

# The New Zealand Radio Record

(Incorporating the "Canterbury Radio Journal")

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WELLINGTON, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1929.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

CONGRATULATIONS may be extended to Auckland upon the success of the Radio Exhibition held there last week. As was the case with the opening of 4YA in Dunedin, the Postmaster-General utilised the land-line facilities of the Post and Telegraph Department and opened the exhibition by speaking from his office in Wellington. The speech was transmitted satisfactorily by this means, and the Ministerial blessing bestowed upon the Exhibition. The announcement of most interest to radio enthusiasts in the Minister's speech was the statement that the license fee for amateur radio transmitters had been reduced to the level of the ordinary receiving license fee. The transmitters, who are a notable band of enthusiasts, will be grateful for this concession, as it meets the representations they have made from time to time. The opportunity was also taken by the Postmaster-General to emphasise the need of the radio service being enthusiastically supported by listeners, and every effort made to secure increased numbers. He rightly pointed out that the success of the service was dependent upon revenue, and revenue was securable only from the fees of listeners. Exhibitions such as those staged originally in Wellington and Dunedin, now held in Auckland, and to be held in Christchurch next week, will certainly play their part and spread enthusiasm for radio in the public mind.

A KINDLY service to radio was performed by "The Dominion" newspaper in drawing attention to the outstanding service afforded sheep-farmers in the present sheep-shearing season by the daily broadcast at 3.30 each afternoon of a special weather forecast. The purpose of this innovation is to supply sheep-owners with an indication of the likely course of the weather. It has sometimes happened in the past that immediately following upon sheep being turned out after being shorn, cold southerly or drenching northerly rains have come up, with detrimental effects upon the stock. Not only have the sheep suffered, with a percentage of deaths resulting therefrom, but the whole health of the flock has been affected with subsequent ill-effects on the following season's yield. Now with the aid of the Meteorological Department and the broadcast service of 2YA, it is possible for every sheep-owner equipped with a radio service to know at afternoon-tea time the trend of the weather, and arrange his actions accordingly. This service in itself certainly stands to save the country many thousands

of pounds. It is a service that is likely to be supplemented from time to time by similar consideration for other branches of primary production. The tomato-growers of Canterbury, for instance, have requested a similar service, in order that they may safeguard their crops from sudden storms.

THE Radio Olympia to be held in Christchurch, commencing on November 11, is not staged on such an ambitious scale as those of Wellington or Auckland. This is due to inability to secure a building of sufficient size. The Choral Hall has been taken for the occasion, and this gives scope for but nine stalls, compared with the larger numbers possible in both Wellington and Auckland. In spite of this slight drawback, however, it is certain, in our view, that the radio enthusiasts of Christchurch, and the interested public as well, will receive a very valuable object-lesson by a visit to the Radio Olympia. The time has been well chosen, falling in Carnival Week, and that in itself will present additional opportunity for demonstrating radio to the public. A comprehensive programme has been arranged by Station 3YA in commemoration of Olympia, and altogether listeners are assured of an interesting time, both over the air from the Radio Olympia and at the show.

## 1YA Programmes "Band Monday" at 3YA

### Important Alteration All City Bands to Take Part

AN alteration has been made in 1YA programmes as published in the "Radio Record" last week. Instead of the entertainment advertised for Saturday November 9, a concert to be given by the Auckland Municipal Band will be relayed from the Town Hall.

### Concerts from Caves

#### Italian Experiments

JUST about the same time that 1YA was relaying a concert from Waitomo Caves, the Italian broadcasting authorities were carrying out concert relays from similar grottos. The writer of notes in "World Radio," under date September 13, thus comments on the Italian tests:—

"Seeing the great care which is taken in the building of the modern studio with a view to securing the best possible quality in acoustics, it is somewhat surprising to find high-class symphony concerts being broadcast from a cave. Yet, I see that in the grottos of Posthumia (in the Province of Trieste), a series of such concerts is taking place at the present time. An orchestra of one hundred and twenty members, under the direction of Signor Pietro Mascagni, is apparently the mainstay of these concerts, which are obviously much more than a mere stunt. The largest of the grottos holds no fewer than seven thousand persons. Presumably this is not counting those who may elect to hang from the stalactites, or sit with tentacles on the stalagmites. Although I understand that the Italian Broadcasting Company has obtained permission to relay these concerts through Milan and Turin, it may be that the technical difficulties of relaying successfully from such a studio will prove insuperable, but otherwise the concert should certainly be worth hearing, if only for the interest of conjuring up in the mind the place from which it originates."

FROM all parts of Christchurch on Monday evening, brass bands, pipe bands, drum and fife bands, will be marching with colours flying towards the centre of the city. The rendezvous is a spot on the banks of the picturesque Avon where, on a grassy slope stands a newly-erected magnificent band rotunda.

This rotunda is a gift to the city by Mr. T. J. Edmonds, and it is to be officially opened with all the ceremony that such a gift warrants. After the speeches, each of the bands will contribute an item. It will, in reality, be "Band Monday" at 3YA.

## Auckland Municipal Band

### Concerts to be Broadcast

MUTUALLY satisfactory arrangements have now been effected between the Auckland City Council and the Radio Broadcasting Company concerning the right to broadcast all the musical activities of the Auckland City Council. These arrangements at the moment of our going to press have still to be confirmed by the full meeting of the City Council in progress at the time, but it is hoped and anticipated that the detailed arrangements so far made will be confirmed. In the meantime permission has been granted for the broadcast of the Municipal Band concerts from the Town Hall on November 9 and 17. The programme published in last week's "Record" as for the 9th, will, therefore, be replaced by the relay of this concert, which will be given under the conductorship of Mr. Christopher Smith.

C. R. RUSSELL M.Sc.,  
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