

The Exhibition

(Continued from front page.)

had been detained by business. In his apology Mr. Harris expressed the hope that the fullest success would attend the exhibition, and stated that, with the stabilisation now afforded the industry by the modern A.C. set and the highly efficient battery sets, there was no reason why anyone should refrain from purchasing a receiver and enjoying the benefits of radio broadcasting.

Formally Opened.

Mr. Heighway then introduced the Hon. J. B. Donald, Postmaster-General of New Zealand, to whose care broadcasting was entrusted. In formally declaring the exhibition open, Mr. Donald said:—

"As one who is very interested in wireless, it gives me very great pleasure indeed to be here to-night at the invitation of the Radio Committee to open this exhibition. I wish to congratulate the committee on its enterprise in holding this exhibition and to congratulate the exhibitors, not only

on the excellence of their exhibits, but also on the splendid way in which their exhibits are displayed.

"This exhibition serves as an object lesson on the phenomenal growth of radio. Born only eight years ago, as far as age counts, it is an infant, but no one will deny that it is a very justy infant indeed. Already its voice is heard in 44,000 homes in New Zealand. Five years ago there were less than 3000 licenses.

"Radio is now a part of our everyday life. Generally it is looked upon as a means for the dissemination of news and as a method of entertaining, but other uses were demonstrated when it was the only means of communication with districts stricken by the recent earthquake.

"There is no need for me to tell this audience of the difficulties encountered by the administrative side. You all know how hard it is to construct programmes that will give satisfaction to a majority, and it is only natural that it should be so, but we must recognise the rights of the minorities. Popular modern music probably makes the widest appeal, but the educated taste in classical music must not be overlooked. My Department is in the position of custodian of the public interest,

and everything possible is being done to keep abreast of the times. The Secretary of the Department has recently been at the Postal Conference in London, and I hope we shall learn much from his observations in England and America.

"Without doubt, wireless is making wonderful strides, and the improvements which are taking place almost every month go to show us that before long we may expect to have some wonderful things brought to our notice.

"I know because of this there are some people who will not buy a radio set, stating that they are waiting until wireless becomes better. These people have been waiting for years to secure the set that will be to their absolute satisfaction. To those who are waiting I would suggest that they try out the instruments they see before them, and I am sure they will be hard to please if they cannot find at least one that will give them satisfaction, and a great deal of pleasure. Further, if they do secure one of the present-day sets, it will give them a better idea as to when the time has come for them to secure, say in a year or two, the ultimate instrument upon which they have set their hearts.

"I would like to express my appreciation of the way in which dealers in New Zealand have met the Department by refraining from selling sets likely to cause annoyance to other listeners. All receivers sold in New Zealand are submitted for Departmental examination and approval, and over 200 different types have been tested.

"Looking around this hall this evening, one is struck by the improvements made of recent years in the design of receiving sets. Every cabinet is essentially a piece of drawing-room furniture, a fitting object for the centre of the family circle.

"Mr. Heighway, ladies and gentlemen, I will not detain you. I declare the Exhibition open and I wish it every success."

Bright Incidents.

A FLASHLIGHT photograph of the opening ceremony was then taken, after which a promenade concert, arranged by 2YA, was performed from the Exhibition Studio. During the evening two intervals of twenty minutes each were given, so that portion of the audience sitting in the gallery might inspect the stalls. During these intervals the chairman, Mr. Heighway, introduced Mr. Clive Drummond, announcer of 2YA, and Mr. John Hall, editor-announcer of the Radio Broadcasting Company, to the audience, and stated that, in response to requests from many country listeners there present, those gentlemen would be pleased to meet any who cared to make themselves known. This incident provided a bright feature of the gathering, and the invitation was promptly availed of by many. It was surprising to note the distances from which many of the audience came, visitors being present from places several hundred miles from Wellington. General surprise was confessed by many of those meeting Mr. Drummond for the first time at the contrast between his actual appearance and the prior conception built up by the listener from hearing his voice.

Arising out of this occurrence, a general desire was expressed, mothers in particular, to meet Aunt Gwen, and accordingly it was arranged promptly that Aunt Gwen should be in attendance on the afternoon of Friday and Saturday between the hours of 8 and 4.30 p.m., in order to make the acquaintance of mothers and children who are members of her large radio family.

It was also announced during the evening that arrangements were being made for accommodating, on Saturday afternoon, those who wished to listen to the rebroadcast of the final Test Match in Australia, as described by station 2ME.

The promenade concert, as given in the main by the Wellington Municipal Tramways Band and the Welsh Choir, supplemented by individual local talent, was an outstanding success, all in the hall thoroughly enjoying the occasion and, what is more important, listeners over the air receiving a very clear impression of an extremely animated, happy and inspiring gathering.

The Second Day.

SUCCESSFUL as was the opening function, it was far eclipsed by the second day, and outstripped again by the attendance on Saturday, the third day. The hall on Friday evening was packed almost to capacity, and the happiest of spirits prevailed. Demonstrating during the course of the promenade concert was, of course, not carried out, but in the intervals quiet demonstration on station 2YA was permitted. This allowed the visitors to judge the tone of the various instruments displayed on the stalls. Keen and discriminating in-

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