

Luther Burbank Talks on His Methods

AN interesting series of talks is to be given from 2YA on the evenings of October 19 and 26 and November 2, by Mr. L. D. Haggett. These will deal with Luther Burbank's experiments with flowers, fruits and plants, an evening being devoted to each of these subjects. Luther Burbank, who died only in 1926, left an amazing amount of information as to his methods of developing new colours and odours in flowers, quantity and quality improvements in fruit, and producing new fruits and plants. Some of this information, supplemented by details of personal experiments, will be embodied by Mr. Haggett in his talks. Burbank was a great scientist, naturalist, botanist and philosopher, and in these fields did as much good for the world as any one other person ever did. He was incidental in producing, amongst other things, the stoneless plum, the spineless cactus (now used for cattle feed in desert areas), the Shasta daisy, and a thousand other benefits to horticulture. It is safe to say that these talks will be of outstanding interest not only to horticultural enthusiasts, but to a much wider audience.

Palmerston North Broadcast

Concert in Aid of Unemployed

ON Sunday evening next, October 20, commencing at approximately 8.30 o'clock, Station 2YA will broadcast on relay from De Luxe Theatre, Palmerston North, a concert organised by Mr. J. A. Nash, M.P., in aid of funds for relief of unemployment. The cause is one which should of itself fill the theatre to capacity; but in addition there will be the attraction of what promises to be a very delightful programme. Patrons of this broadcast concert will have the pleasure of hearing the Choral Society, under Mr. J. Holmes Runcicles; the well-known Bridges Trio, from Wanganui; the Garrison Band, and the junior orchestra, as well as a number of very pleasing solo items, vocal, instrumental and elocutionary. Amongst the individual contributors will be Miss Teale, Mr. E. Gill, Miss Southey Baker, Mr. W. Robertson, and Master Billy Shannon—quite a galaxy of talent. It is confidently expected that the applause of a crowded audience will make manifest to listeners in other parts of the Dominion how well the people of Palmerston North respond to an appeal made on behalf of any necessitous and deserving cause, and how thoroughly they appreciate their own local talent.

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The Wireless Cable World-Wide Merger

Importance to New Zealand

THE social and economic existence of New Zealand, a country geographically isolated from the rest of the world, is wholly dependent upon all forms of international communication. Realising this fact, we can readily appreciate the important significance of the wireless and cables merger recently consummated in England. With the rapid development of wireless in general, and the beam system in particular, it has long been apparent that the utilisation of this invention for the purpose of international communication would be inevitable. With the application of this scheme, it was soon realised that the wireless and cable services would become competitive, with probably undesirable results to the latter. Hence an amalgamation was proposed and carried through, and now the interests of both are governed by the Imperial and International Communications Company.

Shortly before the end of the general election in New Zealand last year, the Government announced that it approved in principle of the proposed form of the amalgamation. Sir Joseph Ward, however, speaking recently in the House of Representatives on the introduction of the measure formally approving of New Zealand's support in this matter, strongly criticised the transaction. He stated that the abandonment of supreme control by the British Government was an unfortunate and wrong step, from the point of view of both the Pacific cable system and the future of the Empire. He regretted that New Zealand had had no opportunity of protesting against the sale of the Pacific cable.

The London "Times," in commenting on Sir Joseph Ward's criticism, stated that the merger was recommended unanimously after careful and prolonged consideration by the Imperial Cable and Wireless Conference, at which New Zealand was represented by the High Commissioner, Sir James Parr. Owing to the competition of the cheaper beam service, Government-owned cables were likely to become unremunerative, and it was principally for this reason the sale was decided upon.

The suggestion made by Sir Joseph Ward that the merger company would be in supreme control ignores one of the most important recommendations made by the conference—namely, that the Governments of the Empire, as trustees for the public, should exercise control over the policy of the Merger Communications Company, in addition to approving the nomination of certain members of the board of the company. The conference therefore proposed the creation of an Advisory Committee nominated by the Government, which should be given absolute power with regard to any proposed increase of existing rates.

