

## Topical Notes.

BY the last mail from Holland I received a QSL card from PCJ. Although this short-wave station has been in operation about two and a half years they have not issued a card till now. This is printed in three colours—red, blue, and black—and besides photos of their laboratory at Eindhoven, and the short-wave transmitter, contains the following particulars: PCJ is a crystal-controlled transmitter, broadcasting on a frequency of 9.59 x 10.6 cycles/sec (959 kilocycles wavelength, approximately 31.3m.). Maximum power, 27 kilowatts. Philips water-cooled transmitting and rectifying valves. PCJ commenced operations during March, 1927, with the epoch-making transmissions to the Dutch East Indies (12,000 km.). Since that time PCJ has been honoured with innumerable reports from all parts of the world.

Announcements in Dutch, English, French, German, and Spanish.

THE Universal Broadcasting system of Philadelphia has made an application to the Federal Radio Commission at Washington for short-wave channels for the reproduction of French and German programmes in America. WCAU, Philadelphia would be the key station for the overseas service.

## Buenos Aires Calling!

THE following from "Amateur Wire-less" (England) will interest all short-wave listeners:—

"It was just luck which prompted me to tune in to Radio Paris at about 6.20 p.m. on Saturday, May 25, when, much to my surprise, I heard an announcement in Spanish. Without delay I made a rapid search, and discovered that the day was a national fete in the Argentine Republic, and that one of the principal Buenos Aires broadcasters—LR4—was transmitting a special concert for the benefit of the two American continents and Europe.

Now, when after listening to a gramophone record, I was told, in Spanish, English, French, and German, to stand by, I did so and was duly rewarded. At 6.35 p.m. Radio Splendid, Buenos Aires, the station in question, put over the Argentine National Anthem, and followed it up with short talks in all four languages, which put me wise to the route by which I was receiving the concert. Apparently, by previous arrangement, Radio Paris was taking it from the short-wave transmitter of the Ste. Assise (France), which in its turn picked it up from Monte Grande (Buenos Aires). Simultaneously, as I quickly discovered, Nauen (Germany) was capturing it from the same source, and passing it on to Berlin and Königswusterhausen, the latter, curiously enough, giving me a much clearer and purer relay than did the Paris station.

Short-wave Reception is at its best with—

## MACK'S SHORT-WAVE SETS

Designed by a New Zealander, manufactured by New Zealanders for New Zealand Conditions.

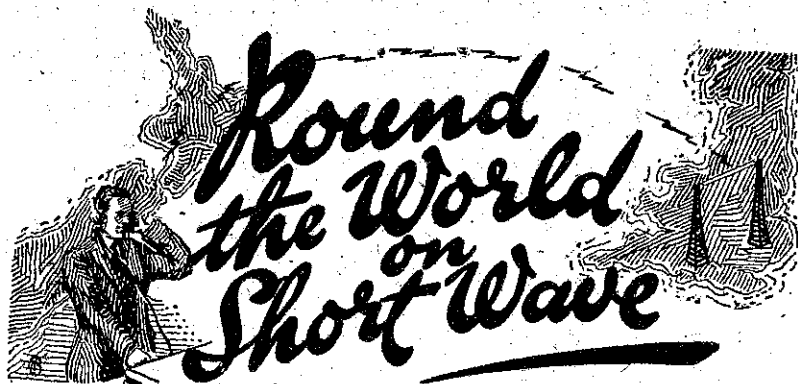
Are the ACME of Perfection.

For full particulars, write—

## MACK'S RADIO

76 KENT TERRACE, WELLINGTON.

Phone 20-798.



Many will recall the trans-Atlantic relays effected by our own stations, and also the poor result achieved when we tried to reach out to the antipodes. In the Buenos Aires transmission, Monte Grande, in conjunction with Nauen and Ste. Assise, proved a perfect success. No fading was noticed, distortion was absent, and fortunately atmospheric conditions caused but little interference. This took place in full sunshine on a day when, to all appearances, reception should have been poor.

