

Dunedin Exhibition

(Continued from front page.)

their office in Wellington and relayed by telephone to the exhibition, where they were amplified through a loud-speaker. It was the first occasion that such a thing had been attempted and its great success reflected to the credit of the Post and Telegraph officers.

Not only evening concert sessions were broadcast from the model studio in full view of the visitors to the exhibition, but children's sessions, specially organised by Big Brother Bill, were performed also. Thus the public were introduced to all the 4YA officials and became conversant with many phases of the broadcasting service.

New Advertising Idea

"TALKING cows" have been proposed to the Chicago World's Fair board as a means of advertising the exposition to be held in 1933. A life-size papier-mache cow with its mouth opening and closing by means of a mechanical device and a radio set inside constitutes this new brand of cow. It would give a radio programme and invite people to attend the fair.

The Wizardry of Wireless

To What will it Develop?

RADIO, like stained glass, can be appreciated only from within. No one can possibly know what radio means until he possesses a set. Certain things you can prognosticate beforehand: you know that you are going to hear music, that people will talk to you, and that you will get the weather and the news. But this is only the dry bones of the matter. The subtle influence of radio, once you are one of the brotherhood of listeners—its wizardry—is a thing you could never have imagined.

Take music first. You imagined you had certain definite tastes in music. You just would not listen to jazz. Now you have to! Because if your wireless is a new toy you can't stop turning it on; and if it is an old toy, that cunning little devil inside you called boredom sometimes makes you listen, even to jazz, because you've nothing better to do. What happens? Before very long you find yourself exclaiming, grudgingly perhaps, "By George, that's a good tune!" But

radio-magic is equally potent to convert the lowbrow. I know a youth who now listens with intense delight to music which in pre-radio days he would just have dismissed contemptuously as "classical." And—which is the point of the thing—he has by no means fore-sworn jazz.

THE truth is that radio-magic bids fair to abolish those odious aesthetic class-distinctions altogether. There will soon be no such thing as highbrow or lowbrow. May it ring the death-knell of that bugbear of a phrase, "classical music," and of those other labels, "light music," and "sacred music"! If it is good, it is music. If it is bad, it is not music. And good music may range from a Bach cantata through the champagne-like waltzes of Strauss or Lehar to a love-song in the latest revue.

You naturally thought, before you invested in a radio set, that you would do a great deal of picking and choosing. Not a bit of it. There was a lady I heard of recently, a dear old Victorian lady. She is of the kind who in a literal sense enjoy bad health. She turned on her radio at bedtime one evening, hoping she might hear some soothing message suitable to the decline of day and the oncoming shades of night. Instead, she found herself plunged into the midst of—vaudeville! In a few minutes she was smiling, a little later giggling, and presently a peal of quite juvenile laughter brought her startled companion hurrying upstairs to her bedroom. The result of it all was that she slept that night as sound as a bell.

BUT the chief magic of radio is to give one that sense of kinship with one's fellows, which I am quite sure all listeners have experienced. The spinster living alone in a London flat or buried alive in some cottage in the heart of the country, is not the only "lonely listener." In a sense, we are all of us lonely listeners. We live in a little world of our own. Our horizons are really very limited. We know nothing of the man next door, of the people in the flat below, still less of our fellow-beings in distant towns and shires. And, knowing nothing of them, we tend to think nothing of or about them. We English are not a very companionable race. We prefer empty carriages on the railroad and scowl at others who come crowding in to the vacant seats. But in a railway carriage let one traveller make a joke, and the man who was deliberately taking up more than his room is found to be shuffling back into his fair space, there is laughter, and with laughter, courtesy and good humour.

In that extraordinary overcrowded journey of modern life it is the Wizard Radio who tells the story, cracks the joke, sings the song; and one evening of wireless makes the whole world kin. —By Wilfrid Rooke Lev. in "Radio Times."

Wireless on "Westralia"

Direction Finder Included

THE new Huddart Parker liner "Westralia," which is due to sail from the Clyde for Australia about the end of July, has been fitted with one of the most up-to-date wireless equipments of any vessel afloat.

The contract for the work was entrusted to Amalgamated Wireless, the owners having accepted the tender of the Australian organisation rather than that of overseas radio manufacturers nearer at hand.

The main transmitter is a complete 1 CW valve instrument with a power of 1½ kilowatts covering the wave band of 580 to 800 metres. The Westralia is the second vessel to be so equipped, the first being the new Adelaide Company's new motorship Manunda. Commercial receivers have also been provided capable of receiving stations anywhere on the wave bands between 25 and 26,000 metres. For the entertainment and information of passengers, a broadcast receiver is installed and in conjunction with this is a band repeater by means of which the radio programme can be amplified and broadcast anywhere on the ship as may be required. The band repeater will also be used to amplify and repeat the music of the ship's orchestra, concerts, etc.

Perhaps most important is the direction-finder similar to that installed in the Manunda. In this connection it is of interest to note that the shipping companies are anticipating the Commonwealth Government. Direction-finders are used in conjunction with coastal stations or wireless beacons, it being a simple matter to take bearings from two or more stations or beacons and so fix the position of the ship in any weather. In thick fog when lighthouses are no longer of assistance, the direction-finder does the job unherringly. Up to the present little has been done by the Government to establish the necessary radio beacons.

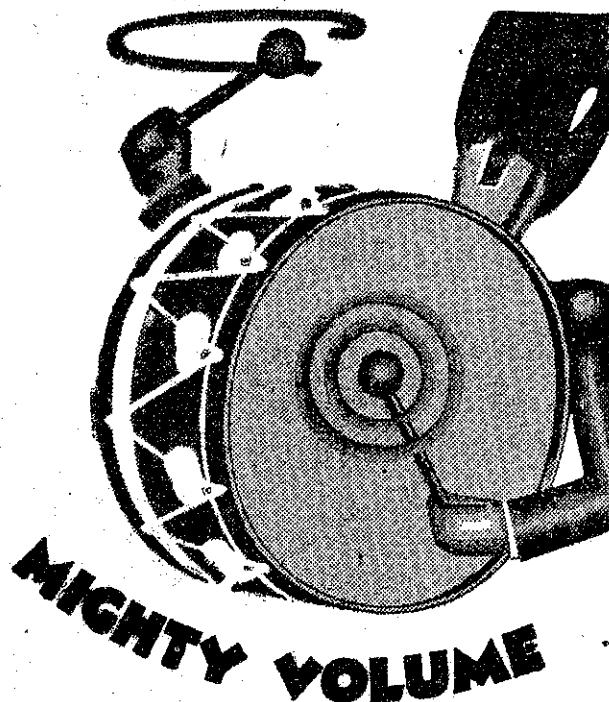
There are Amalgamated Wireless coast stations at many points, and the operators will, if on duty, always send out their call letters when asked to enable ships to take bearings. The trouble is the attendants are not always on duty.

The need felt by shipping (and insurance) companies is for inexpensive automatic beacons at various places—about 20 would cover the whole Australian coast—so that as soon as the weather thickens the light attendant could start the automatic signals for the protection of shipping. Radio beacons, in conjunction with direction-finding apparatus, would have saved the Kanona and the Riverina from becoming total wrecks near Wilson's Promontory and Gabo Island respectively.

About 470 British ships carry direction-finders, and no doubt the equipping of the Westralia and Manunda similarly will encourage the Federal Government to act in this direction.

V10

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