The merger was undoubtedly a more advantageous thing to cable owners, whether private or Governmental, than to the wireless companies, for it enabled the cable interests to capitalise, as it were, their position almost before they

A Stream of Congratulatory Letters

JUDGING from the number of letters received from Australia, the number of people who listen in to the New Zealand stations is steadily increasing. The last mail from across the Tasman brought a very interesting batch. There were also numerous letters from the Pacific Coast of Canada and the United States.

One correspondent in San Francisco reported having heard 2YA on Monday, September 9. He wrote: "The time was around 1.45 a.m. (Pacific Coast Time) when I first picked you up. A wrestling match was in progress and your announcer kept saying, 'Can he make it?' or words to that effect. It must have been broadcast direct from the scene, as the roar of the crowd was very loud at times."

Writing from Portland, which is 113 miles from Sydney, at an elevation of 3028ft., a New South Wales listener said: "I would like to congratulate you on your transmission on Saturday night, September 28; it simply roared in on four valves for three hours from 8 to 11 (your time), with very little fading. I've had you very often before the sun has been down at good strength. This winter has been very disappointing so far as reception is concerned from all stations on your side, and also on our own, static awful, not a week without it—distortion and fading on stations like 3LO and 8AR. On stormy nights I've had you quite clearly. Thank you for news of the air race at Calshot lately; you were very handy that night. None of our stations put that over till next day. I heard you putting the service over the night the King caught the chill that laid him up for so long. I heard a station last week, 2YB, on 'phones, at 5.30, sun shining brightly. Where is he situated?"

A Parramatta correspondent who picked up 2YA when broadcasting the concert from Hawera heard "a short play which sounded very weird, a chorus of voices uttering war cries of a savage nature." He had tuned in while the Hawera Savages were giving a haka!

had begun to feel the effects of wireless competition. On the other hand, the wireless companies stabilised their earnings at the opening of a very promising career. It must be borne in mind, however, that the merger was not recommended for any one reason, but for a number, and amongst them, the course of events abroad.

Very large corporations have been created in America, and it was necessary to rationalise the communication services of the Empire in order to enable them to meet this competition on equal terms. The merger may be regarded as the first effort at Imperial industrial rationalisation, and if the results produce a higher efficiency with better service to the public it should not be the last.

A Sacred Concert Special Attraction at 2YA

A SACRED concert, which will be relayed by 2YA, is to be held at Palmerston North at 8.30 p.m. on Sunday October 20. The proceeds are in aid of funds for relief of unemployment. The evening's programme is as follows:—

Selection—P.N. Garrison Band; conductor, Mr. Cox.
Song—"The Watchman" (W. H. Squire), Mr. Syd Kendall.
Duet—Bach Double Concerto (violins), Miss Baker and Mr. Findlay.
Overture—"Phineas" (Gruenwald), Bridges Trio, Miss Nacy (violin), Miss Francis (xylophone), Mr. Claude (piano).
Recitation—Selected, Miss Teale.
Item—"How Great is the Depth," (Mendelssohn: St. Paul), Choral Society; Mr. J. Holmes Runcicles, conductor.
Overture—"On the Riviera," (Gruenwald) Junior Orchestra; conductor, Mr. C. H. Greening.
Guitar—"The Rosary" (Nevin) Master Alan Sunborn.
Selection—"Two Imps" (Alford) Bridges Trio.
Recitation—Selected, Master Billy Shannon.
Item—"How Lovely are the Messengers," Choral Society.
Song—"Thanks be to God" (Dixon), Mr. Syd Kendall.
Musical Item—Selected, Mr. W. Robertson.
March—"The Medley" (Alford), Junior Orchestra.
Guitar—"The Laughing Rag" (Moody), Master Alan Sunborn.
March—Selected, Garrison Band.

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ADVISORY TRUSTEES

This is a heading of an interesting folder just issued by the Public Trust Office. It sets out briefly the advantages of appointing advisory trustees in certain instances.

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