

Dinner Sessions

To Commence at 4YA
on October 17

THE opening of the new station for 4YA will see the inauguration of a dinner session in the programmes of the Dunedin Station. The first dinner session programme will be broadcast on Thursday, October 17.

"The Secret Station"

"AUNT PAT," of 3YA, recommends a "stunning" book for boys. It is called "The Secret Station," and is by Ellersley Hall (who, by the way, is "Peterkin," of 3YA). The story of the adventures of two lads and their thrilling experiences in discovering a secret radio station, which cripples the local stations in some mysterious way. A splendid book for boys, especially those interested in wireless and broadcasting.

Auckland Radio Exhibition**Much Public Interest**

CONSIDERABLE public interest is being evinced in the forthcoming exhibition promoted by the radio interests of Auckland, and this will be held in the Auckland Town Hall from October 30 to Saturday, November 2. The exhibition will open each day at 10.30 in the morning, and continue till 10.30 in the evening. The official opening ceremony will be held at 7.30 on the evening of Wednesday, the 30th. It is hoped that the Postmaster-General, the Hon. J. B. Donald, will be able to attend, accompanied by the Mayor and Mr. H. W. Holdsworth, chairman of the Auckland electrical trade. The stallholders are sparing no effort to produce stands that will be creditable to themselves and of outstanding interest to the public. The whole of the space available has been taken up, and it is certain that the show will compare more than favourably with that held in Wellington, as the advantage of having the latest models from America and England is with the Auckland people. Full co-operation on the part of the Radio Broadcasting Company is assured. The central stage will be fitted up as a temporary studio for the occasion, and leading artists and a band will be in attendance each evening. Children's sessions will be conducted from the hall, and altogether the arrangements made are so comprehensive that the show will be an outstanding feature of Auckland radio life. The members of the committee, Messrs. W. J. Smeeton (chairman), J. L. Davies (advertising), C. A. Tucker (stalls and recreation), H. S. Hartle (lighting and decorations), H. F. Garland (programmes), G. M. Bowles (general) are sparing no efforts to achieve successful results.

Studio Acoustics**Waitomo Relay Arouses Much Interest**

THE recent relay of a concert from Waitomo Caves created great interest among listeners. Owing to the acoustic qualities of the caves, the concert was looked forward to by very many as an opportunity for making comparisons between the effect of broadcasting from a cave and from a specially prepared studio. The result was that the station manager at 1YA received many letters from listeners who expressed their opinion and discussed the relative merits of studio and cave broadcasts.

A listener in North Auckland reported on the relay as follows:—"This was looked forward to generally as a promising novelty. I regret that actually the result did not justify the trouble. The acoustic effect on the microphone was curious, and probably attributable to the size and damping effect of the walls of the cave. A vocalist singing loudly appeared quite normal, especially a male voice. Singing softly, it was almost inaudible, and the soprano appeared very thin and reedy, as if the bulk of the sound were lost. Not a trace of any echo was noticeable. There is little doubt that a military band at full strength would have come over quite satisfactorily. The same effect—loss of body—was observed with the piano solo, as if most of the minor sound waves were lost, before they could affect the microphone. Actually, the concert might have been set out from a very poor studio acoustically. Some items were omitted from the programme."

In connection with this, the chief engineer of the Broadcasting Company, Mr. J. M. Bingham, has prepared a brief memorandum, as follows:—

"The various remarks received by the station director at 1YA from listeners in respect to the relay from Waitomo Caves concerning acoustic effects

apply not so much to actual acoustic effect as to the echo.

"Under certain conditions a slight echo effect is not only desirable, but can be used with good results. At the same time when endeavouring to obtain this particular effect a large number of conditions have to be taken under consideration.

"The governing factor is really what is termed the 'reverberation time,' that is, the time that a note will continue to sound till it dies away to negligible intensity. The permissible time period for good audio quality depends directly upon the cubic content of the studio or auditorium. It will thus be seen that a much higher time period can be permitted, for instance, at Waitomo Caves, than in a relatively small studio as is the case at 1YA.

"If an attempt is made to obtain an echo in the studio merely by the removal of the drapings, trouble will probably be encountered through the resultant interference caused by undue accentuation or diminution of certain tones, as well as a tendency to blurr on speech. There are always certain spots in a studio where such effects are more noticeable than in others, and these positions can only be found by experiment; but in practically every case they may be avoided by placing the microphone relatively close to a wall, taking care that a certain amount of draping is placed behind, below, and overhead. This method of microphone placing is practically standard in the large broadcasting and gramophone studios in the United States.

"In the case of a studio the size of that at 1YA a desirable reverberation time would be approximately one second for best results, and as the studio is built with hard plaster walls a certain quantity of draping will always be necessary."

The Waitomo Relay**Unfounded Rumours**

A NEWSPAPER paragraph in circulation reads as follows:—

"A northern paper, commenting on the fact that the recent relay from Waitomo Caves was, for some unknown reason, cut short, and that 1YA returned to a studio broadcast, suggested as a possible reason that the cold and damp were too much for the artists. It further states that the announcer of that evening has since died of pneumonia."

Whatever may have been the technical achievement or failures of the relay from the caves, it is quite evident that the occasion aroused very great interest, as has been evident from the rumours contained in the above paragraph. The facts were that a relay line could be made available only for an hour, and the health of no artist suffered. To say so is a libel on the magnificent caves.

Weather Reports**Special Afternoon Broadcast**

FARMERS will be interested to hear that the broadcasting of weather reports during the afternoon is to be a regular feature. This is to be made possible by the co-operation of the Meteorological Office.

Recently a special report prepared by Dr. Kidson forecasting the advent of a southerly gale was broadcast and served as a very valuable warning to stock owners.

In future, therefore, 2YA will broadcast a weather report every afternoon (except on Wednesday) at 3.30 (4 p.m. summer time). On Wednesday afternoons the report will be broadcast by 3YA.

Mr. Justice Macgregor**To Speak from 2YA**

MR. JUSTICE MACGREGOR, of the New Zealand Supreme Court Bench, will deliver a lecture from 2YA at 8.44 on Monday evening, October 14. His subject will be "The Art of Public Speaking."

Hawera Concert**An Unqualified Success**

LISTENERS throughout New Zealand testify to the excellent concert which was recently relayed from Hawera. Not only was the programme splendid, but the reception that evening was all that could be desired. The relay line from Hawera to Wellington, 190 miles, was perfect and reflected great credit on the Post and Telegraph Department.

Among the letters received is one from a listener in the Ohinemuri district. He writes as follows:—

"I desire to express my appreciation of the concert relayed from Hawera last evening. It was simply wonderful, reception being perfect and the items all that could be desired. I've listened-in for some years, but have never heard anything approaching last evening. That concert alone was worth the annual fee. In fact, I would like to express my appreciation of the service right through. It is wonderful, and I think that instead of adverse criticism the company deserve unstinted praise."

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