

NOTES FROM LONDON.

Round-The-World Reports On Christmas Day Broadcasts

Extension and Development of Empire Service During Past Year

SHORT-WAVE conditions were apparently satisfactory throughout the world on Christmas Day and good reception of "Empire Exchange" was obtained almost everywhere, writes the B.B.C. correspondent from London. Up to December 31, the B.B.C. had received the following reports:

Australia.—The whole of the programme was relayed, via the radio-telephone link, by the national network of stations operated by the Australian Broadcasting Commission. A report from the Commission in Melbourne stated that great interest was shown in the programme and that it was 95 per cent. intelligible. Reports from Sydney show that reception was not so good there, and it must be supposed that this refers to medium-wave reception of the local station, which seems to have been interfered with by atmospheric conditions; since it is known that the programme was satisfactorily received at the end of the radio-telephone link.

New Zealand.—A report from a New Zealand broadcaster, stated that the programme was 50 per cent. intelligible, the King's speech being best. It must be remembered that the local time of reception was between 2 a.m. and 3 a.m., and that it is not to be expected that many were listening.

India.—The whole of the programme was relayed by Bombay and Calcutta, the King's speech by radio-telephone and the remainder from the Empire station at Daventry. The comments were: "King's speech excellent," "Generally satisfactory," and "Interesting Christmas programme greatly appreciated."

South Africa.—In South Africa reception was good. The stations of the African Broadcasting Company relayed the whole programme via radio-telephone. Johannesburg and Cape Town have both sent reports, the former stating "Local rebroadcasts excellent."

Southern Rhodesia (Salisbury).—Had good reception both over the ra-

dio-telephone and from the Empire station. A report also states that the recorded version transmitted from the Empire station from 6.10 to 7.25 p.m. on Christmas evening was well received.

East Africa.—The Nairobi broadcasting station relayed the whole programme from the Empire station. The programme was "greatly appreciated," speech from the home country being 100 per cent. intelligible, while that from relayed programmes was 90 per cent. intelligible.

West Africa.—Accra reported perfect reception from the Empire station, in fact, "best reception on record to date." Sierra Leone reported good reception throughout from the Empire station. Lagos also reported perfect reception from Daventry through the Government redistribution service.

Canada.—The Canadian Radio Broadcasting Commission relayed the whole programme over their coast-to-coast network via the radio-telephone service. "All satisfactory" is one report.

U.S.A.—Both the Columbia Broadcasting System and the National Broadcasting Company relayed the whole programme over their coast-to-coast networks via the Empire station at Daventry.

Argentina and Uruguay.—The whole programme was relayed by stations in Buenos Aires, Rosario, and Montevideo, the relay being made via the Empire station and Buenos Aires. Reception was fair.

Brazil.—A rebroadcast of the whole programme via the Empire station was made by Radio Cruzeiro do Sul, Rio de Janeiro, and by San Paulo. The report states that the rebroadcast was completely successful.

Bermuda.—The programme was heard in Bermuda via the Empire station, reception at first being fair, later improving to good.

WITH the advent of the new year it is possible to look with satisfaction on 1934 as a year in which the Empire

Broadcasting Service has made steady progress and become more firmly established in the affections of an ever-growing body of listeners throughout the world. As a result of continuous experiments of the engineering branch of the B.B.C., based largely on the collection of data and reports from listeners in all parts of the world, very considerable developments have been made towards the perfection of transmission from the Empire station. During the past year, with the transfer of the high power long-wave national transmitter from Daventry to Droitwich, further space has become available for the development of the Empire transmitters. A new system of high horizontal aerials has already been erected on the masts which were previously used for transmissions by the national transmitter, with the result that during the latter quarter of the year the reception of the Empire station was greatly improved in South Africa. As a result of this experiment, similar developments are already in train for the improvement of transmission directed to other parts of the world.

During the year the B.B.C.'s Research Department has been re-housed in more suitable premises in South London. Research has continued on new types of microphones, the correct acoustical design of studios, high power transmitter and aerial design, and many other problems. Progress has been made in the available methods of recording programmes for subsequent rebroadcasting. This work is of particular value to the Empire service where an important programme may be repeated up to five times in one day. Considerable attention has also been given to the problem of preventing interference with broadcast reception caused by electrical machinery of all kinds. The Corporation's engineers have continued to act on various committees, several of which are international in character.

Especially progress has been made in the development of the Empire programmes. Three Empire news editors, a music director, and a producer have been allocated to the staff of the Empire Programme Department. In addition, an orchestra has now been formed which broadcasts exclusively in the Empire programmes. The introduction of this orchestra has led to considerable reduction in the number of recorded programmes broadcast both in Transmissions 1 and 5. During the ten months, January to October, 1934, inclusive, the Empire station broadcast programmes for a total of 4403 hours.

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corded from singers of Nass River Tribes, Canada, by Marius Barbeau); (1) A Spirit Song, Outsiders, Behold Geedarantis; (2) Lullaby, Nadu-Nadudu; (3) Nisrae Challenge Song, Stop All this Idle Chatter (arr. Ernest MacMillan).

Winifred Small and Maurice Cole: "Reminiscence"; "Two Canadian Dances" (Hector Gratton).

Frank Phillips: Sea Song, "The Lake Isle of Innisfree"; "Since Thou, O Fondest and Truest"; "Drake's Drum" (Healey Willan).

Winifred Small and Maurice Cole: "Dance Trochaïs," based on a French Canadian Fiddle Tune;

"Tambourin" (Leo Smith). Greenwich Time Signal at 8.15 p.m.
9.0: The news and announcements.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23.

7.15 p.m.: Big Ben. The Morier Trio.
7.45: Talk (electrical recording).

8.0: Music by British composers. The B.B.C. Empire Orchestra. Leader, Daniel Melsa, Conductor, Eric Hogg. Henry Cummings (baritone).

Orchestra: Overture, "Shamus O'Brien" (Stanford), two pieces for strings: (1) "Sally in our Alley" (2) "Cherry Ripe" (Frank Bridge).

Henry Cummings: "Sweet Chance That Led my Steps" (Michael Head); "O Mistress Mine" (Quilter);

"Gifts"; (Dunhill); "The Slighted Swain" (Old English melody) (arr. Lane Wilson), "The Bonny Earl o' Moray" (Old Scottish Air),

Orchestra, Suite, "Where the Rainbow Ends" (Quilter).

Henry Cummings: "Linden Lea: Bright is the Ring of the Words" (songs of travel (Vaughan Williams); "Go, Lovely Rose" (Quilter); "The Cloths of Heaven" (Dunhill); "Think no more, Lad" (Shropshire Lad) (Somervell).

Orchestra: "Pomp and Circumstance," March No. 1 in D (Elgar). Greenwich Time Signal at 8.15 p.m.

9.0: The news.