

Our Mail Bag

Will correspondents please practice brevity, as heavy demands are now made on space. All letters must be signed and address given as proof of genuineness; noms de plume for publication are permitted. Address correspondence Editor, "Radio Record," P.O. Box 1032, Wellington.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Blind Listener."—In response to your request Mr. Marshall will sing the "Wolf" from station 2YA on November 2.

A Good Hefty Growl.

HERE is another good hefty growl from Invercargill. First, the children's hour. The atmosphere achieved is excellent and the work being done magnificent, but why force "Uncles" and "Aunts" with no idea of singing in tune and no voices to sing with? The result of their efforts to keep in tune is painful to a musical ear, and I am sure the remarks passed by listeners would be highly embarrassing to the person concerned.

The Radio Broadcasting Company is trying to make people believe that they are a benevolent institution, but one station relaying another is merely a cheap way of getting a programme. None want to listen to the same programme from two or three different stations. They tried hard to make people believe that the establishment of B class stations would be against their interests and they succeeded. They persist in saying there is no monopoly in New Zealand. There must be, otherwise the B class stations would have been licensed. We are still awaiting the Postmaster-General's statement. If no part of the listeners' fees is to be given to the B stations, how can their establishment be inimical to the listeners' interests? It simply means that a supplementary service is being provided for nothing. For if they are to be a financial success they must provide good programmes for listeners, in order to advertise their sponsor's wares. It is certain that the form of advertising will be no more than simply stating that the programme is being supplied by So-and-so Co. Listeners will not be forced to listen to them. The Radio Broadcasting Co. use this form of advertising themselves.

Why do not the Broadcasting Company publish a balance-sheet? They have been asked for one ever since their inception, but have remained dumb on the question.

I wish to support "Disgusted" in his contentions. The Broadcasting Co. has begun dinner music from three stations. What do we find? "Tacet" coming on at the same time from all stations. The lack of initiative is astounding. It is operating the stations as separate units, not as a whole, system, in accordance with the best prac-

tice in other parts of the world. Why cannot the sessions be so arranged as to provide continuous music from, say, 5 o'clock till 7.30? The children's hour and news session can be worked in so as not to clash with each one from the different stations. The company has the opportunity of providing variety, but has not the foresight to put it into practice. If a person wants to listen to lectures all the time, well and good. He can do so. Why doesn't the company put on musical items until 8 o'clock? From 7 to 8 is the emptiest hour of the evening. If the company doesn't provide service how can it expect to get more listeners?

The use of your paper as a safety valve is better than bursting the valves in my set in disgust.—Shielded Grid (Invercargill.)

A Suggestion for News.

SOME time ago the R.B.C. stated that linking Invercargill with 4YA would be of considerable advantage to Southland. As a Southland farmer I offer a suggestion.

As Wallacetown stock sale reports are those upon which Southland depends for valuation, would the R.B.C. arrange to have these broadcast from 4YA?

I consider that radio is of greater service to farmers than to any other section of the community, and I am eagerly looking forward to hearing the new 4YA station.—W. F. Harrison (Tuatapere)

Come North, Young Man!

I HAVE just been reading a letter by "Disgusted" (Invercargill) in your Mailbag Page, 13/9/29, and can assure him he's not the only one that's disgusted. I'm disgusted to think there are people like him who are never satisfied. Evidently he's growling from Monday until Sunday at all the YA programmes, and thinks the Australian stations are just the thing. What's the matter with him selling his set and buying a steamer ticket to Australia and stopping there? Failing that, come North, old man, and get a bit of sunshine, then you'll have a brighter outlook on life. In a way, he has my sympathy. I lived near Invercargill myself years ago. I'd like to ask "Disgusted": (1) Could he get a better programme than the recent Maori pageant at any of the Australian stations? (2) Could he get a better concert programme than the recent Wanganui Band concert? (3) What's wrong with the football, wrestling, and boxing descriptions from the YA stations? You're hard to please, "Disgusted." What a contrast his let-

ter is to "Satisfied Listeners" (Dunedin), on the same page. Well done, "Satisfied Listeners," I endorse every word of your letter.

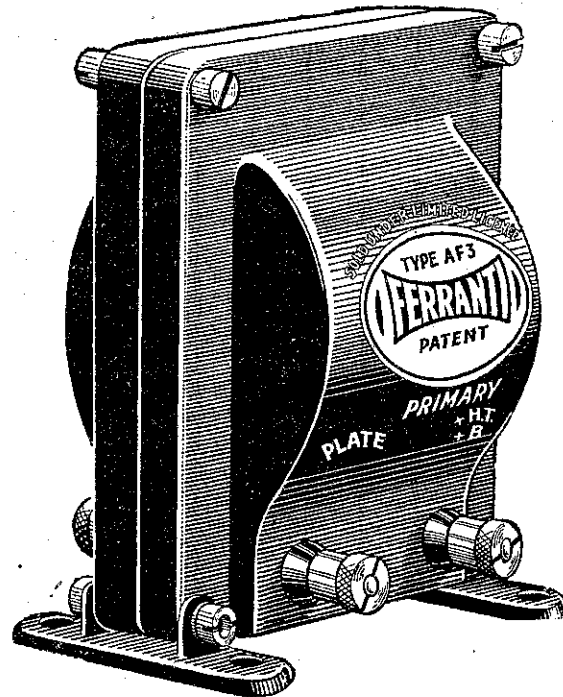
The passage I take the greatest exception to in "Disgusted's" letter is his question (4) When will the silent day become an active day? In the first place, he says "he wouldn't advise his friends to buy a radio set to listen in to YA stations," and yet he growls because they have a silent day! Secondly, does he think the station staffs should work seven days a week without a spell? I bet he likes his day off. Personally, Mr. Editor, I'm one of the "backblocks satisfied," and if by any chance one of the YA stations is not to my liking I just repeat Mr. Drummond's goo-ood night and go to another YA. Once again, I would ad-

vise "Disgusted" to come North into the sunshine, and can assure him that when he goes home after a day's work and tunes in 2YA he won't hanker after Australian stations.—I am, etc., F. Carter (Bay of Islands).

More Subdued Accompaniment Desired.

YES, we are enjoying radio, and we should not like to be without it, but would enjoy it better if, when an artist is singing, the pianist played much more softly. Why was wavelength altered to kilocycles? My machine reads wavelength. Would it not be better if you stated both wavelength and kilocycles?—I am, etc., W. Coker (Napier).

[Station allotments are made in kilocycles, and as most of the newer models



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