listener. A great deal of time has been wasted in regard to broadcasting in France, and the large and increasing body of French listeners now hope that a regular basis will soon be reached and that important advantages to them will result.

## 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.

**STALLOY-TRANSFORMER.**—Stalloy 36 x 1 inches 2/- doz. Other sizes proportional. Also supplied cut, punched. Special quantity quotations. J. Stalloy Ltd., P.O. Box 471, Auckland.

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

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

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**NAPIER, HAWKE'S BAY.**

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Before you buy a SET—

It will pay you to do so

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