

"punch" he spreads right over this frequency. Up till about a year ago there was another 24-hour station in Los Angeles, KGFI, 1200 k.c., 100 w. This station claimed it had transmitted night and day for two years without a stop. About 12 months ago, however, the United States radio authorities instituted a monthly "frequency check" on all small-powered American stations, to see if they were on their right wavelengths and ordered that KGFI close down between 1 and 6 a.m. for the first seven days in each month so that they could check the other stations on the same wavelength. Except for those hours when he is forced to be silent, KGFI transmits 24 hours a day still. There are one or two other 24-hour stations in the Eastern States of America, but I forget who they are at the moment.—N. Jenkins (Master-ton).

Reception Improving.

CONDITIONS are steadily improving, and if static would decrease some good loggings would be the result.

Early evening Americans have been heard at 6.30 p.m. KNX is by far the best, and others heard are: KFI, KPO, WLW, KSL, KEX, WOAI (at 6.30 p.m. last Sunday), KFOX, KDYL, KFAC, KGMB, KGB, KWK, and W9XBY.

Europeans are breaking through and in a week or so should be quite good.—157W (Wellington).

Special From Fecamp.

SINCE my last notes conditions have greatly improved. This does not apply to one section, but to all stations. To give an illustration of how the Europeans are coming in, for four mornings I have been listening to the Europeans without an aerial, and on each morning I have heard from 10 to 20 of them at readable volume. Strassbourg has been the best, but Moscow, Belgrade, Rome, Prague and numbers of others are heard. Although I have Strassbourg verified, I have sent in half an hour's programme that I took down, while not using an aerial. I can also get, at good volume, without an aerial, XEPN, KFI, KPO, and XELO.

The letter from Montpellier was a very difficult one to translate, and I had to get a professor of French to do it. In the body of it, it says: "It seems correct. In fact, it was Montpellier-Languedoc. In future titles of items must be sent to secure a verification." So I was lucky, as I only sent a description.

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The Question of An Exhibition Radio Trade to Decide

THE radio trade has once again been approached by the Executive Council of the Wellington Industrial Exhibition to throw in their lot with other trade organisations and manufacturers to prepare an exhibit in a big way for the exhibition which is to be held this year during the Easter period.

As we go to press it is understood that an overwhelming majority did not approve of the proposal, and the trade, if represented, will depend entirely upon the individual efforts of a few exhibitors.

Up till last year the trade had had many successes, not only from the selling point of view, but from the attendance at some five exhibitions. The exhibition of 1931 was from the point of view of public approval, an enormous success. When the depression hit the Dominion in 1932 the trade by a large majority passed in the exhibition idea. This was repeated in 1933, but in 1934 it was resolved to make a display on lines brighter and bigger than ever, but from the point of view of public support the exhibition was not as successful as previous ones. The mistake

made probably was that the exhibition was expected to be received back by the public with open arms after an adjournment of two years.

Is this year to go by without an exhibition or display of any sort? It will be regrettable if this is so, for to retain public support the crowd must be wooed continuously.

There can be no doubt whatever that people are prepared to visit trade exhibitions provided they are made sufficiently attractive, and that reasonable facilities be given for viewing the sets on display. Last year the scenery and general layout of the exhibition was possibly better than anything previously staged, but insufficient time was allowed for viewing the goods.

It pays to tell the public, through the Press, facts about radio, and the service which can be obtained, but it pays better to display those goods before people who are interested, and better still, it pays to place on record over the air just how radio is progressing. In the interests of radio we would welcome every effort made to increase public interest in the steady development of radio.

Miskolc is not on the air. This information is from a recent verification. Latest verifications are: Rabat (Morocco), who sent three large pages describing their s.w. station; KJBS, who sent two cards and is now a 500-watt station, and W6XAL.

I would like to remind dxers of the special from Fecamp next Sunday, March 17, commencing at 4.30 a.m. our time. There will be 12 items and after the sixth the station will call up our president, Mr. Robson, and other IBC members.—"Digger" (Cambridge).

Conditions Still Bad.

CONDITIONS are still bad here. Americans coming through noise from 6.45 p.m. on, but very weak, KFI and KPO being the best.

Recent loggings are 2XN, 4RO, 3TR (second report), CK1C, KXL, KGRS, JOOK, Monte Cenci, Nurnberg, and a new "Aussie" on 1500 k.c., call being 2CN. This station has been testing on Mondays and Thursdays, coming in at R4, QSA2. A letter is just to hand from Mr. F. R. Crowder, European President, I.D.A., who has just lost his little boy, aged six. I feel sure that our club members send him our sincere regrets.—"Lofty" (Christchurch).

Wellington Branch Meeting.

NINE members were present at the last meeting of the above branch, and it was decided to change the sequence of the meeting nights. The next meeting will take place on March 12, when a full attendance is required so that a suitable night can be arranged to suit one and all.

The talks which are usually a feature of our meetings, have been noticeable by their absence lately but now that conditions are improving the lectures will be continued. "The Coming European Season and Early Evening Americans" was the title of the talk given by 157W. at the last meeting.

To all dxers and those interested in dzing, a hearty welcome is assured if they care to come along to our meetings, which are held in room 15, third floor, "Dominion" Building.—F. J. Reeves, (Branch Secretary).

Curing Parasitic Oscillation

Parasitic oscillation is most common in an output stage, where it manifests itself as an almost complete cessation of signals, combined with a very heavy increase in plate current. The oscillations are probably taking place at a frequency determined by the inductance of the wires running to grid and plate, with interelectrode and other stray capacities acting as tuning condenser.

In the case of an output valve, which is not in any event expected to deal with r.f. currents, the cure is based on the well-known "grid-stopper." A non-inductive resistance of about 5000 ohms is connected right up against the valve socket, to the grid of the valve, in series with the signal-path. The combination of this resistance with the grid filament capacity of the valve makes a fairly effective filter preventing r.f. voltages from developing on the grid. Additional safety may be had by connecting a similar type of resistance, of only about 100 ohms, directly up against the plate terminal to act as an anode-circuit filter.

When oscillation of this type occurs in a detector stage, the cure is different. This valve has to deal with r.f. signals, so that a resistance filter, while effective in checking the oscillation, might lead to a considerable drop in signal strength. A choke, consisting of ten or fifteen turns of wire wound to shape round a pencil and then slipped off its temporary "former," may be connected between grid and grid-condenser. Its impedance to signals of normal wavelength is far too low to matter, but it is generally perfectly effective in checking the parasitic oscillation.

A choke of this kind may also be used in the output stage if no suitable resistance is to hand, but it will usually be found that the resistance provides a more certain cure, and so should be used whenever the conditions of the circuit make it possible to do so.