

Our Mailbag

"World's Thrift Day."

It is seldom that we have any very serious complaints to make in regards to the programmes offering from the various YA stations, but this evening's output gives every true-born Scotsman something to chew over for some time to come. Is it possible that the complete staff of the Broadcasting Company are steeped in profound ignorance to what day this is? Is there not one amongst them who has a drop of North-of-the-Tweed blood in his veins? I don't know what happened during the bed-time sessions, perhaps "Cousin Dick" came to the fore, but I myself hastened home from the shearing shed with happy thoughts and anticipations of a joyous and skirling Scottish evening, yet on turning up the programmes to determine which station was most worthy of prior attention, I was thunderstruck to find the whole affair a washout, and that Dunedin of all stations in the world was having its customary night off! The fact appears to me almost incredible. Can it be possible that New Zealand is unaware that, except in the case of bank clerks, October 31 ranks in importance even before St. Andrew's Day in Scotland, in fact, according to the age of the individual, it may also take precedence before the other two great national celebrations, New Year's Day and the birthday of our Scottish bard, Mr. Burns.

No wonder that the "fizzly" devils are abroad and making merry to-night and Wellington's very fine concert is

completely wiped out at intervals up here. I trust that at least Dunedin may remember to celebrate the great harmonious annual festival of evil spirits and their brother Scots when the time for "dooking fur dipples" comes round again next Hallowe'en. I take it, however, that it is purely by coincidence on this night of open-handed Scottish generosity with their neighbours' "kail-runts," that Station 2FC announces for this date the celebration of the "World's Thrift Day!" —George Fraser (Ohura).

Radio Telegraph Systems

THE president of the Radio Corporation of America recently announced plans for the immediate establishment of a radio-telegraph system which will serve fourteen strategic cities. This new service will enable inland cities to maintain direct communication with the wireless network which radiates from New York and San Francisco to twenty-two foreign countries. In the near future it is hoped to extend the system to include the full list of twenty-one cities contemplated in the original proposal. The establishment of this service will thus give the leading commercial and industrial centres of America a speedy and reliable means of inter-communication; but the greatest significance this project has, however, is that by its means every country in the world will be brought into close touch with practically the whole continent of America.

The B.B.C. and Radiovision

A Satisfactory Decision at Last

AFTER many long and weary months of bitter controversy, the British Broadcasting Company have at last granted the Baird Radiovision Company satisfactory, if not adequate, facilities for the experimental transmission of Baird radiovision.

The B.B.C.'s first offer to the Baird Co. was rejected on the grounds that three fifteen-minute periods per week outside normal broadcasting hours were insufficient. However, the Baird Co.'s pertinacity in seeking better terms has now been rewarded, for the B.B.C.'s second offer provided for five half-hour periods per week outside programme hours for radiovision transmission.

Despite the fact that these facilities now granted are still considered inadequate, it has been decided to accept these terms together with the conditions imposed, and utilise them to show the general public what radiovision is capable of as a new and interesting form of entertainment. This decision should effectively curtail the radiovision controversy, which has been raging for many months past.

As the ultimate inclusion of radiovision in broadcast programmes was inevitable, it would seem better had the B.B.C. foreseen this and acted accordingly. The total result of their hesi-

tancy has been that England, despite the fact that radiovision originated there, is now one of the most backward of countries with regard to its development.

Germany, for example, without delay, wholeheartedly attacked the problem of satisfactory radiovision broadcasts, with the result that the Baird system of transmission and reception is now an accepted form of entertainment in that country. In England, however, because of the hesitancy of the B.B.C., the general adoption of this new science is but in its infancy.

In any event, whether permission has been granted late or early, it now remains for that arbitrator of all national institutions, the public, to decide to what extent, if at all, radiovision is to be incorporated in broadcasting.

Though a definite solution to the problem appears to have been found, it is, however, extremely likely that fresh complications will arise, because the B.B.C. will be the sole interpreters of the public's verdict. They have, in granting the broadcasting concession to the Baird Company, retained the power to discontinue at any moment the privilege thus conferred; and when it is realised that even now the B.B.C. is accepting the inclusion of radiovision broadcasts with extreme reluctance, it seems possible that in the near future fresh difficulties may develop.

Have you procured your copy of

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