ANOTHER letter has been received from CJRX, Winnipeg, Canada, with the latest Broadcasting Schedule, for "Summer, 1929," of stations CJRM, Moose Jaw, and CJRW, Fleming. The programmes of CJRX, working on 25.6 metres' power, 2000 watts, are "tied in" with CJRW.

## The Week's Log.

THE following is my log for the week. It is patchy, as I am still unable to listen quite as much as usual.

## Saturday, August 10.

AT 1 p.m. PCJ was R8, but quality only fair. This improved rapidly, and was perfect by 3 p.m., at full speaker strength, when Central America, U.S.A. and Canada were being called. At 3.58 p.m. "Goodnight" was said to these countries, and "Hullo" to Australia and New Zealand. The New Zealanders called were Messrs. Abbot, Auckland; Gledhill and Stanton, Christchurch; Miss Bennett, and the writer, Wellington. All were thanked for their reports. W8XX were good strength, but not as clear as they might be. W2XAD at 2 p.m. were R8. A dance programme commenced at 2.30 p.m. from Reilly's Lake House, Lake Lonely, Saratoga Springs, Syracuse. This continued till 3.30 p.m. at R9. Duplex telephony was heard on 20.5 (about) at R7, and on 24.4 metres (about). A lady was talking at the first-mentioned station, and an American voice, very weak, at the other.

An Australian amateur was heard at 5 p.m., on the 40-metre band; fair strength, but readability poor. GBX, Rugby, England, R8, 75 per cent. readable, and VK2ME, R9, 100 per cent. readable, were testing during the evening. ZL amateurs, 2BE, Hastings, and 2AB, Otaki, were chatting together at R9.

## Sunday, August 11.

AT 11 a.m., 2XAD was R4-5, with rapid fade. By 1.30 p.m. they were good strength, with the "Lucky Strike" programme, and—as they put it, "Tunes That Make Broadway, Broadway." A special "Byrd" transmission commenced at 2.30 p.m., with the usual messages and music for the Expedition.

2XAF, with the same programme, was weaker than the 19.5 metre station till about 2.30 p.m., after which W2XAF was the better station of the two, increasing to R9, while the other went off in volume.

W8XX (KDKA) was R2 at 11 a.m., and very unsteady. Strength increased, but signals were subject to rapid fade, nearly all through the transmission. On about 24 metres, talk could be heard at R3, but not quite readable. 2ME, with records and a 1000-cycle note, at R9, was

testing with GBX, who was reading. The Rugby station was 100 per cent. readable, but with difficulty on account of background noises.

## Monday, August 12.

SYDNEY and Rugby were on duplex at 6.30 p.m., both sides of the conversation could be heard from 2ME. Sydney put on some records later, when fading was very bad.

## Tuesday, August 13.

I WAS up early enough to hear 5SW for a few moments, when a violin solo was coming through at R8.

VK2ME and GBX were again on duplex telephony. At 10.10 p.m. 2ME was heard calling Ottawa. They replied on about 24.5 metres. Later Sydney were calling Montreal.

## Wednesday, August 14.

5SW was tuned in at 6 a.m., when it was announced that "Desmond McCarthy would read one of his own books, 'The —'." The reading was R8, 75 per cent. to 100 per cent. intelligible. Some morse, QRM started about 6.12 a.m. (local), otherwise every word would have been readable. At 6.30 a.m. a programme was relayed from the Queen's Hall, the orchestra being under the baton of Sir Henry J. Wood.

Reception was very good. At 7.30 a.m. a break was made for the Greenwich time signal when they "went back" to the Queen's Hall. Strength was weaker by this time.

GBX at 6.5 a.m. was R8, 100 per cent. readable, and 2ME was R9. Both sides audible through Sydney. Reception between stations was perfect, as the conversation was carried on as easily as if the speakers were in the same room.

W6XX at 6.10 was R4, with a lady talking; a strong hiss spoilt readability. Strength at 8 a.m. was R5 with music. 41.6 metres about talk at R2-3, but not quite readable, was heard.

The "Spotlight Revue" from W6XX was heard from 6 p.m. till 6.30 p.m. at R8. The "Musical Muketeers" followed with a dance programme till 7.31 p.m. Volume went off toward the finish.

