

Contract for Stations Completed

Views of 1, 2 and 3YA

(Continued from front page.)

casting. It now remained to complete the contract by the erection of the new 4YA.

The Question of Dunedin.

MANY of the older listeners will remember the station VIDN at the New Zealand and South Seas Exhibition. Previously, Dunedin had a private station known as 4YA, and when the Broadcasting Company took this over in 1925, it was rebuilt and transferred to the site at the exhibition in time for the opening in November. After it had been in operation for a few weeks, its power was increased to half-kilowatt. When, however, the exhibition closed down, the station was dismantled and removed to its old premises in Moray Place, Dunedin. Considerable constructional alterations were effected from time to time. Studios were duplicated, and everything done to make the station as presentable as possible. Its power was still below that of the other stations. This fact caused a great deal of dissatisfaction among South Island listeners, and efforts were made by the Broadcasting Company to bring it into line at the earliest possible opportunity.

That opportunity occurred Wednesday last, when, with chorus of bagpipes, never before heard over the air from a southern hemisphere station, the new 4YA came on the air.

To mark the occasion a large number of distinguished guests assembled. These included representative citizens, including the Mayor of Dunedin, Mr. R. S. Black, and officials of the company.

The strides taken by radio in the last few years was symbolised by the relaying of the Postmaster-General's speech from Wellington. Though marred by slight surge, the speech was intelligible and its message was welcomed by all interested in the future of radio.

Hon. J. B. Donald's Address.

YOUR Worship, Mr. Harris. Ladies and gentlemen assembled at the 4YA



Aerial equipment of 3YA, Christchurch, the second of the new R.B.C. stations to be completed.

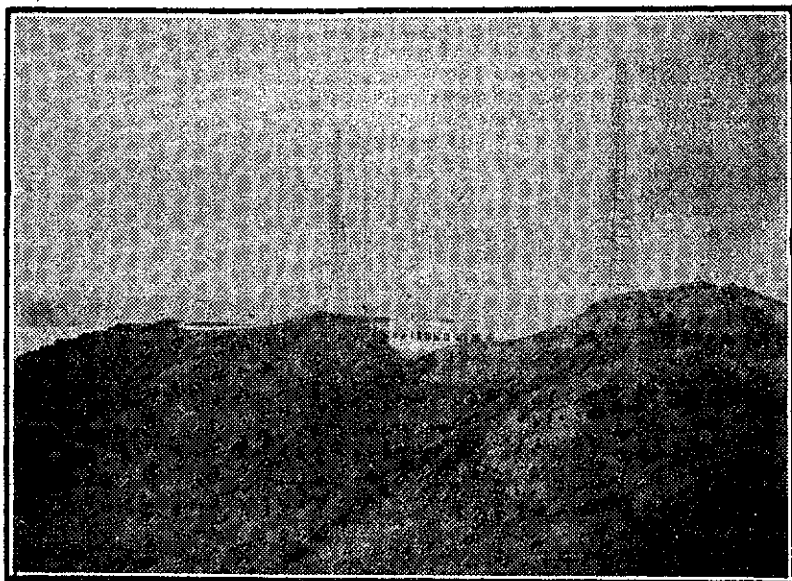
studio and those who are listening to 4YA this evening, commenced Mr. Donald. First of all, I wish to thank the Radio Broadcasting Company for its invitation to me to open its new Dunedin station. I regard this as quite a compliment, not only because I am Minister of Telegraphs and in charge of radio, but also because I am personally very much interested in the development of all branches of wireless in New Zealand.

I have been introduced this evening by a skirl of the bagpipes—the national music of Scotland—and it is perhaps appropriate that the opening ceremony should be performed by one of Scottish ancestry, in view of the great part which Scottish people have taken in settling and developing Otago and Southland.

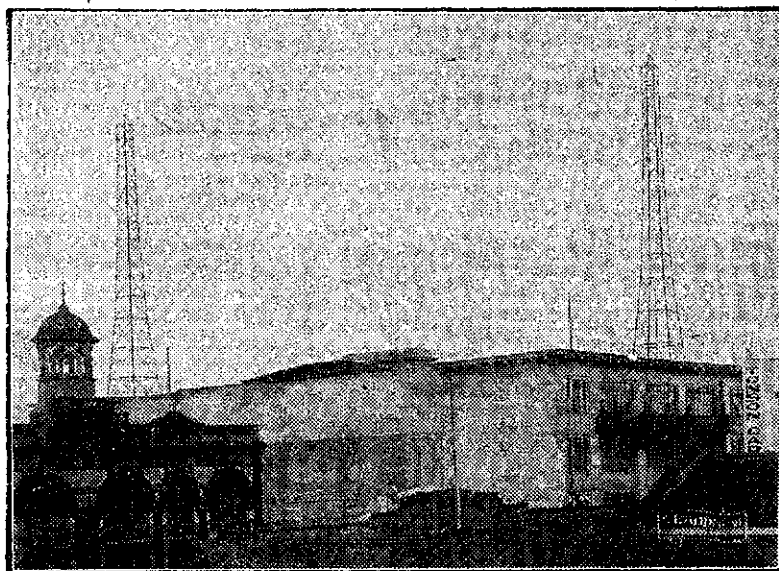
Radio broadcasting has now become so much a part of our everyday lives that it will perhaps surprise many of the younger people to know that it has been in existence for only eight years. In 1921 it was still in the experimental stage. In that year a few proprietary stations commenced to function in America. A service commenced in London in 1922, and New Zealand in 1925.

We are so accustomed to-day to the marvels of science that we often fail to see the romance which surrounds the march of progress. In 1861 the pioneer engineers of my Department were seriously considering such burning questions as the opening up of telegraphic communication over short distances in Canterbury and Otago, such as Lyttelton to Christchurch and Port Chalmers to Dunedin. To-day I am able to sit in my office and address a gathering in the studio of 4YA, as well as a much wider radio audience in Dunedin, Otago, New Zealand, and countries around its shores. It may be of some interest if I briefly indicate the transformations and processes that are involved in the transmission of my voice from the Capital City to my unseen audience.

The familiar telephone in front of me is the first link in the chain, and



The most powerful station in the British Overseas Empire, 2YA, Wellington, situated on the heights of Mount Victoria, is a familiar landmark.



On the top of George Court and Sons building, Auckland, rises the masts of the oldest station erected under the R.B.C. contract.