

OTAGO NOTES

Interest in Flight Dies Rapidly

Numerous at First, Telephone Calls to 4YA About Ulm's Flight Dwindle Rapidly—First Wool Sale to be Broadcast From Dunedin This Week—1YA Reception Disappointing

WHENEVER anything of public interest occurs anxious inquirers persistently and incessantly make telephone calls to two institutions—the newspaper office and the broadcasting station. The brief news that Ulm was in trouble somewhere near Honolulu was sufficient to set the telephones working overtime, and throughout the day and until late at night members of the 4YA staff were kept busy answering calls and explaining over and over again that nothing further had been received. At an early hour the next morning listeners restarted their inquiries, but received the same answer as previously, some of them being quite unreasonably annoyed that the station officials could not oblige with any new facts of the unfortunate happening. At the end of the week an excited listener rang for confirmation of the news that he imagined he had heard on the radio that the aviators had been found. Actually the announcer had said that a stolen car had been found. Interest in the fate of the plane and its occupants had very nearly vanished in a week's time after the first announcement, only one person bothering to ring the station by noon.

SEVERAL Dunedin listeners have picked up test broadcasts carried out by the new 1YA transmitter, but everyone has expressed disappointment with reception. Great expectations of a 10-kilowatt transmitter operating in the country for the first time were not completely justified, as reception of the signals from the north shows. The quality of the transmission in this area is excellent, but the volume leaves a great deal to be desired. In strength, the new transmitter cannot equal that of 2YA. There are, of course, reasons why Dunedin should be so poorly served by the new 1YA, the main one being that the signals must travel almost completely over a land course before reaching the south.

THREE talks of more than usual interest and importance are to be relayed from 3YA to 4YA shortly. Dr. J. B. Condliffe, who was at one time a Canterbury College professor, and who is now attached to an Australian university, is visiting his old town, and has been engaged to deliver a series of talks on vital subjects. He makes his first appearance on December 21, when he will speak on "The Present Economic Situation," and on December 27 he will deal with the "International and Monetary Problem," completing the talks on January 3, his subject on the last night being "Economic and Financial Work of the League of Nations." All the talks are to start at 10.10 p.m.

OF special interest to sheep-farmers, the first wool sale broadcast by 4YA is to be carried out on December

21. These broadcasts are closely followed by interested parties in the country districts, many of whom are anxious to learn as soon as possible how the various lots are selling, while the city listeners tune in to hear what is going on from the entertainment point of view.

ON Christmas Eve the dance programme from the main station is to be extended half an hour, and from 11.30 until midnight a special programme of carols and Christmas music will be broadcast. On Christmas Day the station is to observe the same hours as on Sundays, the day's activities starting at 9 a.m. Listeners are advised to make a special effort to hear the B.B.C. epilogue to be presented at night. This is a very fine piece of work, and embraces a short Scripture reading and choir numbers.

DURING 1934 there has been a marked increase in the 4YA programmes of the proportion of serious

music, while drama has also been given more prominence than before. These classes of entertainment have definitely appealed to some, but there are still many who are unwilling to venture into the unknown, and who stand faithfully by the B stations that remain on the air. These stations concentrate largely on light, gramophone recordings, and by consistently avoiding the heaviest type of music cater for that section of the community which knows what it wants and refuses to tackle the other music. The opinion has been expressed in many quarters that it is surprising the B stations remained on the air for so long without subsidy. They apparently intend to retain their licenses, and, like Micawber, are "always waiting for something to turn up." In the meantime, the listeners are the gainers.

ENGLISH Modernism seeks to join religious enthusiasm to truth.—
The Bishop of Birmingham.

Opening of 1YA Will Prove Value of Programme Plan

Copies Available from "Radio Record"

When the new 1YA comes on the air next week it will bring home to listeners the full meaning of the Broadcasting Board's schematic programme plan which was prepared some months ago. This plan, which covers the four national stations, was drawn up with the idea in view that a time would come (and not so very far distant) when most listeners in New Zealand would be able to pick up several programmes. The opening of the new Auckland station will demonstrate to radio owners in many portions of the Dominion that another station may be safely added to their "bag." When the power is increased at Christchurch and Dunedin then may the schematic plan be said to be serving its full purpose in giving the whole of New Zealand a different class of programme from each of the four national stations. These programmes have contrasts in the smaller alternative services.

The "Radio Record" still has a number of these plans available. The plan covers the main stations and is clearly printed on heavy white paper. It may be obtained by forwarding fourpence in stamps to

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"New Zealand Radio Record,"
G.P.O. Box 1680,
WELLINGTON.