

## Justice to the South.

I READ with interest the article in last week's "Radio Record" regarding the part played by radio in the recent West Coast earthquake disaster. There is one omission, however. I would like to see remedied and that is a reference to the splendid way in which the local radio station (VLB) rose to the occasion. The operators there had a very trying time, as theirs was the task of keeping up communication between the s.s. Kaituna at Westport and the rest of New Zealand, for the first two days after the disaster. Consequently they had to bear the brunt of the heavy traffic long before arrangements were completed to send two radio operators to the West Coast to take over the equipment on one of the ships there. I think it only fair under the circumstances that some appreciation should be shown the efforts of these men to whom we are all indebted for the bulk of the news during the first few days. Why is it, may I inquire, that Southland is always passed over, no matter what the subject may be? Is it the little "green god" of jealousy or is it that Northerners are merely unwilling to share a little of the "cake" with their brothers in the South Island?—NOT A RADIO OP.

[Why does the South imagine jealousy when none exists? If your merits are not known whose fault is it? Blow your own trumpet more.—Ed.]

## Relaying 2YA.

"VARIETY" is evidently one of those selfish persons who does not care a hang for other people as long as his likes and dislikes are pandered to. When he complains about 4YA re-broadcasting 2YA on Saturday nights, he forgets that this is the only chance that hundreds of crystal set users have of hearing anything outside Dunedin. If "Variety" does not like listening to 2YA, he must have a queer taste for music, as this station, especially on Saturday nights, "puts over" the best programme of any of the New Zealand or Australian stations. Is the set "Variety" has incapable of bringing in Auckland or the Australian stations on Saturday nights? Hoping that the Broadcasting Company will continue to carry out these splendid re-broadcasts regardless of those who are horn growers.—"FIVE VALVES" (Dunedin).

## Spirited Reply to Listeners' Suggestions.

HAVING perused the "Views and Suggestions of a Listener," I feel impelled to comment on same. Surely this person must imagine that radio was made for him and him alone. I for one hope that he does not renew his license, as if he does, he may possibly

# Our Mail Bag

Will correspondents please practice brevity, as heavy demands are now made on space. All letters must be signed and address given as proof of genuineness; noms de plume for publication are permitted. Address correspondence Editor, "Radio Record," P.O. Box 1032, Wellington.

keep up his "howl" until someone takes notice of him, but as he has no license, well, "why worry"? Long may he live without one. With reference to "sameness," does his landlady expect him to eat all that is on the menu? Even if he did he would undoubtedly suffer from acute indigestion for his temerity in doing so. Surely he can find some items that please him for his very high sum of £3 per year, what an expenditure to be sure for 365 nights' entertainment, exactly 54d. and a "bit" per night. Then as to gramophone records, we are not all "Carnegies" and cannot all afford both gramophone and radio, so we poor people manage to enjoy all the great recordings per medium of the radio. Personally I have given many records as presents, solely because of the enjoyment that they gave me per medium of the radio. I would never think of going and trying hundreds out at the music emporiums, but can easily ring up for a certain record to be posted or delivered when I require one. Re the children's hour, this is now ideal. My little fellow, three years old, is in dreamland soon after 6 o'clock, so that now he can squat by the loudspeaker after tea until bedtime, whilst Daddy, who gets home late from business, can enjoy a little quiet music with the newspaper.

With reference to "jazz," candidly, I also hate it, especially the "canned" variety, but I do not have to listen to it, and when I am tired of the rattle and bang, I go to bed or curl up and have a quiet snooze on the Chesterfield. Now, we come to the really choice part of the argument. Because his set is a dud, all of us country folk have to pay the penalty and Wellington must go on the air with reduced power! Ye gods! Let us all subscribe and present him with his own station, pay his artists and generally run the show for him,

for pure unadulterated cheek, this takes the bakehouse. We in the distance from Wellington would have to close down our sets unless Christchurch and Auckland were coming in exceptionally well, as Wellington is the stand-by of the small set owner. I suppose we ought to be satisfied with a faint whisper for our 30s. Let the stations carry on, they are doing famously, and by all means improve when possible, but do not forget the huge majority of listeners are more than satisfied, and it is only because they are satisfied that persons like your correspondent has the luck to monopolise a whole page of your valuable journal, thereby depriving us of some interesting matter instead of having to read his sickening piffle. Trusting that you will give equal prominence to the satisfied listener's report.—"RATIONAL" (Hastings).

