

OTAGO NOTES.

Empire United by Radio at Xmas

Dunedin Listened En Masse to "Empire Exchange" Programme on Christmas Day—Request Programme Introduced by Local B Station—Famous Artists Are Eagerly Awaited.

ON the Saturday prior to Christmas 4YA gave the last of a series of old-time dances for the year. The relay from Christchurch was broken at 9 o'clock to allow the dance programme to be presented, and to the music provided by the Revellers' Dance Band, all listeners were invited to spend a couple of hours working out the various sets in their own homes. A novelty was introduced on this night, when a well-known local piper played the bagpipes in harmony with the band, for one of the dances. As usual, varied light items were included in the programme to add diversity. It is quite probable that during the coming winter old-time dance programmes will be regularly featured again from the main station.

THE Christmas programmes advertised for presentation from 4YA were attractive, and when they eventuated they were as entertaining as they promised. The spirit of the season pervaded all broadcasts, and evidently a good deal of extra time had been spent in preparing the programmes and co-ordinating the items. The extra hour of broadcasting on Christmas Eve was appreciated. Dunedin listened-in en masse to the special relay from Daventry of the "Empire Exchange" programme at an early hour on Boxing Day morning, and it was with no little pride that they heard the voices of the two New Zealanders who linked this country in the vast chain that united the Empire for the third year in succession. Conditions for the reception of the short-wave station were rather unkind, a good deal of what was said being almost unintelligible; but sufficient was picked up to allow listeners to follow a fairly well connected broadcast contributed to by persons with diverse interests in all corners of the Empire.

NOT a new idea, but nevertheless one that is evidently popular among listeners, has been started by one of the local B stations, which plays a request programme every Monday evening. On the first night that requests were played the station telephone was kept ringing, listeners asking that certain records should be played. However, telephone requests are not to be taken, only those received in writing, being recognised by the station officials. As the number of requests is so large, it has been decided to delete the usual dance session given on a Monday night in order to make room for as many of the desired records as possible.

FOR the first few mornings after the new 1YA had taken the air listeners in the south tried for reception of the 10 kilowatt transmitter, but mostly with very disappointing results. Some heard the carrier and a faint scratching sound on the Auckland frequency, while others caught snatches

of music, but not loud enough to justify leaving the receiver tuned to the station for any length of time. Two days after the transmissions through the new plant commenced a young man in the St. Kilda district decided to try his luck. He heard a fragment of music just before 8 o'clock, but nothing further. Try as he might, he could not bring in any more music on that wavelength, and so he concluded that an extra burst of energy must have carried the few bars of a minute before to his home. In a few days' time, however, he discovered the reason for his failure—the station had gone off the air as trouble had developed in a condenser.

IT was particularly noticeable that an unusual number of recordings by His Majesty's Grenadier Guards Band found their way into the 4YA programmes for about a month before the famous band arrived in Dunedin. The person or persons who compiled these daily programmes may have had some

idea of fostering amongst listeners an appreciation of the playing of this particular band, or quite unconsciously, they may have chosen the records because so much had appeared in the daily Press regarding the band's tour of the Dominion.

WITH understandable impatience, listeners are looking forward to the studio appearances locally of the two celebrated singers now touring New Zealand. That Madame Goossens-Viceroy, the Belgian operatic soprano, and Mr. Raymond Beatty, the Australian basso cantante, are artists of repute cannot be denied, and great interest naturally attaches to their impending visit to Dunedin.

"OPERA In Many Lands" proved a very entertaining programme from 4YO on a recent night as an alternative from the relay by the main station. The featured work was "Czar and the Carpenter," a lesser-known effort by Lortzing.

N.Z. Amateur Radio Fans Doing Good Work

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transmitters. A keen study of the mass of Governmental requirements brought its reward in the shape of a license to transmit, in 1932, and the building of a transmitting set early in that year. This placed Mr. Gledhill in the happy circle that chats to its local and overseas friends nightly about everything from a forthcoming social affair to the name of the latest addition to the family of pet dogs. For this he used a Hartley rig.

Ambition made itself felt again, this time in the guise of proper housing for the plant, and the result was the erection of a small building containing an apparatus of 15 watts, operating on 80 metres. To work all ZL and VK stations was easy in the space of three months. Then came the building of a two-stage M.O.P.A., with an increase of power input to 60 watts. Rapidly it became child's play to work England, Mexico and Canada on the higher frequency band, and the operator found later that he had been verified in the United States of America on 80 metres—a performance distinctly unusual in the amateur class.

Being very close to the disturbing influence of the Christchurch Tramway Board's overhead power lines, he had then to contrive some means of combating a constant source of annoyance, and set to work to build a receiver of more modern design. This, completed a few days ago, consists of a six-valve superheterodyne A.C., using a 57 first detector, 57 oscillator, 58 I.F. amplifier, 2A5 second detector, no audio stage,

and a 58 beat oscillator for receiving Morse code matter.

This receiver has given excellent results on all bands, and the little time and small expense involved in making it up have been fully justified. Frequently Mr. Gledhill gives the newspapers shortwave items of interest, and he is now transmitting privately on the 80-metre band. His hobby, has made him hosts of friends all over the world, and his leisure hours are constantly interrupted by interested visitors to Christchurch.

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