

The New Zealand Radio Record

(Incorporating the "Canterbury Radio Journal.")

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

WITH the advent of summer comes the call of the portable. Radio to-day is so much an essential of our life, supplying information vital to daily needs, that even summertime, with its call to the outdoors, does not dissipate its value. Certainly the hours of listening may be reduced, but each listener derives some special benefit from radio which he is reluctant to forgo, even in the summer months. Campers and holiday-seekers, wherever they may roam, still feel the need for radio. Indeed the more genuinely they are on holiday, and the more isolated they are from the ordinary means of communication, the more valuable do they find radio as a means of keeping in touch with events of the day with a minimum of cost and trouble. So marked is this view that few indeed are the camping parties, fishing parties, and even touring parties, that now go far afield without their portable set. even at such distant points as Lake Taupo fishing parties nightly listen to selected YA stations through their radio sets. In this and succeeding issues special attention is being paid to meet the needs of those desirous of enjoying portable wireless. Our technical staff are providing constructional details for two sets, both of which can be strongly recommended for their respective uses.

THE Radio Exhibition held in Christchurch in the past week proved as successful in its degree as were those of Auckland, Wellington, and Dunedin. With the steady flow of country visitors for Carnival Week, the opportunity was taken by many to visit the Radio Exhibition and inspect the latest apparatus for fulfilling the special needs of the countryside for enjoying the radio service. The exhibition throughout was well attended, and business is reported to have been good. The displays made by the exhibiting firms were distinctly creditable, and covered the full range of radio apparatus. It is unfortunate that a larger hall was not available for the exhibition, but this had the effect of giving that crowded atmosphere so highly desirable in connection with such exhibitions. The exhibition was memorable by reason of the various eloquent addresses given by the representative speakers. They are fitly the subject of congratulation.

THE cabled message recording the damage inflicted upon the English and Scottish fishing fleets by a sudden raging gale in the North Sea serves to remind us that, great as has been the service rendered

by radio, it has not succeeded yet in altogether enabling mankind to avoid sudden conflicts with Nature and damage therefrom. It is true that in this particular case the fault, if any, lies with the fishing fleet themselves for inadequate use of the facilities provided by radio. Of the hundreds of fishing vessels comprising these fleets, relatively few, it is reported, carried wireless sets. Only some were so equipped, but these were able to pick up the broadcast warning of the approaching storm, and thus haul in their nets and save that loss inflicted upon the balance of the fleet, running into 31,000 nets, costing £150,000 to replace. It is somewhat surprising to learn that so relatively few vessels were equipped with radio. The law provides now that all ocean-going, passenger-carrying vessels shall carry radio apparatus with competent operators. It would seem that some incentive in addition to self-interest is necessary to force this protective measure upon fishing fleets. The lesson just read by the storm, however, is likely to be so clear and far-reaching in its effect that a much greater percentage will speedily be equipped. The disaster affords a lesson as to the value of the meteorological service. It indicates that weather conditions may change so suddenly that constant watchfulness is needed, both on the part of the observers and those standing to benefit by their warnings. Rural and shipping interests in New Zealand are alive to the value of weather warnings and the radio distribution of them, and our readers are aware, every opportunity is taken by the broadcast service to render good service in this field.

A Gift to Man

Bequeath of Radio

ONE of the finest and most eloquent addresses on radio ever broadcast was delivered at the Christchurch Radio Olympia last Friday evening by Mr. J. E. Strachan, M.Sc., rector of Rangiora High School, and one of the pioneers of radio in New Zealand.

Facetiously confessing that he was a "radiomaniac," Mr. Strachan said that he believed that radio, without exception, was the greatest achievement of modern science. And not only that, it was the greatest gift to the human race since man invented writing. Through it was springing up a new brotherhood, the brotherhood of man, bound together by radio. Broadcasting was only eight years old, yet it had made a wonderful appeal to the imagination. Until radio came, the human voice could reach only a very limited number of people. Now its audience was limited only by the circle of the earth. Radio was now a greater factor in the abolition of war than the League of Nations itself. An example of the power of radio was given by Mr. Strachan. When he arrived in Los Angeles for the Radio Olympia recently, he had not known a single person amongst thousands at the Olympia, yet, simply by pinning on the lapel of his coat his radio call code, O.Z. 3A1, he had made many friends, entered many homes, and had a pleasant social time throughout the States. In addition, while there, he had kept in touch with his fireside in New Zealand, and with his daughter in Honolulu.

Mr. Strachan contrasted the difference which radio made in Antarctic exploration. He pictured Commander Byrd, sitting in his tent on the most remote "hunk" of ice on God's earth, as he described the place. Outside his tent was a bamboo pole supporting an aerial through which he was able to keep in daily communication with New York. Contrast that with the story of Captain Scott writing his last message alongside the dead bodies of his

comrades. And it was more than a year afterwards that we heard of the tragedy!

Mr. Strachan also graphically described the finding of the Southern Cross, and how the news was flashed to London, New York, and other parts of the world.

Immediately following Mr. Strachan, Mr. J. Ball said he felt sure listeners everywhere must have welcomed so eloquent an interruption, as Mr. Strachan had called his address. He felt sure their hearts must have been touched and their imaginations fired by Mr. Strachan's splendid tribute to the power and influence of radio and his magnificent conception of its use and influence in bringing the peoples of the world closer together and hastening the coming of the brotherhood of man. New Zealand listeners could do something towards the advancement of this great ideal. The season of good will was at hand. Let them all endeavour to make it a Radio Christmas. If every listener would persuade at least one friend not now enjoying the boon of radio broadcasting to become a licensed listener, New Zealand at least would be linked up in a radio Brotherhood of Man.

Obituary

LISTENERS to 4YA will regret to hear of the death of Mr. A. G. Cooke, Dunedin, whose voice has been heard frequently from the southern station. Mr. Cooke was a bass singer of pleasing style and resonant voice, and a member of the Dunedin Returned Soldiers' Choir. He was a gas casualty during the war and died of pneumonia in the Dunedin General Hospital on Monday, November 12.

Have you procured your copy of

"N.Z. Radio Listener's Guide?"

Dealers and Booksellers 2/6; Post Free 2/9—P.O. Box 1032, Wellington.

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HUBBY TOOK THE SYDAL SAMPLE.

"Please send me a jar of Sydal. You sent me a sample by request a few weeks ago and my husband is so delighted with it for shaving that he will not be without it now. Please send a sample to my sister in Christchurch, as I am sure she would be as pleased with it as we are."