

## Short-Wave

(Continued from page 32.)

PCJ commenced at 5.34 a.m. with a band item. Volume was R8-9 all through.

GBX and 2ME were R8 and R9 respectively, both 100 per cent. readable.

KZRM on 31.4 metres were R9, with gramophone records, from about 9.30 p.m. Music was heard on about 23.3 metres at R.3.—F. W. Sellens (Westland).

KZRM, Manila.

AFTER having missed KZRM, Manila, Philippines, for about a week, I again picked him up to-night at 8.30 p.m. This time he was transmitting on 31 metres. Previous to this have heard him on 24.5 and 49 metres.

On Sunday, August 18, I heard 7LO, Nairobi, Kenya, at 7 a.m. He was not as good as when I heard him a week before.—A. R. Cranston (Auckland).

## Topical Notes

THE main feature in short-wave work lately has been the tests between 2ME and London. The recent test when 2ME and GBX (London) were heard simultaneously on 'phone, stands out as the most important of the tests so far.

Last night, August 22, 2ME was, as is almost a daily practice now, testing with London, and whilst 2ME stated that the signals faded out occasionally, on tuning in London direct the signals were fairly strong, a lady being heard reading. Although speech was somewhat distorted, volume from London was fair.

The Russian short-wave station has been coming over at exceptional volume lately, last night being the best for some time, notwithstanding bad static on the 80 metre band. The power of the Russian station was sufficient to penetrate and outweigh the static problem. Speech was clear. 2ME complained last night of bad static, yet when listening to 2ME reception was not noticeably affected here in Wellington.

A change of three valves, and a new type of aerial wire, fresh soldering of the earth to water pipe, and a general tightening up of aerial have improved reception considerably. After three odd years of work, the original radio frequency valves on my set were found to be in good condition, and are working at 100 per cent. efficiency, and still look good for another three years' work; the Japs coming in on loud-speaker at considerable strength.

4YA (Dunedin) has been received at good volume, whilst 2YA has been working, and the same applies to 2FC (Sydney).

The Boys' High School, Riccarton, Christchurch (3BE) was on 'phone 80 metre band for the first time this week, four of the (B) Ham's in Canterbury being heard one evening, including Scargill. Did anyone else in the North Island hear 3BE? The boys down at Riccarton are evidently very keen concerning their wireless.

2BE (Hastings), under the captaincy of friend James, has been very active lately, and comes over at tremendous volume, and generally steady, with pure tone. 2AX (Palmerston North) has also been heard at good strength, and clear. 2AW (Wellington) is on the job again with his genial company. Others include Otaki, Wanganui, Auckland districts.—R. Leslie Jones.

FAULTY switches in the house lighting circuit will give rise to clicks and noises in the loudspeaker, owing to sparking occurring across the defective points.

## DX Notes

## KMOX On Endurance Flight.

MR. L. B. Lewis (Gisborne) writes: In the DX Notes of your issue of August 10, you have an American to identify for "Hastings," and received his call-sign to be Station KMOX, St. Louis, U.S.A. On Monday, July 27, I logged this station at 10.15 p.m., but did not get his call-sign, although the musical items were very clear, as were the announcements regarding the St. Louis Robin endurance flight. I experienced the same trouble as "Hastings"—fading, with strong crashes of static thrown in.

On Tuesday, July 28, I received him with better success as regards static and fading. Announcements were still being made in regard to the St. Louis Robin flight, and the announcer stated that contrary to rumours, the plane was still in the air. The musical items were extremely clear, and he was coming in at R7 to R8. He announced his call-sign quite frequently, as stated above. The speaker used was one of the heavy cone type.

(Other readers have also identified this station as KMOX.—Ed.)

## Nelson Notes

## Amateur Radio Club

ON Monday evening the Nelson Amateur Radio Club held its first meeting (since the big shake on June 17). The club was formed before this date, but the earthquakes disorganised things, and it is only now that the club has been put on a good basis.

The president (Mr. C. Page) briefly outlined the aims of the club. He stated that as the programmes of the Radio Broadcasting Company are now of so high a standard, they could confine their activities to educating listeners in the operation of sets and in the control of howling valves. Also in advising young constructors in the choice of parts and circuits, thus preventing costly mistakes, which had been the too-frequent experience of some.

The secretary (Mr. G. C. Coleman) gave a brief description of the numerous aeriels he had tried, and their various efficiency. The reminder of the evening was spent in the demonstrating of different kinds of speakers, ranging from a dynamic cone to a "baby," used with a gramophone pick-up and amplifier.

Given favourable conditions and no more earthquakes, the club promises to become a rival (in a small way) to the flourishing Hastings society, and in the distant future Nelson might be relaying a concert through 2YA!

## Programme Exchange

THERE is soon to be an exchange of programmes between Europe and America. This will be placed within the bounds of possibility by a cable, the first of its kind, manufactured out of a new metal thread called "Perminvar." The cost of such a cable will cost over two million pounds, but this new preparation considerably lessens the cost.

## 2ZD, Masterton

## A Good Soldering Flux

SINCE August 8 Station 2ZD has been operating in Masterton, the hours of transmission being Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, 12 noon to 2 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. This station operates on a wavelength of 254.1 metres, with a power of 8 watts. The aerial is 180 feet long, and uses an earth return. The station is serving a good proportion of listeners in its particular district, and the midday session in particular seems to be much appreciated by those concerned. Reports from Taranaki, Waikato, and other country districts show that daylight reception is good.

The whole of the transmitter, with the exception of meters, etc., was assembled in the workshop of the owner and operator, Mr. W. D. Ansell. Mr. Ansell is a well-known enthusiast in radio, and adds to his other activities that of Official Listener to the Radio Broadcasting Company.

## By Request

THE following conversation between a listener and an official at 2YA is rumoured to have taken place:—

Listener: "Is that 2YA?"

Official: "Yes."

Listener: "Do you ever play anything by request?"

Official (cautiously): "Yes, sometimes."

Listener, in tired voice: "Then I wish you would go and play a game of chess while I get some sleep."

MANY amateurs who live out of the convenient range of shops which sell soldering fluxes got up in handy tins are often puzzled to know the best type of flux to use, and also how to make such a commodity at home.

For ordinary radio constructional purposes, there is no doubt that one of the best soldering fluxes is one which contains the following ingredients:—

Tallow ..... 50 parts  
Resin (powdered finely)..... 40 "  
Sal-ammoniac ..... 25 "  
Olive oil ..... 5-10 "

Gently heat the tallow and the olive oil in an old tin container, and, when fluid, add gradually the remaining ingredients, which must be in a powdered condition. Do not overheat the mixture, for too high a temperature would cause the tallow to become rancid, but stir it continually with a stick until all the ingredients of the flux have become intimately mixed together. Then remove the source of heat, but continue stirring the mixture until it solidifies.

The flux will now be ready for use, and it will keep indefinitely when stored in shallow tins in the usual way. Do not use too much of it when making a soldered joint. A mere trace of it will be all that is necessary.

IF an amplifier is to be used with a valve set and its internal connections cannot be checked for any reason, its B negative terminal should not be joined up at all (generally this is not necessary).

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6	80	5 5 0
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