

AUCKLAND NOTES.

Special Trains For 1ZB Supporters

"Friendly Road's" Second Anniversary Celebrations Draw Big Crowds in Auckland—1YA Provides a Community "Sitting Room"—Special Power Line For New 1YA Transmitter.

LAST week's celebration by the Friendly Road of its second anniversary was an elaborate and a huge affair, also a great success, and demonstrated just how many followers the popular station 1ZB can boast. Special trains were required to bring country members to the city for the thanksgiving celebrations, which consisted of a big rally in Carlaw Park, at which six brass bands took part, and two big services in the Town Hall, which was packed out on both occasions.

WHEN the new 1YA station opens shortly and the studios and offices in the palatial new Shortland Street building in the heart of the city are occupied, heavens knows what some folk in Newton are going to do when they lose their "sitting room"—the lounge of the old 1YA station in France Street. Situated in the heart of a densely populated area offering no breathing spaces, the studio lounge has for years been made great use of by nearby residents and even by kiddies as a place to play. Every night a large number take possession of the lounge, where they remain until the station closes down. The children's laughter so often heard in between items broadcast from 1YA comes from this lounge.

LAST Thursday night I happened to visit the studio and in the lounge I saw mother quite comfortable in a wicker chair, sewing. Father was alongside her, smoking his pipe peacefully. Several children were playing on the floor with two dogs—a brown mongrel and a fox terrier. On a nearby settee sat a couple, the young man with his right arm around his sweetheart. The strains of "Calm As the Night" which was being rendered by the Male Voice Choir, relayed that night from the Town Hall were rudely disturbed by the aforementioned dogs, which staged a really good fight on the carpet square. The canine quarrel, with its accompanying yells and barks, could be heard in the well-padded studio until the children separated the animals and ejected them. Truly a remarkable studio vignette. "Thank goodness we won't have to put up with this sort of thing when we shift to the new station next month," murmured a station official as I took my leave of him.

PERHAPS the biggest and best customer of the Waitemata Electric Power Board is going to be the Broadcasting Board when the new 1YA transmitter goes on the air. The transmitter will require a continuous load of 70 k.w., and to obviate any risk of interruption an independent line is to be run between the Henderson sub-station direct to the transmitting station, a distance of nearly three-quarters of a mile. Full arrangements have now been made by the Power Board for the supply of power to the new transmitter. From midnight last Saturday until 4.30 a.m. on

the following day, the first of three "shut-downs" was made to enable the work to be carried out.

MANY listeners who were thrilled by the rebroadcast from London of the Royal wedding consider this to have been the best ever given from 1YA. Conditions here were ideal for reception, and the slight surge usually associated with short-wave was not enough to prevent every word of the interesting wedding ceremony being heard. Tucked away in a small shack high on the hills at Brown's Bay, two P. and T. officials sat from 10 p.m. to midnight in order to make this rebroadcast possible. The London station was picked up on a single short wave set and sent to 1YA by land line which travelled some miles before it went under the Waitemata Harbour to the city. It makes one wonder just how much better the rebroadcast would have been had a number of receivers widely spaced, each contributing to the transmitting station been used, as is done in England and America for such work. This eliminates deep fading.

ONE of the best concerts of its kind broadcast on relay from the Town Hall through 1YA was that given last week by the Royal Auckland Choir at

its third and final concert of the season. The choral items were both of a high standard, and well varied while the performances of the assisting artists were in keeping with the excellence of the choral work.

IN order to meet the wishes of a large section of listeners who have requested a good session of old time dance music on Saturday night, 1YA has instituted such a session. Last Saturday evening, from 9 until 11 o'clock, a really good programme was provided, also an M.C. present in the studio. The studio orchestra played well such old favourites as "The Royal Hibernian" lancers, "Chicago" barn dance, "Nights of Gladness" waltz, polkas, la rinkas, schottische, maxinas and more waltzes; and "a good time was had by all."

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New 1YA and Interference

Statement by Broadcasting Board

In the "Radio Record" of Friday, November 23, a paragraph in the Auckland notes made reference to the possibility of interference being caused when the new 1YA transmitter comes on the air. This statement has caused numerous inquiries to be made at the Broadcasting Board's head office and the following statement, issued by the general manager of the New Zealand Broadcasting Board (Mr. E. C. Hands), should set listeners' minds at ease:

The testing of the new transmitter will be done at a time when 1YA is off the air and will therefore cause no interference whatever. Due to the power of the station being 20 times higher than the present 1YA transmitter and the use of an efficient aerial system, there will certainly be a strong field in the vicinity of the transmitter, and listeners adjacent thereto—say within a mile—if their receivers are not modern, may have some difficulty in receiving other stations, but even here, by minor alterations to circuits and perhaps the use of wave traps, the difficulty can be overcome with little cost. With a modern receiver it will be possible, even in the transmitting station, to receive other New Zealand stations if they are using reasonable power.

Listeners in Auckland city and most suburban areas will find that the new station will not cause any more interference with reception from abroad than they are experiencing at present, and in the case of those within a half mile of any existing station, interference will probably be less troublesome. One of the reasons for locating the station at its new site was to prevent the very strong field which necessarily exists in the immediate vicinity of a station from causing any large number of listeners interference when desiring to tune to stations adjacent in frequency to their local station. One great advantage that will be gained by the increased power, will be the over-riding of noises in many parts of the city, suburbs and beyond, by the signal strength of the transmitter.