

from 4YA was not either partly or else completely spoiled by static. I presume that the station is operating now at full power. If so, then the power should be increased. It is scarcely creditable that the most modern station in New Zealand should have a power of only half-kilowatt. I have just read an advertisement of an American station, WLW, whose output is 50 kilowatts—100 times as much. I am aware that you will say that the R.B.C. cannot afford to erect a big station like that with only 49,000 licenses. But surely a substantial increase in the number can only be expected to follow an improved service, not precede it? The quality of 4YA's transmission has certainly improved, but that is not much use when it is drowned out by static. I think, also, that the company is overdoing the relaying of programmes. The only justification of a relay is when there is some special concert on, and then only if the relay is as good as the original in quality. Last week 4YA twice relayed ordinary evening programmes from Christchurch. I did not listen the first night, but last night the quality was very bad, in fact so bad that it sounded like a rebroadcast. In conclusion, might I say a word of appreciation for the new octet at 3YA? Some music by them or by a trio occasionally would be a pleasant change in the dinner sessions.—"X" (Hillgrove).

A Letter of Appreciation.

WE would like to thank those responsible for the splendid programme broadcast by the new 4YA station on their opening night. Its excellence could not be surpassed. The Dunedin Pipe Band deserve to be well praised for their opening skirl, which came through loudly and clearly. The speeches by the Postmaster-General and Mr. Ball, editor-announcer of the Broadcasting Company, were also well received. Wishing the 4YA's the best of luck, and hoping to hear some more pipe-band music shortly.—"Satisfied" (Westport).

Broadcasting and Education

IN England there seems to be at present a widely-expressed opinion that broadcast lessons should be given a recognised place in the school curriculum. Broadcast lessons were first introduced into schools there in 1923, and it is stated that now more than 5000 listening-in schools exist in the country. In one school a wireless set was built and erected as a result of a collection made by the children out of school hours. Parts were purchased week by week with the pennies collected, and the set was built by the children.

Arrival in America Radio and the Schneider Trophy

Elaborate Preparations Made

RADIO played an important part in the elaborate preparations which were made by the "Los Angeles Examiner" to secure, without a second's delay, a newspaper "scoop" on the arrival of the Graf Zeppelin on the Pacific coast recently. Eight land and sea planes and an airship, all fully equipped with radio, composed the aerial fleet which was chartered by the "Examiner" for this purpose.

One aeroplane flew out to sea to meet this monster dirigible, and was able to broadcast through the station owned by the "Examiner," graphic descriptions of the huge airship as she glided towards Los Angeles. Another plane broadcast further descriptions, which were picked up by the "Examiner's" short-wave station, and then rushed to the editors at their desks for preparation of special editions. After the landing of the Zeppelin, a telephony broadcast of the scene at the airport was transmitted by another plane as she circled above the huge crowd below.

Further aeroplanes were used for dispatch work and for delivering bundles of the special edition at the airport. This was so packed by a dense crowd of spectators and automobiles that quick delivery by any other means would have been impossible.

Special arrangements were also made by the National Broadcasting Company of America to broadcast a description of the arrival scenes over their nation-wide network of stations. Profiting by experience gained on the occasion of the Graf Zeppelin's first visit to America, the company's engineers abandoned all efforts to place microphones at various vantage points around the field. Instead, the announcer was equipped with a portable short-wave transmitter weighing only 24lb., which was originally developed for the use of a parachute jumper, who broadcast his sensations while falling through the air.

By means of a short-wave receiver installed inside the hangar, the announcer's running commentary on the arrival of the airship was picked up and relayed to broadcasting stations situated all over the United States.

An International Broadcast

PROBABLY the most important event in the public eye in England this year was the Schneider Trophy race, and the plans necessary for its smoothly-working organisation were the culmination of six months' continued labour and research. It is stated that without the highly-perfected condition of radio in Great Britain today, it would not have been possible to hold the event at all. Radio was used in far more ways than the mere broadcasting of a running commentary, though the latter was regarded by overseas listeners as the most important of all the various transmissions.

Upon the roof of the Ryde Pier pavilion had been erected a hut for the accommodation of the official time-keeper, judges, commentators, broadcasting engineers, and apparatus. From a news interest point of view, and it might safely be stated that this was international, everything depended upon the engineers and the apparatus located in the hut.

The public-address system used for keeping the million-odd spectators around the course accurately informed of the progress of events, was in itself a triumph of radio engineering. Though the course was 31 miles in length, and though the public were extended over an even greater distance, yet it is reported that very few of the public were out of range of the eighteen loud-speakers which were installed at some eighteen different points around the course.

A specially-reserved trunk-line carried the commentary and the accompanying incidental noises direct to Germany, where they were successfully re-broadcast from several stations. A short-wave transmission from 5SW, Chelmsford, was also broadcast for the especial benefit of overseas countries, and this was perfectly received in America, Europe, and Australia. Incidentally, a re-broadcast by 2YA, Wellington, of this international event was quite good.

The complete radio installation was by far the largest ever carried out by the Marconiphone Co. Over 200 loud-speakers and 750 valves were used, 700 of the latter being of the super-power type! Low tension requirements alone made it necessary to use 230 accumulators, while fifteen miles of wire were needed for this gigantic broadcast.

The smoothness with which the whole organisation worked was a splendid tribute to British engineers.

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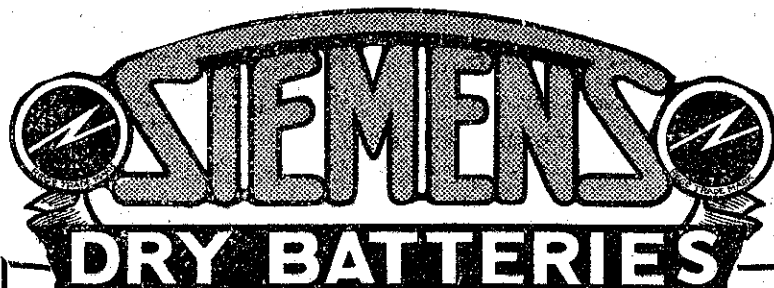
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