

## OTAGO NOTES.

## Farewell To Their Excellencies

Broadcast of Dunedin Town Hall Meeting — Port Chalmers Regatta Events — Champion Bowling Event Broadcast Arranged — Chief Scout to Speak Over YA Stations.

ALTHOUGH only three thousand persons were able to gain admission to the Dunedin Town Hall on the occasion of the civic farewell to the Governor-General, Lord Bledisloe, and Lady Bledisloe, the whole of the province was given the opportunity of being included in the gathering. The link between the Town Hall and the public at large was provided by 4YA, which relayed the function. The atmosphere of the proceedings was well caught by the microphone and handed on to listeners, who were thus able to form an accurate picture of the impressive scene presented in the civic building. The loyal address presented to his Excellency on behalf of the City of Dunedin by the Mayor (Rev. E. T. Cox) was clearly heard by all those listening-in, while the Governor-General's most inspiring farewell address was listened to with rapt attention by many thousands.

THE South Island championship regatta held at Port Chalmers, was a huge success from a broadcasting point of view. On the day prior to the regatta there were secret fears that the fairly heavy rain which was falling might continue on the following day, not only causing a serious handicap to the events, but perhaps making it impossible to take the 4YA short-wave transmitter aboard a launch for the purpose of broadcasting descriptions of the races; but the fears were not justified, as the day was fine and sunny. The station's short-wave gear was placed aboard a small vessel to broadcast its news to the official receiving base for relay to the station, but its limitations of range were quickly proved in the first race. When the launch was following the contesting boats on the open harbour all was well, but when the finishing line was being reached some of the overseas vessels, especially the Imperial Star, acted as a screen, and the transmission had to be boosted to its fullest extent. However, listeners were able to follow the finish of the event quite clearly. For the remainder of the broadcast the short-wave transmissions were received on the wharf, being relayed by line from that point to the transmitter in town. This arrangement worked admirably.

ALL the champion bowlers will be at play on March 9, when the Champion of Champions competition commences. Interest in the series of matches to discover the best player will increase as some of the contestants are eliminated and there is no doubt that a good deal of attention will be riveted on the semi-finals and final. 4YA will handle a running commentary of the game to decide the champion bowler. This was done last year with marked success, many bowlers afterward voicing their appreciation of the station's action in making a broadcasting item of such an important event.

FROM March 18 to March 23 Dunedin will be in the midst of the annual Fire Protection Week. During that time a list of short addresses and instructive demonstrations is given with the object of preventing destruction by fire. It is understood that the A station will again co-operate with the Dunedin Fire Brigade in the matter of emphasising the necessity for care when there is a possibility of fire. As part of the campaign organised by the brigade, the superintendent and the deputy superintendent will probably be featured in broadcast talks.

LOCAL listeners awaited with interest the promised broadcast of the B.B.C. recorded debate on the League of Nations. When they heard it they were in a position of judge for themselves to what degree it could be classed as controversial, and were given some idea of what might be before them when the amendment to the Act giving greater scope for controversial subjects is passed.

AS anticipated by these notes, the Chief Scout (Lord Baden Powell) has consented to broadcast, and it is surmised that when his talk is relayed through the four national stations on March 8 he will be heard by a large audience. Many Dunedin people have already expressed their intention to tune in that night.

ON June 30 last year there were 6,373,600 British licenses in force, compared with 5,597,200 in 1933. The authorities expect to have seven million before the Radio Show in 1935.

J. R. POPPELE, chief engineer of WOR, Newark, is annoyed by statements that broadcasting is responsible for droughts and heat waves, and is putting up a 50-kilowatt station at Carteret, N.J., which is to begin transmitting on December 1. The many acres of land nearby will be planted and the growth of the crop in this electrical atmosphere will be studied in co-operation with the New Jersey College of Agriculture.

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