

Morrinsville Concert**Primary Production****Rapid Telegraphy****Value of Radio****To be Relayed by 1YA****4YA Committee****No Limit to Stations****Tribute by a Preacher**

ON Monday, December 16, a concert, organised by Mr. E. McGregor, is to be relayed and broadcast by 1YA.

A Successful Relay**Recent Ashburton Broadcast**

BROADCAST relays from many of the smaller towns of New Zealand are now proving more and more popular. These have been successfully accomplished from approximately 14 towns, and recently Ashburton was added to the list. The relay, which was successfully broadcast from 3YA, consisted for the first part of the programme of a church service, and for the second part, of a band concert rendered by the Ashburton Silver Band.

Mr. John Ball (editor-announcer of the Radio Broadcasting Company), when commenting recently on the seemingly miraculous character of radio, mentioned that to his mind there was something even more wonderful. "Radio," he continued, "has revealed the fact that the air about us is filled with inaudible sounds. This statement a few years ago would have been regarded as a senseless contradiction of terms affirming the seemingly impossible. Yet we know now that it is a statement of fact."

Mr. Ball added that provincial relays had been adopted as a cardinal feature of the Broadcasting Company's policy. Mr. A. R. Harris, the general manager, and his co-directors, had as their objective the extension of the transmitting system on lines designed to provide New Zealand with one of the most complete and efficient broadcast services in the world. This would involve the establishment of a carefully-planned chain of modern relay stations linked up with the four main broadcasting stations.

Meanwhile temporary relay lines were being used for provincial broadcasts as the occasion required. The company realised that the provinces were rich in talent, and it was with an earnest desire to encourage that talent and awaken a wider and keener interest in the musical and elocutionary arts that these relays were undertaken.

Mr. Ball concluded by stating that any centre which desired a broadcast and could provide an acceptable programme had only to make application to the company, and provided the necessary line facilities were available the applications would be favourably considered.

THE executive of this committee met at 4YA studio on November 21. There were present:—Mr. R. B. Tennent (Department of Agriculture) in the chair, Messrs. James Begg, S. P. Cameron, McCaskill, Mrs. Robin Allan (Department of Home Economics, University of Otago), Mr. John Ball (Broadcasting Company's headquarters staff), and Mr. J. McKenzie (station director).

The chairman stated that at the previous meeting of the committee he had been asked to convene this meeting in order to set out a series of lectures for the benefit of the men and women on the land. He mentioned that strong committees, rendering good service, were set up in other centres operated by the Broadcasting Company, and that it was the desire to establish a similar service here.

Mr. Tennent was unanimously elected chairman of the executive.

It was resolved that the lectures commence over the air from next Wednesday, November 27, at 7.40 p.m., and weekly thereafter, and that they should be approximately of fifteen minutes' duration. A representative of the Department of Agriculture would give the initial talk. The matter of drafting a syllabus of lectures was left in the hands of the chairman and Mr. McCaskill, to be submitted to the next meeting of the executive, which it was decided to hold on Thursday, November 28, at 3 p.m.

Mrs. R. Allan, representing the Home Science Department, University of Otago, outlined tentatively a list of talks especially designed to interest women on the farms. The meeting decided that the most appropriate time to put these on would be in the afternoon, that the initial talk be given by Mrs. Allan through the microphone on Wednesday, November 27, at 3.15 p.m., and that the talks be weekly thereafter.

Nearly Three Million Listeners

ACCORDING to figures given by the British Postmaster-General, Dr. H. B. Lees-Smith, the number of licensed listeners in Great Britain is approaching the 3,000,000 mark, being now recorded at 2,869,000. The present system is regarded as being quite satisfactory, and no change is contemplated. The finance provided by the license system is proving quite adequate to carry on the service given by the British Broadcasting Corporation—in fact it has enabled considerable reserves to be built, which are being drawn upon for the finance of the new high-power regional stations being erected to round out the service of the corporation. No difficulty in finance is therefore expected. At the same time there is no indication as to any reduction in fees being contemplated, but this fee is already so moderate in Britain, viz., 10/- per annum, that a variation is hardly necessary.

