

WELLINGTON NOTES.

“A Pressman Looks at Parliament”

Mr. C. E. Wheeler to Give an Interesting Series of Talks From 2YA—Son of Britain's Prime Minister Speaks to N.Z. Listeners — “What's the Weather to be For the Holidays?”

THERE is probably no one in New Zealand who knows so much about constitutional government or who has seen so many changes in things political both in front and behind the scenes as Mr. Chas. E. Wheeler, who is commencing a series of four talks from 2YA on Monday, January 7. Mr. Wheeler is a parliamentary reporter and his subject is “A Pressman Looks at Parliament.”

BESIDES being a very keen radio enthusiast Mr. Wheeler is an authority on radio in New Zealand and his writings frequently appear in the B.B.C. publications. Recently he went to England to attend a newspaper conference and in his spare time he made excursions to interesting places off the beaten track, the result being many delightful and descriptive word pictures which appeared in various New Zealand publications. While in London Mr. Wheeler was shown over Broadcasting House where he met many of the officials. Thousands of radio listeners are familiar with Mr. Wheeler's talks and the series which he is giving in January should prove to be most engrossing and possibly amusing, which will be rather different to things political generally.

FLYING down from Auckland in a Moth, Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, M.P., arrived at 2YA to carry out his talk on “The Empire and the Future,” which he was scheduled to give from 1YA, Auckland last Thursday at 10.0 p.m. He travelled to Wellington to connect with the Rangitane which is taking him back to his important duties in London as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs. This clever young son of England's Prime Minister is very athletic looking, short and dark with a keen perception of things in general. Most of his talks during his stay in New Zealand have been given to agricultural institutions, including women's organisations. He is apparently a very keen observer, because during his talk over the air last Thursday, he mentioned several facts that would perhaps be missed by the average tourist.

HAD it been possible, Mr. MacDonald would have remained in New Zealand a few weeks longer to become acquainted with more of its industries and attractions. His sister who has been accompanying him is equally enthusiastic about our country and has decided that as she can spare the time she will extend her holiday and it is possible that she will be heard over the air from 2YA before her departure for England in February.

WHAT'S the weather going to be? That is what everyone is asking

during the holidays, and 2YA is doing its best to let listeners know whether to set out each day with sunshades or umbrellas. Special forecasts are being given, extending over the ten-day holiday period and it is expected that visitors to Wellington will find them most helpful. These special weather reports for Wellington and the surrounding districts are broadcast at 7, 9 and 10 p.m. each evening.

THERE must have been many listeners to whom Sir Fabian Ware's lecture from 2YA last Thursday evening brought comfort. Sir Fabian is chairman of the Imperial War Graves Committee and his talk dealt with the graves of allied troops, with particular reference to New Zealanders who lost their lives during the war. Sir Fabian was surprised when he was asked by quite a number of New Zealand relatives and friends of the deceased soldiers whether any of the graves had been shifted and he was happy to be able to assure them that the soldiers were in exactly the same spot as when they were originally buried. The authorities have made no distinction with regard to rank when burying the men, a general receiving the same type of simple cross as a private.

MRS. VICTOR LLOYD, who returned from England to her Wellington home last week, will tell listeners to 2YA on January 11 at 8.40 something about her experiences during her sojourn in the Old Country. Mrs. Lloyd, wife of Victor Lloyd, needs no introduction to the radio public as both she and her husband are well-known for their activities in connection with broadcast plays. Mrs. Lloyd's talk will be entitled “Some Highlights on my Trip Home,” and will be awaited with pleasure by many people.

STUDENTS of languages should take the opportunity of hearing representatives of all nations sending New Year greetings in their own language from the Sydney Town Hall on New Year's Eve. This will be during the midnight relay by 2UW, during which the Premier of New South Wales, the Hon. B. S. B. Stevens will also broadcast his New Year greetings.

ANY reader who is planning to win the £5 cheque for the essay on New Zealand Birds offered in the December 14 issue of the “Radio Record” should find the talk to be given by Mr. A. S. Wilkinson, Curator of Kapiti Island, on Friday, January 4 from 2YA, of special interest. Mr. Wilkinson's subject will be “Native Birds on Kapiti.” Kapiti Island, which can be seen from the coast a few miles from Wellington is a beautiful bird sanctuary and has been mentioned by Mr. Johannes Anderson, the well-known authority on New Zealand natural history during his broadcast talks and in his writings.

THE Belgian broadcasting stations have inaugurated a new series of talks for the winter, “microphone visits to museums and picture galleries and to important public institutions.” They are doing quite a number of plays, including three by Moliere, “La Gloconda,” by d'Annunzio, and “L'Argent,” by Fabre.

THE “Lodge of Cynics” is a department of the Polish station at Moscow which writes and performs plays which are to some extent satires on Polish life. Prominent authors and actors who specialise in comedy are associated with it, but the censorship is said to be very strict.

A New Year Message from Mr. E. C. Hands

“I desire to wish everybody a Happy and a Prosperous 1935. From messages received it is clear that the new 1YA transmitter is affording a reliable service in many areas hitherto ill-served. The forthcoming increase in power of the 3YA station to 10 k.w. and the installation of another 10 k.w. plant at Highcliff, Dunedin, will further increase the range and scope of the national service and should make 1935 a memorable broadcasting year. As to programmes, no effort will be spared by the management to make available to listeners the very best that can be produced, having regard to the limitations imposed by our small population and by our comparative isolation.”—E. C. Hands, general manager, New Zealand Broadcasting Board.