

Christchurch Radio Olympia

Another Outstanding Success

THE radio traders of Christchurch held their first radio exhibition last week, and the venture proved a great success. The locale was the Choral Hall, the interior of which was transformed for the occasion. The stalls for the exhibits were ranged on either side beneath the gallery, and made very attractive displays. The whole body of the hall was carpeted and furnished with easy chairs and settees, like a large lounge. Pink chenille curtains, palms and standard lamps with pretty shades added to the pleasing effect.

Nine of the leading radio dealers of Christchurch exhibited the latest in receiving sets and apparatus. The Radio Society of Christchurch also had a display of home-made sets. Included in these were two prize-winning sets by Mr. F. O'Connor. Both of these were all-wavers, one of them being a portable. The other had brought in 200 stations. A three-valve set, made by Mr. J. Stewart and awarded a first prize, was also shown. There was an interesting display by the Radio Broadcasting Company of valves in use at the broadcasting stations. These ranged from a very small specimen, known as the "peanut," to the largest water-cooled valves used at 2YA. Some of these had had portions of the metal outer casing cut away so that the interior economy was placed on view.

The radio dealers who had displays were J. I. Smail, Speddings Ltd. (L. L. Jones, Canterbury agent), L. B. Scott, Ltd., Direct Supply Company, Ltd., H. L. Newton, Chas. Bennett, Ltd., Watkinson's, Ltd., A. R. Harris and Co., Ltd., and A. E. Strange.

The exhibition was conducted in much the same way as were those at the other centres. The Broadcasting Company was responsible for the entertainment programmes for both children and adults. These were staged in the model studio which had been arranged on the stage. 3YA studio had been dismantled for the purpose, and the model studio in pink and grey was a credit to Mrs. Bingham, who was responsible for the lay-out.

The Christchurch Radio Exhibition was not as large as those in the other cities (no adequate hall being available in Christchurch), but the original shown in arranging and furnishing the hall was a matter for the most favourable comment from all visitors as soon as they entered the building. The exhibition was different from the usual "exhibition."

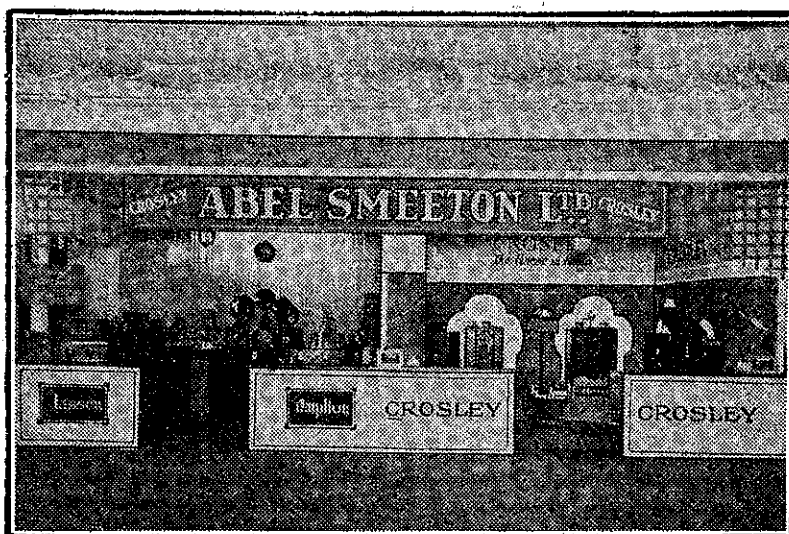
A very interesting section of the exhibition was the office of the Christchurch Amateur Transmitters, who transmitted messages free to all parts of New Zealand.

THE opening of the exhibition took place on Tuesday evening, November 12. The Hon. T. M. Wilford officiated, in the absence from Wellington of the Hon. J. B. Donald, Postmaster-General. Mr. Wilford's remarks were relayed from Wellington to 3YA, thence broadcast and reproduced by loudspeakers in the hall. The next speaker was the Deputy-Mayor of

Christchurch, it follows the telephone wire. Then at Christchurch it is being put out on to the air from 3YA, and is being picked up again in the Choral Hall.

