

SOME discussion has occurred in Wellington Rugby Union circles as to the broadcasting of Rugby matches from Athletic Park. The discussion arose through the Broadcasting Company adopting the procedure of broadcasting Ranfurly Shield matches by relay from Masterton on the occasion of such contests being held. On one of these occasions the relay took place on a Wednesday, ordinarily Wellington's silent day. 2YA, however, went on the air specially for the Ranfurly Shield match, in order not to disappoint listeners in general.

Prior to the Wellington-Southland match the question was raised at the meeting of the Wellington Rugby Union by the chairman, Mr. Prendeville, the Broadcasting Company, he said, had been given the privilege of broadcasting their matches throughout the season, but when a more important match was played a change had been made without reference to the Wellington Rugby Union. This put them in the position that, although matches were being played on the day in question at Athletic Park, they were not broadcast, the preference being given to the Ranfurly Shield match from Masterton. "This," he said, "raised the question as to whether they should not require that the Broadcasting Com-

pany, in having been given the privilege of broadcasting their matches throughout the season, should be required to broadcast the whole of the matches without distinction."

Arising out of the discussion which ensued, it was resolved that the Broadcasting Company should be written to asking whether it was intended to broadcast all the Wellington Rugby Union matches for the balance of the season.

In replying to this letter, the general manager of the Radio Broadcasting Company, Mr. A. R. Harris, wrote as follows:—

"As we have previously intimated," stated the letter, "we are desirous of co-operating with you in every possible respect and were firmly of the opinion that in broadcasting the above-mentioned games we were acting in a manner which would further this object."

## Broadcasting Football Matches

### Question Discussed by Wellington Rugby Union

"We appreciate that the broadcasting of matches from Athletic Park reflects to the immediate benefit of your union, but on the other hand it will be realised that any action which might be taken for the purpose of widening interest in the sport generally, whether per medium of broadcasts from Athletic Park or elsewhere, would automatically react to the advantage of the individual unions."

"Having this in mind, we carried out the transmissions referred to, not only because the games were of wide interest, but also because they were calculated to afford ample illustration of the spectacularities and science of the Rugby game in the special interests of those who were not familiar with these technicalities to the extent that they would not otherwise become regular supporters on the latter score alone."

"Thus, it is unfortunate that our action has apparently been interpreted

in any way as a restriction upon our effort to co-operate with you, as we were not clear that it was your union's wish that our broadcasts should apply to all its fixtures; and apart from this the relays from distant centres and from overseas have involved considerable extra expense and inconvenience."

"We may assure you, however, that we are anxious to work in with you to the fullest possible extent in furthering the interests of Rugby generally, and your union in particular, and if you have any suggestions as to how this might be better achieved we would be very pleased to hear from you accordingly."

In the discussion which followed, the chairman, Mr. J. Prendeville, said that he had received the following note from a man in Eketahuna: "Dear Prendy,—Don't be a pig; let us have the best. Wireless to-day has become part of the life of the back-blocks."

Mr. Prendeville said it occurred to him that a test might be carried out next Saturday with a view to seeing, if the match was not broadcast, whether it would reflect to the union's benefit.

Major T. J. King: "There is no question of the Broadcasting Company benefiting, but I think the matter should be let stand until next year."

Mr. H. D. Morgan said that although the union had lost money as a result of the matches being broadcast, nevertheless the arrangement was a benefit to people outside the district. He thought they should be willing to pay a little to help those people.

Major King said the union provided a free entertainment for the Broadcasting Company.

Mr. A. J. Griffiths: "That is so."

Major King: "The boxing people had to cut it out. They started it, and fellows used to sit by the fireside and listen to the fights."

Mr. G. F. W. Jackson said that the Broadcasting Company in its reply had side-stepped the issue, and with this view the chairman agreed.

It was decided to allow Mr. Lamb to broadcast a description of the Canterbury v. Wellington game on Saturday on condition that other matches under the jurisdiction of the union are broadcast for the remainder of the season.



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### Long Distance Reception

SOME astonishing reports of long-distance reception bob up from time to time, but the latest from Australia takes a lot of beating. A listener in Parkes, New South Wales, claims to have an extraordinary one-valve set which not only brings in 2FC, 2BL, 3LO and 3AR in the middle of the day and they are heard in the night time without an aerial on headphones, or with an aerial on the loudspeaker. Parkes is about 200 miles from Sydney, and 300 miles by air-line from Melbourne. He also says he gets 7BY (Bombay), JOAK (Japan), 7ZL (Hobart), 5OL (Adelaide), 2GB (Sydney) and 4QG (Brisbane) at good headphone strength at night-time.