

Auckland Radio Exhibition

Advice to Public.

"TO those who are interested, but have not yet purchased a machine, I would advise you to have a good look at all the different models exhibited. I will be extremely surprised if you cannot find something suited to your taste and pocket. All the best makes of receivers are now so good that there is no reason to postpone buying on the score that something better might be coming out soon. I would like to congratulate the radio dealers on their enterprise in holding the exhibition. I trust that it will do a great deal to popularise the use of wireless in the homes of New Zealand." The Hon J. B. Donald then declared the exhibition open.

Further Speeches.

MR. WARWICK J. SMEETON, chairman of the Radio Dealers' Association, was the next to speak. He remarked that on this occasion, the minds of many went back to an evening in 1924, when in the science room of the Auckland University the first radio exhibition was opened. When he recalled to mind the apparatus exhibited there, he could not help being impressed by the enormous progress radio had made since those early days. He remarked that the exhibition was supported by the Auckland Radio Society, the Listeners' League, and by the Society of Amateur Radio Transmitters.

THE Mayor of Auckland, Mr. George Baidon, then spoke. In reference to the remarkable growth and the improvements in radio apparatus, he said that only a few years ago, if he had prophesied that he would one day address thousands of persons by speaking into a metal box he would have been accused of seeing visions. It was only a matter of a short time when people would be able to see the person who speaks through the microphone. Mr. Baidon congratulated the dealers and especially the amateurs for the splendid exhibition.

MR. W. J. HOLDSWORTH, chairman of the Auckland Electric Power Board, said he was closely associated with broadcasting because it

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was allied with the activities of the body he presided over. "Already Japanese ladies are using radio to proclaim their charms to the world," he said. "Perhaps such a system may eventually come into vogue in New Zealand. If it did so occur, I consider all married men should be debarred from listening-in. (Applause.) There is also the old story often told by a man who says he is only going somewhere to see a 'man about a dog.' That's impossible now," said Mr. Holdsworth, "because he can just as well sit at home and get the said animal's particulars over the radio." (Laughter.)

Mr. Ball's Address.

LATER in the evening, Mr. John Ball, chief announcer of the Radio Broadcasting Company, delivered a broadcast address.

"**OUR** by no means remote forefathers would have regarded this magnificent display with which we are here surrounded as something more than wonderful," said Mr. Ball, in the course of his address. "To them it would have savoured of the supernatural. You who are listening to my voice at this moment do not require to be told that man's inventive genius has given the world nothing more marvellous than radio telephony, or wireless, as it is more commonly called."

The Miracle of Radio.

"**IT** is not generally realised," continued Mr. Ball, "that the atmosphere is crowded with a welter of inaudible music, song, and speech, rushing through space with incredible rapidity, in every conceivable direction. Out of this soundless babel of bands, orchestras, singers and speakers one is able to select and make audible the one item required."

"Literally speaking, the owner of a modern receiving set—any one of the numerous battery or all-electric type on exhibition at Auckland, can sit at home and tune in to stations all over the world. This marvellous boon, it must be noted, is not restricted to rank, class, or creed, for to-day a good and reliable radio receiving set is within reach of all. Every home in New Zealand is able to secure the entire benefits of the broadcast service for a license fee which works out at a fraction over one penny per day!"

Service for Farmers.

THE value of market reports and weather forecasts to the farmer and the pastoralist was then specially mentioned by Mr. Ball. He quoted many instances where the broadcast of a weather report had proved of inestimable value to farmers by enabling them to protect their flocks and crops from sudden storms and adverse conditions in general.

At the present time, during the shearing season, a special afternoon weather forecast is being broadcast, and representative sheep farmers have stated that this provision will, in all probability, result in the saving of hundreds, if not thousands, of sheep. Sheep, cattle, dairy, and agricultural farmers in all parts of the Dominion

have expressed grateful appreciation of all the invaluable advice that has been broadcast to them by the officers of the Department of Agriculture and by other experts.

Town Listeners catered for Also.

BESIDES this national service for the man on the land, there is also a similar one maintained for the interest and benefit of city listeners. Short talks on every conceivable subject are broadcast by doctors, scientists, lawyers, specialists, and authorities in the various realms of sport; all of whom have generously responded to the company's appeal and availed themselves of the wonderful opportunity which radio offers to render service to their fellow New Zealanders. Mr. Ball doubted if any other broadcast organisation in the world could excel that of New Zealand in the constant manifestation of this splendid spirit of community service.

Notwithstanding the present efficiency of the broadcasting service in New Zealand, the Broadcasting Company, concluded Mr. Ball, were aiming at a still higher state of perfection. He appealed to every listener to enrol at least one friend, and thus hasten the day when their ideals would be realised.

Review of Exhibition

AFTER the conclusion of the official speeches, the attention of the visitors turned to the various stalls, where radio apparatus, ranging from humble crystal receiving sets to complete transmitters, was displayed in profusion. The enthusiast was soon distinguishable from the merely casual observer. The former desired to see and to inquire about everything new, and pursued an inquisitive pilgrimage through the full range of the exhibits, of which there were ample to delight the hearts of the many radio enthusiasts present.

The large variety of exhibits called forth the praise and admiration of the many visitors, and stall attendants were kept busily engaged in everything connected with these new products. In all, there were 21 stands representing 17 firms, and although the apparatus displayed naturally possessed a certain similarity, the ingenuity of the stand-holders in engaging the attention of the public obviated any chance of monotony.

The stands were very tastefully decorated, and when combined with the artistic lighting effects, the whole presented a very attractive appearance. Numerous excellent colour schemes were perceivable, and a wide originality of design made a variety that was much appreciated. In many cases the stands were designed to represent drawing rooms, and thus the public could envisage the new receivers in their future environment.

What was perhaps the most interesting feature of the exhibition was the evidence displayed of what modern mass-production is capable of. It might be thought that such a complicated piece of apparatus as the modern multi-valve receiver would be the last

form of merchandise to be produced at the rate of hundreds per day. Yet American factories, and, to a less extent, English ones, have proved that it can be done, and the display of multi-valve receiving sets at the exhibition was a revelation in methods of modern production.

All-Electric Receivers.

PROMINENT among these were represented many fine examples of the latest important departure in radio, the all-electric receiver. These sets, which draw their power direct from the mains, were both ingenious and elaborate, but were so simple in operation that a child could manipulate them with ease. One attractive feature was common to the many and varied models on show. It has long been apparent that the radio set of to-day must be an ornament—an artistic piece of furniture in harmony with a tastefully-arranged room. Manufacturers have responded well to this demand, easily traceable to feminine influence, and the receiving sets on display were such as would grace any home.

Battery Receivers.

IN addition, some very fine examples of battery-operated sets were on display, and those who have no electric power available were able to see the very latest conceptions in battery models. The home constructor was also well provided for, as several firms specialised in this direction. The resultant display of radio components and accessories was very satisfactory, with regard to both assortment and price. In two cases the public were catered for in this section by the exhibition of examples of home-constructed sets.

AN impressive feature of the commercial sets exhibited was the imposing cabinets which housed them. The console models were principally of two types, the combined radio-gramophone and the separate radio set. The former, the prices of which ranged from £75 upwards, in most cases employed the 250 power valve in push-pull in the last stage. This arrangement results in an excellent tone, and judging from the volume of sound at times in the hall, delivers ample volume.

The smaller models of both combination and separate radio were characterised by the new 245 valve in the last stage. It will be remembered that this is the latest development in the radio world, and its reception has met with unreserved approval.

The A.C. screen-grid valve, which is now very popular, is being employed in as many as three stages—namely, detector and two radio; and the use

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