

## Radio "At Last"

## Appreciated in the Country

A CORRESPONDENT greatly interested in the advancement of radio sends an extract from a letter received by him from a soldier settler's wife in a backblock district. This letter records the installation of radio in a somewhat naive and pathetic way, and pays tribute to its value in removing their isolation.

The letter runs: "Well, we have at last one bit of pleasure up in this wild country, that is, a radio set. For a long time we have been saving odd shillings to get it, and now we have a five-valve set and loudspeaker, which we got cheap from a friend in Auckland. We hear the Wellington station clearly, and enjoy the music very much. On Sunday the church service brings back old memories. I sing the hymns with the congregation. Gwen and Joyce sit with hymn books in their hands, and the children are getting the Word of God, I am pleased to say. A few neighbours drop in and enjoy the service so much that ere long I think some of them will get sets of their own."

## Topical Matters

"HANDY ANDY" (Wellington South) writes interestingly: "I do not believe that the advent of the a.c. set will ever decrease the howling valve nuisance, and I cannot share Mr. Blackwood's optimism in that respect. The a.c. system cannot supersede the one or two-valve set built by youths who cannot afford the cost of an a.c. power pack. The amateur builder of these sets can purchase his dry battery power for less than £2 10s., and there will never be a complete a.c. power pack (A, B, and C) available at anything like that price. It is these one or two-valve outfits which make listening hideous for other listeners. No, I cannot see any hope of relief from the growing popularity of the a.c. set."

A LISTENER who operates his set without obtaining a license is nothing less than a common thief. He is not only stealing from the Broadcasting Company and the Government, but he is perpetrating a dishonest act towards his fellow listeners. Let him consider for a moment that broadcast listeners have a community of interest, and that the more licenses there are the greater the amount of money available for the programmes. This is in reply to a correspondent who asks advice concerning his attitude towards a neighbour who is talking of avoiding payment of the license fee. The German Government terms these "pirates" "schwarzhorner," which means "black hearer"—an apt designation.

## Our Mail Bag

## Afternoon Weather Forecasts.

IT occurs to me to ask whether the time of 3.30 is the most suitable for the broadcasting every afternoon of the special weather forecasts prepared by the Meteorological Office for the information of farmers. This special forecast is of very great value, and is greatly appreciated by myself amongst others. At that time, however, some farmers with large herds have already begun milking, and in these days of labour shortage that may involve the assistance of all members of the household. It occurs to me to suggest that half an hour earlier might meet general favour, and save some losing the value of the forecast under present conditions. Would it be possible for the forecast to be prepared and broadcast at 3 o'clock instead of 3.30?—Hayseed.

[This service is intended to meet the best needs of farmers, and the time now used was that suggested by a prominent officer of the Farmers' Union. We invite expression of views from farmers as to which hour is most acceptable to them. The aim of the service is to provide farmers with the best guidance for arranging sheep shearing, cutting of their hay, etc.—Ed.]

## Rendering of Tchaikowsky Appreciated.

WILL you kindly convey our most hearty appreciation and compliments to the conductor and members of the 2YA Orchestra for their most wonderful rendering of Tchaikowsky" (Symphony Pathétique) last night. It was a revelation and delightful treat to listen to; never before have we heard such a peerless artistry and consummate musicianship as that rendered last night. It is a credit to the studio and New Zealand. Is it possible to give us the Orchestra often more than twice per week?—Music Lovers (Wellington).

[Note.—All letters must be signed even if name is not for publication.—Ed.]

## 4YA, Distortion.

I HAVE experienced exactly the same complaint as J. B. Murchison, who complains of distortion from 4YA. The opening night was excellent, but since then anything but. Can anything be done to remedy this?—"K.A.D." (Wellington)

## Record Number Required.

STATION 2YA used to give the record catalogue number after each item during the afternoon session. It seems a pity that this has been dropped. Very often one does not hear the name of the item, or perhaps he is not taking much notice, but, on hearing an item, he wishes to know the name. The catalogue number gives it you.—"Grebe" (Waverley).

## Radio News

MORE and more it is becoming recognised that the microphone demands special qualifications and training; indeed, in Germany, the service of that instrument—which represents something very much more than a piece of mechanism—is, it would appear, being elevated to the dignity of a diploma course. Some time ago the State Academy of Music at Berlin established a class for the study of speech before the microphone. This has proved so successful that, with the winter term which has just begun, the course will be extended, and in future will cover all the arts that are employed in broadcasting.

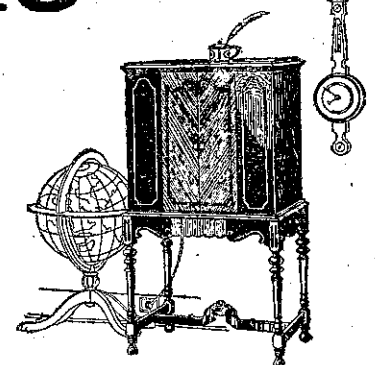
A VERY important development in broadcasting as it affects shipping is announced by the Board of Trade in the Half-Yearly Book recently published. It is intended to establish a service by which news of special or universal importance may be made to reach all ships in minimum time. For trial purposes it is proposed to put the scheme into operation in January and July of each year. Messages will be broadcast from Rugby Wireless Telegraph Station on 18,740 metres at midnight and noon (Greenwich mean time) immediately preceding the British Official Wireless News, from certain medium-power and high-power stations abroad on 2000 and 3000 metres, and from some commercial traffic stations operating on 600 metres.

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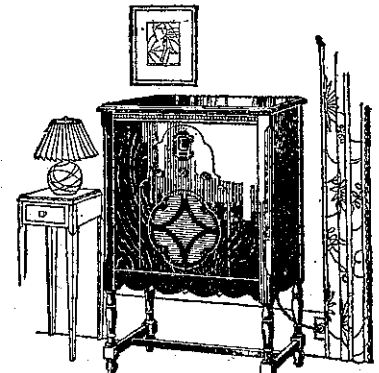
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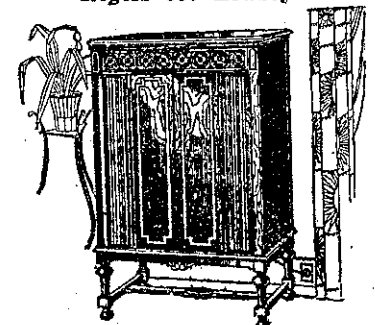
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