This is the third Radio Exhibition which has been opened by long-distance telephone from Wellington, and I hope that yours in Christchurch will be as great a success as those of Auckland, Wellington and Dunedin.

Radio is one of the responsibilities attaching to the position of Postmaster-General, but Mr. Donald tells me that it is a very interesting one because it has for years been one of his hobbies.



The Crosley "Big News in Radio"—at Auckland Exhibition.

—C. M. Walls, Ltd., photo.

Christchurch, Dr. H. T. J. Thacker, who took the place of the Mayor, the Rev. J. K. Archer, who had that evening been hurriedly called to Wellington. Then followed Mr. L. B. Scott, the chairman of the Exhibitions Committee.

There were also on the platform: Messrs. L. G. K. Stevens (Chamber of Commerce), J. G. Fairbairn, and D. E. Parton (Post and Telegraph Department), H. P. V. Brown (Transmitters' Association), H. C. Lusty (Radio Society), and J. W. Graham (Employers' Association).

The Hon. T. M. Wilford, in his remarks, said:—

It gives me the greatest pleasure to act on behalf of my colleague the Postmaster-General and to take part in the opening of the Radio Exhibition tonight. Although I cannot be with you in person, I am with you in spirit, and I trust that my voice is clearly heard. I am speaking from the Parliament Buildings, Wellington, and my voice is coming to you literally from over the land, under the sea, and through the air. Under the waters of Cook Strait it is conveyed by submarine cable, and from Seddon to Christchurch by what is known as carrier-current telephone. This is really a form of wireless, but instead of being broadcast into the

He wants to see radio become more and more popular because that will mean more licenses, and more licenses mean more money to carry on with, and more money means better programmes and better service generally.

Since 1924 the number of receiving licenses in New Zealand has increased from less than 3000 to more than 50,000. The figures for the different districts at present are as follow:—

Auckland District	16,028
Wellington District	20,192
Christchurch District	8,661
Dunedin District	4,200
Total	49,081

In addition, there are 186 amateur transmitters' licenses, and 1049 dealers' licenses, so that the grand total is now more than 300 above the 50,000 mark. I am sure that your exhibition will result in a considerable increase in the Christchurch figures.

The programmes now are good, and with more revenue will be made better; the listening sets are all that could be desired; so that anyone who is at all interested has no reason to postpone buying a set on the score that something better may be coming out in the near future.

There is one matter in connection with wireless that has caused a good deal of adverse comment, and that is the regulation that every applicant for a license must make a declaration of secrecy. On looking into the matter it has been found that this regulation is of no legal value, and that if we did away with it the Department would still have as much power as ever to enforce the secrecy of public correspondence. As it serves no useful purpose, and is a cause of inconvenience to the public, the regulations are being amended to abolish this declaration altogether.

Lately, as you know, the Postmaster-General has approved of a reduction in the fee charged amateur transmitters, and they will in future pay the same rate as holders of sets designed for receiving only. Also it has been decided to allow more latitude to amateurs sending personal messages to one another. Mr. Donald tells me that he has been very pleased to be able to allow these concessions, because he realises that experiments in wireless are to be encouraged, as there is always the chance that an amateur may hit upon an important discovery.

The Post and Telegraph Department has of recent years been applying radio principles to the ordinary telephone service, with marked success. I have already mentioned the carrier current system, which extends the range of communication, and permits several separate conversations to be carried on simultaneously over the one toll line. Another recent innovation is the amplifying telephone, which the Department is now prepared to install where required. This, I think, will prove a real boon to persons of imperfect hearing, who experience difficulty with the ordinary telephone.

Now, as a member of Cabinet, I should like to assure you that the Government propose to continue doing all that it can to encourage the use of radio in New Zealand, and that in the present Postmaster-General you have a Minister who is keenly anxious to see New Zealand fully abreast of the rest of the world in the use of this modern marvel of science.

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