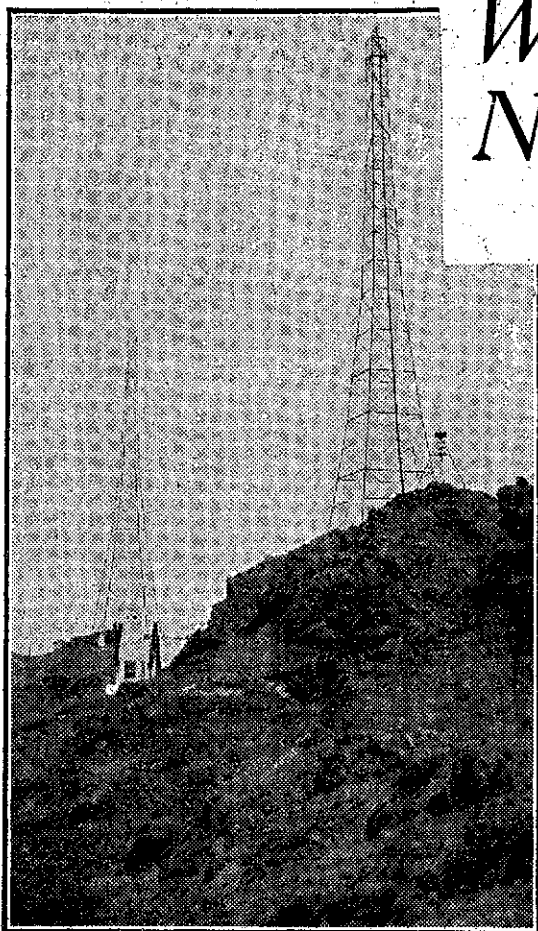


Wellington To Have New 2YA Shortly

Station Twelve Times More Powerful Than Present One Planned



The familiar 2YA masts as they stand on Mount Victoria, Wellington, at present. When the new 60 kilowatt station is built these masts will probably disappear.

NEW ZEALAND'S isolation grows less and less every day, and when the new 60 kilowatt Wellington station, for which tenders close in June, is erected programmes from the Dominion will be available to half the world. This new station, which will be six times as powerful as the new 1YA (now the most powerful station in Australia and New Zealand) and 120 times as powerful as the present 4YA, is to be built to satisfy the desire for a station which, in a national emergency, can be received both day and night over the greater part of the Dominion.

The exact situation of the new station has not yet been finally determined, but it is to be about 20 miles from Wellington. Tenders will close in June and the station is expected to be operating about a year from that time.

Mr. E. C. Hands, general manager of the New Zealand Broadcasting Board, explained that in its scheme for improving the New Zealand broadcasting service the board had included the erection of a new national station at Wellington, planning to undertake this work after the completion of the new Dunedin station. While the stations in the various centres were part of the national broadcasting system there was need for one central station of very high power, for it was desirable to make sure of giving a strong signal over the whole Dominion area. Such a truly national station by its great power would overcome interference noises, and it should be received strongly day and night in all parts of New Zealand, though in certain difficult areas fading and local weakness of reception might prevent the signals from having a definite programme value.

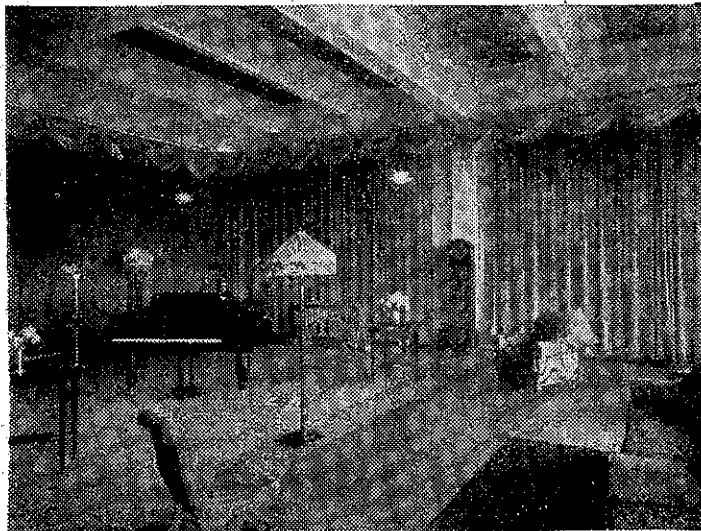
The new station, with a power of 60 kilowatts aerial energy, will be the most powerful in Australia or New Zealand. It will be six times as strong as the new Auckland station, 12 times as

strong as the present 2YA, Wellington, and 24 times as strong as 3YA, Christchurch. It will also far surpass any Australian station, for the strongest in the Commonwealth have a power of only 7½ kilowatts, although others of 10 kilowatts are planned. When it is operating the new station will have its studios in Wellington City as at present, the programmes being conveyed to the transmitter in the country by land wire as with the 3YA station at Gebbie's Pass.

The present 2YA, with the transmitting station on Mount Victoria and the studios in Featherston Street, Wellington, came on the air in July, 1927. It was then the most powerful station in Australia and New Zealand (possibly in the Southern Hemisphere), and New Zealand was very proud of it. It was built by the Radio Broadcasting Company, and, at that time, was 10 times as powerful as the stations at Auckland and Christchurch, and the second most powerful station in the British Empire.

At the opening nearly eight years ago the Rt. Hon. J. G. Coates, who was then Prime Minister, expressed an opinion that was voiced again when this new station was mooted the other day. "You will note that this new station is capable of communicating with any part of New Zealand by day or by night," said Mr. Coates, in 1927. "At night it can with ease speak to the Pacific Islands and Australia. All will realise what great advantage this station will be when we have to face a national crisis. We will never lack the most direct means of contact with all parts of New Zealand, and we will be brought closer than ever to our sister Dominions across the Tasman, and our dependencies in the Pacific. From this point of view the station is more than a pleasant means of passing the time. It is ready, should the time ever arrive, to become a part of our national equipment. If it is not equal to actual personal contact, it is, at any rate, the next best thing."

Wellington will miss the familiar masts and night sign on Mount Victoria—but it will look forward with increasing interest to this new station which will bring back to the Capital City the honour of having one of the greatest radio stations in the Southern Hemisphere.



The main studio at the 2YA building in Featherston Street, Wellington. Programmes are conveyed by land lines from this studio to the transmitting station on Mount Victoria.