

# The New Zealand Radio Record

(Incorporating the "Canterbury Radio Journal.")

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WELLINGTON, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1929.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

A CERTAIN amount of interested attention has been directed to the announcement of the Postmaster-General that the New Zealand Post and Telegraph Department will in due course follow the lead of their Australian confreres and establish in the comparatively near future apparatus capable of transmitting pictures by wire. A first successful demonstration of this process in Australia was given recently, and met with an enthusiastic reception on the part of the newspapers and business houses who utilised the service. The results recorded were markedly successful. Photographs of racing events were transmitted both over the wire from Sydney to Melbourne, and by mail, and newspaper reproductions made from both photographs. The result from the newspaper point of view was that it was almost impossible to distinguish one from the other. This constitutes a very high tribute to the efficiency of the system available of transmitting pictures by wire.

THIS method is quite distinct from the transmission of pictures by radio, although, of course, the technical skill evolved in the one process is of value in assisting the other process. In the non-technical Press of New Zealand some confusion has been created by unfamiliarity with exact details of the proposed installation on the part of the Post and Telegraph Department, and the impression has been given that it was to be the Baird Television system that would be installed. This is quite inaccurate. The experiments now being conducted by the B.B.C., in conjunction with the Baird Television people, are likely to materially assist the inception of television, but in the meantime transmission of pictures by wire is an actual accomplishment, and totally distinct from the proposed transmission of events by radio.

WHEN the opportunity was presented Parliament last week of discussing broadcasting no great enthusiasm was displayed in the subject. This may be taken as a recognition of the fact that the matter is not at the moment a live one. As the Postmaster-General pointed out, the question of the future policy of the Department does not arise for some two years, and he is too cautious a business man to commit himself at this stage as to what his policy will be then. Of

those who did speak, two of the three speakers were quite appreciative of the present programmes. Mr. J. A. Nash said he believed the programmes ruling at present were quite good (although he suggested a Board of Supervision), and expressed the hope that the Minister would not consider Government control of broadcasting, as it was better under private control. Even Mr. Howard, Labour member for Christchurch South, adopted a kindly attitude towards the service, admitting that there had been a decided improvement during the last two years, although, of course, perfection had not yet been reached. The Rev. Clyde Carr's suggestion for the brightening up of the programmes was to incorporate debates and suitable plays. There may be those who would consider the incorporation of debates "a brightening feature" in connection with programmes, but on the other hand there may be some who would not! Variety in programmes is certainly desirable, but, as experienced listeners have learned, there is a limit to the stunts that can be successfully employed in connection with programmes. A high average of general acceptability seems to be the best general policy.

OUR thanks are due to a correspondent, "Facts" for pointing out a slip on our part in attributing, in our editorial of a fortnight back, to "Henry" the view that the Government should immediately take over the broadcasting service. In our news article dealing with this matter we correctly stated that his suggestion was that the Government should now begin planning to take over the service on expiry of the present contract. We regret the slip. To show, however, that "to err is human" we would point out to our correspondent that he himself is wrong in affirming that we said "Henry" said the Government should not bother with charging licenses at all! That was our own comment upon his view that the Government's resources were vast. We agreed that they were vast, and added that a free service was "feasible"—but we don't agree it would be economic.

## The New 4YA

### Official Opening

Fixed for October 16

On Wednesday, October 16, Station 4YA, Dunedin, will move to new premises. From that date the studio and transmitting plant will be located on the top floor of the "Evening Star" building. Here, the most modern transmitting equipment and studios and offices, whose appointments are up to date in every respect, will be found. The new station will be one of which Dunedin will be proud. It will be the most modern of the New Zealand chain, and will have the distinction of being the only station where transmitting plant and studios are situated on the one floor.

The official opening will be a noteworthy occasion in Dunedin. The Hon. J. B. Donald, Postmaster-General, will perform the opening ceremony. If unable to visit Dunedin for the occasion, he will speak on relay from Wellington. A programme worthy of the occasion is being arranged.

## Talks to Farmers

FOLLOWING on the opening of the new station for 4YA, the work of forming a 4YA Primary Productions Committee, on the same lines as that at 3YA, will be put in hand at once. A conference of representatives of all organisations interested in farming will be called and will be addressed by the organiser, Dr. Charles Chilton, of Christchurch.

## Anglican Service

Broadcast by Canon  
Percival James

FOR the first time on Sunday evening last the service conducted in the Anglican Pro-Cathedral was broadcast by 2YA. The preacher for the occasion was Canon Percival James, who was well and favourably known to listeners of 1YA on the occasion of his frequent broadcasts from that station. It is certain that the addition of the Pro-Cathedral to the churches relayed from 2YA will be heartily welcomed.

## Randwick Races

Broadcast for New Zealand

MR. A. R. HARRIS, General Manager of the Broadcasting Company, advises that he is in communication with the Amalgamated Wireless of Australasia, with the view to arranging for a short-wave transmission of a description of some of the most important races which are to be decided at Randwick on October 5 and 7. The events under consideration are the Classic Derby, Epsom and Metropolitan, and it is probable that one or more of these events will be rebroadcast throughout New Zealand. In the first race two New Zealand horses will be running, and in the remaining two races at least nine are New Zealand horses.

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