## Another Straight Reply.

On reading the views of a listener, "Eos," I feel disgusted at the pettiness of some people. What does he expect for his 30s. a year? I have a six-valve set, resistance coupled. I have listened in since December, 1926; that is over 2½ years have I been a licensee. It costs me nearly £20 a year to run my set. I live about 20 miles inland from Taumarunui in the backblocks, am a working man since the war. But I am most enthusiastic about the broadcasting programmes as presented by the Radio Broadcasting Company of New Zealand Ltd. I admit at first I frequently switched over to our Australian neighbours, but for over twelve months now I have rarely tuned in other than New Zealand stations, being so well, in fact completely satisfied with the fare presented by the YA stations. I have not missed more than about seven days in the whole 2½ years, tuning-in every night, and to me this daily experience is beyond my highest expectations. I may here state that in the world of music and Bohemian life and among the so-called aristocracy in my younger days I had had probably more experience than "Eos," since I have been almost all over the world and seen better times before the beastly Great War, and I get and tune-in nightly with the greatest joy and knowledge of the splendid entertainment awaiting me. I do not desire to take up more of your time, but if I felt like "Eos" I would be ashamed to make a song about it, and go on buying gramophone records! Another thing

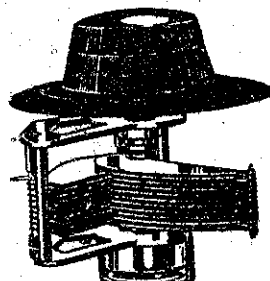
strikes me, his attitude in refusing to pay his license fee and yet listening-in is, to say the least, not in order. I wonder the Radio Broadcasting Company went to the trouble to respond; I should have issued instructions for a summons to be taken out, and until "Eos" has done so, ignored his letter. Keep on with your good work—R.B.C. and R.R.—F.C. (Taumarunui).

## Views on Broadcasting.

I REFUSE to believe that any man after having a receiving set for two years would remain off for three months. If I could not afford my present outlay of about 3s. per week for my five-valve set, well I would cut down my smokes by 30 per cent. and retain the set. Familiarity breeds contempt, and if some listeners remember this fact and would listen only once or twice a week to the concert programmes they would appreciate them much more. We would all get tired of Melba, Clara Butt, or Santley if we heard them every night. As for 2YA announcer, he is not first-class, I admit, but his pronouncing has improved in the past year, and we cannot expect him, or any other announcer, to avoid stumbling occasionally over foreign words. 'Tis true his voice is pleasant, but what I object to is that he spoils the effect by a drawing-room trick, as "datyee," "re-ess" for "yes," and "no-oh" for "no," and with a drop in voice on the last syllable, which should be missing, as well as the drop.

As for jazz, it is fine, lively music, and I enjoy it about once a week; other times I wish it in Honolulu. Dancing I detest, and when a lecturette on that comes on I go to Auckland. The news session when Mr. Ball was announcing was a treat, and it is still from Auckland and Christchurch, but why we require to get the prices of meat, butter, etc., from three and sometimes four different firms, in one night, and from one station, I know not. The children's hour is really good, and instructive to adults as well as to the young. I think a great mistake has been made in making room for the dinner music, at the expense of the kiddies' hour. Many records are stuff to me, and then I switch off, but many records put over the air are A1, and you could not do better, if as good, with studio items.

Now, about 2YA being too strong. City listeners can buy sets which will



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