

Hot Shots

Editorial Notes

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"MEAT Levy Dead"—as the meat?

RATHER a hot story this week about pepper speculation, eh?

A HEADLINE says "Gold Disappears." Where, oh where can we find originality to-day?

A PERSON in a high place appeals for "milk for the young." Quite a back-to-nature movement, surely.

IT looks as though one might be able to send a message by Malcolm Campbell more quickly than by wireless shortly.

AS Dunedin has five B stations, listeners are wondering which of them will receive assistance from the new Broadcasting Board.

A WOMAN vocational guidance officer for unemployed girls has been appointed in Christchurch, the first in New Zealand.

MAY we consider ourselves unique in that this is the only mention we are making of the arrival of the Dunedin quadruplets?

AT a society wedding in Wellington recently a grave was being industriously dug just outside one of the main church doors during the ceremony. Shades of Hamlet!

IF a seven-year-old locomotive in England can attain a speed of 108 m.p.h., what should most of our own engines do, with about four times as much experience?

RUMOUR says that only two men are to be charged in court in connection with the recent raid at Te Aroha. What about the other 192 persons whose names were taken?

"PURE, unadulterated tripe" was the way Mr. Semple described New Zealand radio programmes last week. We're not interested—we like onions as well.

A FEW nights ago, at midnight, a woman ratepayer phoned the mayor of One Tree Hill, Auckland, and asked him to arrange for the immediate removal of a dead rat on her property.

NEARLY every set in Wellington seems to have been tuned in to Harry Thurston the first night he broadcast from 2YA. One ignorant thought that he was the Broadcasting Bill you may have heard about.

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GRAIN—AND SOME CHAFF

THE Broadcasting Amendment Bill has set many tongues wagging, both in the House of Representatives and out of it, and it is becoming increasingly difficult, as the bill progresses through the House, to sift the grain from the chaff in the statements that are being made by members. The B station problem is a big one, and one that is being made the pivot in the present discussion, but listeners would do well to bear in mind that there is a Parliamentary election this year and some members may be talking more to their constituencies than to the point. Despite the criticism and condemnation of the New Zealand radio programmes by many members, one cannot forget that their interest in broadcasting is a transitory one, whereas the New Zealand Broadcasting Board has the permanent welfare of listeners at heart and is not going to fall short in the duty with which it is entrusted—of giving listeners the widest possible service in the best possible manner.

Mr. R. A. Wright, M.P., said that he "believed that, in a recent poll, 95 per cent. of the listeners plumped for B stations." Actual figures conclusively disprove Mr. Wright's figures, and it would seem that, in their enthusiasm for a cause, members are sometimes apt to make loose statements. The question put to listeners was: "To which New Zealand station do you listen most frequently?" The result showed that 89.29 per cent. of listeners chose the YA stations, with 10.71 in favour of the B stations. And this was at a time when the popular 2ZW, Wellington, and 1ZR, Auckland, were in operation. Several members, too, would lead the House to believe that listeners would rather hear local artists than recordings. The questionnaire referred to above asked, "Do you prefer entertainment provided by (a) local artists, or (b) recordings?" More than three-quarters of the votes cast were in favour of recordings.

That the new 2YA station, with a power of 60 kilowatts, would blot out reception from other New Zealand stations was a statement made by Mr. E. J. Howard, M.P., in the House. In this case it seems a pity that Mr. Howard's technical knowledge does not march with his desire to protect listeners' interests. The plain facts are that many listeners in Wellington will get vastly improved reception, especially those living in the neighbourhood of Mount Victoria and Hataitai—places adjacent to the present 2YA transmitter. But the greatest advantage of the new transmitter will be noticeable in those places remote from Wellington, inasmuch as the signals will be stronger and, in many cases, interfering noises will be overcome. Those persons with the slightest knowledge of the technical side of broadcasting will realise that the Board's engineers are sufficiently skilled to be able to confine the station to its own wavelength and prevent spreading.

B stations have given and are still giving a definite service in many areas. The Coverage Commission fully recognised their utility and the Broadcasting Board has, in numerous instances, lent these stations valuable assistance. It is, in fact, subsidising eight of them. There is no reason to doubt that the services of B stations will be used in the future in those parts where the Board finds it advantageous to fill in broadcasting gaps and supplement the national system.

A FARMER from the Wai-kato was last week taken down by two confidence tricksters for £400.

REPORTS of octopuses in Wellington Harbour remind us about that income tax form we tried to forget.

SO a sixth of U.S.A.'s population is on relief rolls. That'll keep the bakers busy, anyway.

THE two well-known radio personalities, Albert Russell and Reg. Morgan, are shortly leaving New Zealand on a tour abroad.

TWO Dunedin firms played their annual "cricket" match last week, using a special bat almost as wide as the wickets.

CHRISTCHURCH kindergartens are leading by £60 in the copper trail race across Cook Strait against Wellington kindergartens.

AN Auckland firm's application to start sky advertising by means of an illuminated balloon was refused by the City Council last week.

THE session is expected to end within a fortnight. Then we shall be able to sit back and enjoy what is left of the summer.

"THE Wind and the Rain," Dr. Merton Hodge's play, is drawing bigger houses in New Zealand than legitimate shows have done for years.

THE four big neon signs on top of the 100ft. mast over the new 1YA station were switched on for the first time last week. They can be plainly seen from the harbour.

IF Hitler's famous cold becomes as fashionable as the Duke's moustache, we must alter that heading of ours to "Gerhady Callig Dew Zealand."

ACCORDING to the master of the Pakuranga Hunt, too many people follow the hounds just to get their names in the papers. There is to be no further publicity at meets.

EPSTEIN appears to have provided England with almost as much ground for discussion and controversy as the Subject he treats in his latest work.

WELLINGTON'S well-known Grand Hotel is calling for tenders for extensive alterations. It is under that the present building will be extended to Boulcott Street.