

The New Zealand Radio Record

(Incorporating the "Canterbury Radio Journal.")

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N.Z. RADIO PUBLISHING CO., LTD.,
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WELLINGTON, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1929.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

WITH the return of Mr. G. McNamara, Secretary of the Post Office, from a tour abroad, with the particular objective of attending the International Postal Conference, it may be taken for granted that the Postmaster-General will be presented with a report embodying a review of radio broadcasting as conducted under different systems of control in the various countries visited by the Secretary. This report will be of special departmental interest, as informing the Postmaster-General of the processes adopted and the results being attained in countries abroad. The New Zealand system of control, as is well known, is an adaptation to our circumstances of the two major systems employed in other countries. In Britain the Radio Broadcasting Company was eventually transformed into the British Broadcasting Corporation, an organisation established with Government backing for the specific purpose of administering broadcasting. It is in effect a Government-controlled institution, with illimitable resources due to the mass of population served. In America the system of private enterprise has prevailed, and in spite of difficulties presented by an initial plethora of stations, has resulted in the establishment of a high standard of efficiency in radio broadcasting in that community. In fact, the United States is acclaimed as the home of radio. Certain disabilities have been inflicted upon listeners by the methods adopted there, such as undue preponderance of advertising matter and sponsored programmes; nevertheless, good services are maintained by private enterprise.

NEW ZEALAND, by adapting a half-way house between these two systems, has preserved that economy of operation given by private enterprise, and the necessary elasticity for prompt action. We have also avoided the infliction of advertising matter over the air, and, having regard to our circumstances, this system has given a standard of efficiency that has met with the general approval of listeners. The Government, through the Post and Telegraph Department, protects the interests of listeners by regulation, supervision, and oversight.

THERE are, however, some who are not satisfied. This is as it should be. Critics—even unreasonable critics—fulfil a certain necessary function in life. They keep one alive, and clarify thought

even when they propound stupid ideas for betterment. Into this category comes an article which recently appeared in the Dunedin "Evening Star." This article, contributed by one "Henry," to whom the appellation of "Henry the Humorist" could most suitably be given, makes the suggestion that Government control immediately be instituted in this Dominion. The reasons he advances are immature and bear the hall-mark of inexperience. For the reason, however, that "Henry" was so enamoured of his ideas that he forwarded a copy of his article to each member of Parliament, together with a covering letter soliciting their support, and a special letter to the Rev. Mr. Clyde Carr, formerly announcer of 3YA, we give him in our columns a publicity to which he would not otherwise be entitled. This publicity is given merely to inform listeners of the undercurrents at work to inspire attacks upon the broadcasting service. So far as we are able to judge from the volume of opinion flowing in upon us from the pens of listeners, we hold the view that at no time has the standard of service given by the Company been so good as is now obtaining, and never before have listeners been so generally satisfied. In those circumstances we rather imagine "Henry's" outburst will prove to be a damp squib.

Total of Listeners "In a Persian Garden"

THE total figures of radio listeners as at July 31, 1929, according to a statement issued by the General Secretary of the Post Office, is as follows:—

	Receiving	Dealers	Others
Auckland	14,563	240	147
Canterbury	7,995	175	81
Otago	3,551	126	52
Wellington	17,899	396	98
	44,008	937	378
Grand total:	45,323.		

At 1YA on Tuesday,
September 17.

WHEN Liza Lehmann retired from the concert stage in 1894, on the occasion of her marriage, she turned her attention to composition, and in 1896 her first work, the song cycle, "In a Persian Garden," was produced at a private concert at the house of Mrs. A. L. Goertz, the singers being Mesdames Albani and Hilda Wilson, Ben Davies and David Bispham. A little later it was publicly performed at the old St. James' Hall, and achieved an immediate success. This success was quickly repeated in America, and it set the fashion for the many song cycles that followed.

The work is a setting of some thirty quatrains from the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, as translated by Fitzgerald. It is not, like some of its successors, just a collection of songs, but a complete whole, the various solos, duets and quartets being bound together by melodious recitatives and instrumental interludes. Much skill has been shown in the selection of the various stanzas, so that one thought is extended to make a complete section. Thus, for instance, the contralto recitative and solo begins with the 39th stanza, "Ah, not a drop that from our cups we throw", and continue with the 19th and 20th ("I sometimes think"); and the soprano solo, "But if the Soul" includes stanzas 44, 65 and 66.

There is a slight Eastern feeling in the music, but its effectiveness is mainly dependent upon the delightful manner in which the somewhat pessimistic philosophy of Omar and the polished charm of Fitzgerald's verse are reflected. It is, indeed, not too much to say that Liza Lehmann's music brought the beauty of Fitzgerald's poetry to the notice of many thousands who would otherwise have passed it by.

The presentation at 1YA will be in the hands of the Olympian Quartet.

Waitomo Caves Concert

Relay from 1YA

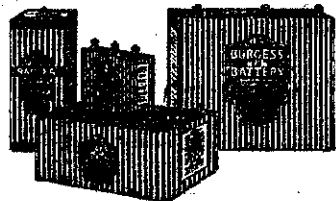
On Friday evening an event, unique in the history of radio broadcasting in New Zealand, will take place in the form of a concert relayed from the world-famous Waitomo Caves. This concert will take place in the innermost depths of the caves, in the Cathedral Hall, the acoustic properties of which all those who have had the pleasure of a trip through the wonderful glow-worm studded caverns, well know. The contributing artists include Miss Millicent O'Grady, soprano; Miss Nina Scott, elocutionist; Mr. Len Barnes, baritone; Mr. Cyril Towsey, pianist, and Mr. Owen Pritchard, humorist.

Mr. G. McNamara

Return from Conference

BY the Sydney boat, which arrived on Tuesday, Mr. G. McNamara, Secretary of the General Post Office, returned from a tour abroad, primarily undertaken to attend the International Postal Conference. While in Britain and abroad Mr. McNamara made personal investigations and inquiries in connection with broadcasting systems obtaining in countries visited, and it may be taken for certain that, in his report to the Postmaster-General, a summary of experiences in regard to radio broadcasting will be given.

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BATTERIES**



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