That the day is near at hand when Empire newspapers will be published simultaneously in London, Cape Town, Sydney, Montreal, and Calcutta was one of many amazing claims for the new invention of high speed telegraphy made by Colonel Adrian Simpson at a dinner in Hyde Park Hotel.

Colonel Simpson said, as everyone knows, that the stenote radiostat was invented by Dr. James Robinson, late chief wireless research officer in the Royal Air Force. Other claims are that it will enable an unlimited number of broadcasting stations to operate. Between the wavelengths of 300 and 600 metres 5000 stations can be employed, whereas at present the limit is twenty-five. Ten thousand words per minute could be telegraphed at a great reduction in cost of telegraphy and telephony, and ten times the amount of traffic can be carried over the existing lines. The whole contents of a large daily newspaper, letterpress and pictures, could be faithfully transmitted to any distance in a few minutes.

The Orchestrina**Question of Definition**

THIS word, which has lately become prominent in the programmes of 2YA, has excited quite a little controversy in the Wellington Press. One would-be wit consulted his dictionary on the question, and found, so he alleged, that the word was not correctly used, being applicable only to a certain musical instrument. He accordingly wrote to the Press attempting to ridicule the use of the word in the programmes and in its application to the combination of musicians organised under the baton of Signor A. P. Truda. Unfortunately for this individual, his dictionary did not carry him far enough back into musical history, and he was promptly corrected by a correspondent with more erudition, who pointed out that the word "orchestrina" was quite correctly used, as the diminutive of orchestra, just in the same way as "operetta" is the diminutive of opera, etc. The word "orchestrina" is of good Italian musical ancestry, dating from very early history, and has been revived quite correctly by Signor A. P. Truda, and applied to his combination of artists, whose services, by the way, are being greatly appreciated by listeners.

IN addressing a meeting of the congregation of St. John's Presbyterian Church on the evening of November 27, the Rev. J. R. Blanchard paid an interesting tribute to the value of the radio broadcasting of church services. Mr. Blanchard, it may be mentioned, came to New Zealand a year or two back from West Australia, where he had covered a wide field of pioneering work with acceptability. His preaching in Wellington has been characterised by marked vigour, and has proved a very welcome addition to the spiritual life of the community. In referring to broadcasting Mr. Blanchard said:—

"Widespread appreciation of the services broadcast from St. John's had also been expressed. Some years ago, when the broadcasting of church services was first mooted, many shook their heads and averred that it would keep people away from church. Wiser people agreed with what Bishop Well-don had said: 'If the clergy were to refuse or neglect such new means of communication as science affords, they would commit the same mistake as might have occurred many years ago had they failed to make use of the printing press or the steam-engine?'"

It was now an established fact, as Sir J. C. W. Reith, Director-General of British Broadcasting, had recently said, that no portion of broadcasting activity was more universally acceptable and appreciated than the religious service. It reached the bedridden in private homes and hospital wards, the isolated settlers of the backblocks, and for a vast number it was the only preaching they would allow themselves the chance of hearing. One was constantly hearing of listeners who actually joined in the singing of the hymns, and knelt to the prayers, while one knew of others who regularly dispatched a weekly contribution by way of an offering to some charity or church fund. It was true that people owed to God something more active than sitting before the fire with the headphones on, but he believed that something more would come from many. It was certain that the regular broadcasting of church services was doing a lot to disabuse many of the prejudices and misconceptions they had harboured concerning the church. In his experience it had not tended to smaller congregations, but if anything to larger ones. He felt that he ought to say a public "thank you" to the excellent service rendered by 2YA, Wellington in this matter.

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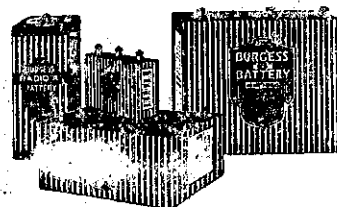
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