GBX at R8 and 2ME at R9 were both 100 per cent. readable with their duplex test. It was during this test that a lad in a Sydney hospital spoke to his mother in England. I did not hear it, but must have been listening to W6XX at the time.

## Thursday, August 15.

5SW at 7 a.m. was R6-7. Talk was not readable on account of a bad ripple. GBX at the same time was much better, but not possible to understand all that was said.

At 6.4 p.m. 2ME was heard talking about yesterday's accomplishment, that is, the boy talking to his mother. This, it appeared, was arranged by newspapers.

KZRM commenced a programme at 9.30 p.m. by asking for reports on reception. Strength was R8-9. Dance music from the Manila Hotel was heard quite good. The dancers could be heard talking between items.

RFM was heard at 10.15 p.m. after a silence of some time. A lecture (?) was in progress; the speaker was well warmed up to his subject. Strength R9. Slight static.

## Friday, August 16.

BIG Ben was heard through 5SW at 5.30 a.m. Talk and music was spoilt by ripple. PCJ commences at 5.35 a.m., R8-9, and remains steady at that till 7.30 a.m. It was heard calling a listener in South Africa during the transmission.

GBX at 6 a.m. was heard arranging a schedule with another station. 2ME could not be heard.

A strong carrier came on at about 6.30 a.m. just above PCJ with a quick ticking metronome. Music was heard later at R8. A few words were spoken between items, but could not make out any call, not even a "Allo" or "Achtung." W6XX was R2 at 7.45 a.m.

VK2ME and GBX were working again at 6.40 p.m., when a journalist in Sydney was speaking to another in England. He sent greetings to a number of newspaper men, and had quite a long chat. Speech from GBX was 100 per cent. readable—with careful listening. They closed at 8.25 p.m. till Monday, 1800 G.M.T.

KZRM was R4 at 7.30 p.m. with musical items. 23 metres (about) at 8 p.m., a foreigner was talking at R8 in a sing-song sort of voice, possibly Japanese. He repeated a few words quite a number of times. The carrier went off at 8.10 p.m. He was heard again later, but could not identify him.

2ME at 9.45 p.m., R4, and very rough, was calling Drummondville, Canada, and playing records while waiting for them to reply.

## News of GBX

ON Wednesday night word came over the air from 2YA that some listeners had heard GBX Rugby, England. They seemed to think it was something out of the way. Well, I get GBX direct at loud-speaker strength, also 2XAD Schenectady, New York, also DOR Nauen; in fact, I wrote to them, as I did to PCJ Helversum, Holland, detailing their music and conversations. I have two short-wave sets, as well as the broad-wave set, but the one with which I am getting the best results is a four-valve set, screened grid valve. I can hear UX2ME twice per day. This afternoon he was calling Suva, then in the evening he was talking to GBX from Prince Albert Hospital, or rather a patient in the hospital was talking to her or his mother for a time. I was getting them at good loudspeaker strength, with part of volume shunted on to a pair of earphones in another room; in fact, I can get 2ME at any time that they are on the air.—H. H. Sunderland (Port Chalmers).

## 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.— Strips 36 x 1 inches 2' doz. Other widths proportional. Also supplied cut, punched. Special quantity quotations. Johns Ltd., P.O. Box 471, Auckland.

CHEAPER than Kit Prices—7-Valve Radio Set, in Cabinet (Walnut), great distance, selective; accessories if wanted. Box 714, Christchurch.

199 Tubes, 6/6; 201A, 4/6; 200A, 6/6; Walnut Table Cabinet, 25/-; Wander Plugs, 2/9 dozen. K.H. Co., 553 Colombo St., Christchurch.

Printed and published for the New Zealand Radio Publishing Company at the registered office, Wakefield Street, Wellington, of the Wellington Publishing Company, Ltd., by George Thompson, at 7 Rimu Road, Kelburn, Printer, and Roy Cecil Temple, of Te Kaitiaki, Khandallah, Publisher. WELLINGTON, FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 1929.