

AUCKLAND NOTES.

1334 Messages in Three Hours

Feat of 1ZB's Announcer on Christmas Day—Station Director of 1YA Has to Be a Walking Encyclopaedia—New Studio Building Not Yet Completed—Opening Date Not Announced.

1YA's sports announcer, Mr. Gordon Hutter, was in fine form last week when presiding at the microphone at both the racecourses at Ellerslie and Epsom. His descriptions of the galloping and trotting events on these popular courses were really well done and this experienced sports commentator infused just enough humour now and then to make things more interesting for the many listeners.

HIS Royal Highness used two radio sets at Government House last week while in residence at Auckland. One was a 7-valve all-wave model of Australian make (described in last week's "Radio Record"), while an additional set for ordinary broadcast programmes was installed by a local radio inspector for the Royal guest's use. Unfortunately, the conditions were not favourable for good reception early on Boxing Day when his Majesty the King broadcast a special Empire message, but the Duke was able to hear most of what his Royal father said.

THE new 1YA studio building is not yet completed. Joiners, carpenters and plumbers are still employed there, but the building is not far off completion. After these workmen are finished, there remains much sweeping, cleaning and polishing to be done before the station looks really presentable. The staff has been carrying on under extreme difficulties since the unofficial opening on December 17, and only a few of the many rooms have so far been occupied. Each day Mr. E. C. Hands, the general manager of the board, who is spending a "holiday" in

Auckland, visits the station to urge the workers on. So far the date of the official opening of the building has not been announced.

1ZB's announcer had a particularly busy time on Christmas morning when the Friendly Road station came on the air at an early hour to inform children exactly where they would find the presents deposited by Father Christmas. For three hours without a stop the announcer broadcast these messages to the kiddies. In all 1334 messages were despatched over the air. The announcer was extremely tired after this feat and after three hours was compelled to state that the remainder would have to be broadcast at a later date. The above is but another instance of the popularity of this good B station.

LAST week the contractor entrusted with the job of taking down the two 100ft. masts on top of George Court's building, had completely removed one of the tall latticed structures which had carried 1YA's aerial for so many years. This mast has been stored at Henderson in case it may be used later. The other mast is to be taken down early in the New Year and will be re-erected on the top of the new studio building in Shortland Street. Four electric signs, each 12 feet in height showing the letters "1YA" are to be placed on the top of the mast.

QUITE a few of the tourists who made the trip from Australia to New Zealand on the luxury liners Strathnaver and Oronsay called to inspect the new studio of 1YA last week. The majority of the callers were per-

sons interested in radio work in Australia, all being both delighted and surprised at what they saw. One of these was the announcer of 2LW who could scarcely believe that Auckland was so far ahead of Australia where even the best equipped studio has been improvised. The new 1YA studio building is the first in Australia or New Zealand to be specially designed and built for broadcasting purposes.

"ARE you broadcasting the fireworks display to-night?" "Can you tell me where the Duke is going this afternoon and will his speech be broadcast?" "What time do the races start to-day?" "Have you heard any more news of Ulm?" These were but a few of the questions put to 1YA's station director over the telephone last Wednesday (Boxing Day) when I happened to be in his office talking to him. The official courteously replied to the questions, of course. The public have no idea of the many and the varied requests which continually come to the station by phone. In addition to running the station such an official has to be a human encyclopaedia, have plenty of patience, and, above all, be tactful and most courteous.

1YA catered for holiday makers and other listeners in fine style over the Christmas and New Year holidays when the announcers and other station officials had a particularly busy time. All stood up to their heavy task really well and the results of the races in all parts of the Dominion, also general sports events were fully and promptly broadcast. Particularly appreciative were holidaymakers who were either touring in the country districts and those who went away cruising and listened in on sets carried on their launches and yachts.

License Figures Rise Again

Return for November Shows Increase in Number of Listeners

AFTER a slight drop in the New Zealand license figures at the end of October, they have risen again during last month, until on November 30 the grand total in force was 147,116. On November 30, 1933, the grand total was 111,757. Full details of the license figures are published below:

District.	Class of License.						
	Receivers.	Dealers.	Trans- mitting.	Experi- mental.	Special.	Free.	Broad- casting.
Auckland	44,101	405	183	1	—	136	5
Canterbury	26,614	225	177	—	—	58	3
Otago	19,762	153	107	—	—	38	9
Wellington	54,302	371	372	2	1	82	9
Totals	144,779	1,154	839	3	1	314	26
Grand total: 147,116.							

ARTHUR DENT, general manager of British International Pictures, is enthusiastic about the standard of "Radio Parade of 1935," which he claims to be of equal box-office merit to "Blossom Time." "Radio Parade of 1935" features what is undoubtedly the biggest star cast ever assembled in any British production, headed by Will Hay, Helen Chandler, Clapham and Dwyer, the Carlisle Cousins, Lily Morris, Westren Brothers, Teddy Joyce and his band. The production is set for early new year release locally.