

The Voice of the International Radio Society

By Leslie W. Orton (DX 140.).

EARLY in 1934, the International Radio Society formulated a plan whereby members in different parts of the world might speak to each other and carry out tests together. Unfortunately arrangements were somewhat delayed because of the time taken to notify members in different parts of the world of the proposed plans.

The first tests in connection with the I.R.S. trans-world tests originated from a New Zealand station ZL4CE, operated by a very enthusiastic member of the society, Mr. Jim Searle. Mr. Searle sent out transmissions upon 80 metres with a power of 15 watts.

Reports of reception of these signals were very scanty, but a member in Essex, England, and myself, in Uxbridge, heard faint CQ signals at the time, and upon the wavelength used by ZL4CE. It was fairly certain that these signals did originate from New Zealand.

I then decided as a 15-watt station could be heard in England on the 80-metre band, a station of the same power would be heard more consistently on 40 metres.

Consequently, arrangements were made for a regular schedule to be broadcast from England to New Zealand. Within a week of the transmission from ZL4CE, a schedule was arranged for regular weekly transmissions to New Zealand. During the first transmission on the schedule, the times of transmission were passed to the New Zealand headquarters of the society and the "N.Z. Radio Times" through the kind co-operation of ZL3AX.

The schedule arranged was as follows:

1st and 2nd Saturdays in each month, 5 to 5.30 a.m., G.M.T., G-2YH, Grays, Essex, 40m. band; 7 to 7.30 a.m., G.M.T., G-2LZ, Essex, 40m. band, 250 watts.

3rd and 4th Saturdays in each month, 7 to 7.30 a.m., G.M.T., G-2YH, Grays, Essex, 40m. band.

Next I turned my attention to giving British and Continental members a chance of hearing the "Voice of the I.R.S.," and on October 21 the first transmission of a regular schedule was commenced by G-2YH, the official station of the society, between 11 and 11.30 a.m., G.M.T. Announcements during these transmissions are made in English and French, while slow Morse is transmitted for the benefit of those learning the code.

During several of these transmissions I have personally spoken to members over 2YH.

Of the two transmitters 2YH and 2LZ, the latter will be heard in New Zealand more regularly, for it employs a power of 250 watts. It will normally transmit in c.w., but when conditions are satisfactory, transmissions will be made in 'phone and arrangements have been made for me to send personal greetings to fellow enthusiasts in New Zealand and other parts of the world.

A third station, G-6BQ, Gravesend, Kent, will shortly join in the transmissions to New Zealand. At the moment the schedule is not to hand, but transmissions will commence before the end of October.

Reports Desired.

Although only a comparative number of readers will be able to carry out two-way tests with our stations in England, they can all enjoy the thrill of hearing fellow members on the other side of the world. And your reports are not merely welcome, but desired, as we wish to find out how our transmissions are being heard. And we promise you that you will receive our station cards in exchange. If you send your reports of reception to ZL3HD, in Christchurch, he will forward them, by radio, to England. This will not merely enable us to receive at the earliest opportunity, details of how we are being received, but will also enable you to get your cards back soon.

A few details of 2YH, the official station of the I.R.S., will interest readers, particularly to those receiving his trans-world transmissions.

2YH is crystal controlled on all frequencies and the crystal frequency is 7157 k.c., plus and minus .1 per cent. The oscillator always works on that frequency, and is followed by a neutralised buffer amplifier, which, in turn, is followed by the final power amplifier, also neutralised. A frequency doubler is used for operation on 14,314 k.c. The HT is obtained from the a.c. mains.

Various systems are employed for modulation, but at present choke modulation of the final amplifier is used. The aerial is half wave on 7157 k.c. and full wave on 14,314 k.c.

The operator of 2YH is an ardent supporter of the I.R.S., and his name is Mr. Ernest Hobden. He will be pleased to receive reports, either by radio, as just described, or by letter. His address is 10 Denecroft Gardens, Grays, Essex, and he will QSL all reports.

Signs of Detector Overloading

MANY sets, unknown to their owners, are operating with a detector valve in an almost chronically overloaded condition. In other words, the detector is being worked in such a way that the maximum undistorted output obtainable from it is insufficient to load the output valve. Distortion introduced in this way is insidious, for the reason that it is of a type to which the ear soon becomes atrophied. The trouble is one to which receivers without an intermediate audio stage are particularly susceptible, and it is rather more likely to occur with a triode output valve than with a pentode.

The presence of detector overloading may be suspected when the set fails to respond readily to its sensitivity control—reaction, r.f. valve bias, etc.—after a certain point is reached. Signals that are initially very weak become stronger, but others, just below the intensity required for full output, do not respond to the control in the proper manner.

Apparent sharpness of tuning is also a good guide. If weak signals tune sharply, but strong ones, corresponding to approximately full volume, can be heard at the same strength over a much wider angular displacement of the tuning dial, it is reasonable to suspect that the detector is at fault. Failing emission in the valve may be responsible for this trouble; if it is not, an increase in detector plate voltage should be tried as a cure.

When Your Set Fails !

Get a Qualified Serviceman.

The following is a list of servicemen and firms employing servicemen who are fully qualified under Government Regulations, and we strongly advise our readers to employ Only Qualified Men and get the job done properly.

BLENHEIM

Rabone Bros., Phone 1524.

HUTT AND PETONE.

Len Jenness, 238 Jackson St Ph 63-433

OAMARU.

K. A. King, Thames St.

PALMERSTON NORTH.

Nimmo's Radio Service. Phone 5242.

NEW PLYMOUTH.

Nimmo's Radio Service. Phone 439.

WELLINGTON.

F. J. W. Fear & Co., Phone 41-446.

Nimmo's Radio Service. Phone 45-080.



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