

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

81S. (Invercargill): I have a six-valve a.c. t.r.f. commercial set and would like to have it modernised to take type 58's in the r.f. and detector stages. Would results justify the expense?

A.: It is purely a matter of opinion, though the change-over need not be a very expensive one if you use adapters. In this way there would be no need to make any alteration to the wiring. It would be better to use a 57 for detector as it was designed for this purpose.

2.: Could the change-over be effected without alteration to the present audio system?

A.: Yes, there is no need to interfere with the audio side of the set at all.

220A (North Auckland): Would the "Empire Short-waver" described in the March, 1935, "Radio Times" give better results than the "Elco Three," published in June, 1934? I am particularly interested in picking up amateur transmissions.

A.: The first set you mention is slightly the more powerful of the two, but then it has an extra valve. The 1935 "Radio Constructor's Guide" will contain a description of a four-valve battery short-waver which is more efficient than either of the two sets you have in mind, because it uses a type 15 indirectly heated valve as detector. This is a screen-grid cathode type valve, and it enables electron-coupled reaction to be obtained just as simply as with an a.c. set. The valves used are 32 r.f. stage, 15 detector, 30 first audio and PM22A output pentode. The tuning condensers are ganged.

"PUZZLED" (Hukapapa): At night when stations are coming through strongly on my "Simplex Superhet Four," a loud low-pitched rumbling often mars reception. Turning the volume control slightly one way or the other eliminates the trouble, but unfortunately the noise occurs just at the point where volume is best. The "A" and "C" batteries are in good condition, though the "B's" are down somewhat.

A.: You are evidently troubled either by a microphonic howl or by audio instability, due to the run-down condition of the "B" batteries. Try placing the speaker on a separate table so that the vibrations from it are not transmitted to the chassis and valves. If the noise disappears, then evidently one of the valves has become microphonic. As a cure, try cushioning the chassis on rubber cushions. If this does not cure the fault, try fitting additional de-coupling in the plate circuit of the detector, by connecting a resistor of from 5000 to 10,000 ohms in series with the plate resistor and by-passing the junction of the two with a condenser of from .25 to 1 mfd. Also, make sure that the speaker cord is well away from the aerial lead-in and that the audio wiring under the chassis is away from c.f. wiring.

2.: Where could I fit a 60 milliamp. fuse-bulb in my set?

A.: Disconnect the "B" negative lead in the set from the "A" negative, and connect it to one side of a fuse-holder mounted on the back of the chassis. The "A" negative lead is connected to the other side of the fuse-holder, and from thence a connection is run to the switch terminal where the "A" negative and "B" negative leads were previously attached.

"PHAR LAP" (Levin): I recently purchased a 1935 all-wave receiver. Should I instal a special doubler antenna recommended by the makers?

A.: It should give you far better results and less noise than an ordinary "L" type aerial, particularly if you are in a location which is electrically noisy.

2.: I have not been able to locate any stations on the 16 or 14-metre bands.

A.: This is because there are no stations of any account operating below 16.88 metres (PHI. Holland), and 16.86 metres (GSB, Darenty). The latter operates daily between 1 a.m. and 3 a.m.

273A. (Mata Mata): With a Beverage aerial, is it necessary to have it running in a straight line from the set or could the main length be run at right angles to a 30-yard "lead-in"? Also, in which direction does the Beverage aerial have the greatest pick-up?

A.: It would be quite in order to instal the aerial as you have outlined, though the directional effect will be a little marred. With a normal Beverage, stations located in the direction to which the far end is pointing come in best.

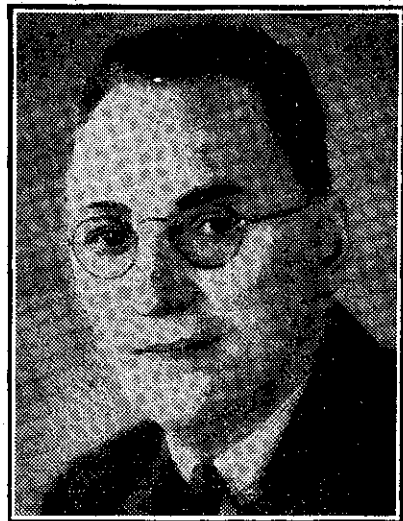
"TOTARA" (Stratford): Of the three receivers you mention, we would strongly advise you to build the "Comet Superhet Five." It is simple and cheap to build, and is far more sensitive and selective than the "Scotsman's Superhet," which uses only three valves and a rectifier.

"MAYFAIR" (Wellington): I have a nine-valve all-wave radio, but am not able to get the best from the set because of QRM. The interference is particularly bad at night, with spells of noise like the running of an electric motor lasting about 25 seconds each time. On Sun-

days the interference caused by buses and motor-cars is particularly bad. Could (Continued on next page.)

Leading N.Z. Radio Man Goes South

IN the very near future there will be arriving in New Zealand the first advance shipment of the new 1935 Fisk Radiola receivers. These instruments have been acclaimed in Australia as the most perfect radio sets yet created, both in regard to performance and beauty of design. Knowing the remarkably high standard always set in the past by Radiola, dealers will no doubt be looking forward with the keenest interest to seeing these new Radiola models.



MR. P. SCOTT RAMSAY, Managing Director of the Briton Trading Co.

Mr. Scott Ramsay, the well-known Managing Director of the Briton Trading Company, Ltd., sole New Zealand distributors for Radiola, is now travelling through the South Island to discuss with dealers the Radiola plans for the forthcoming radio season. The following is Mr. Ramsay's itinerary and all members of the radio trade are invited to consult Mr. Ramsay when he is in their district:

Tuesday, April 2 and Wednesday, April 3, Warner's Hotel, Christchurch.
Thursday, April 4, Grosvenor Hotel, Timaru.

Friday, April 5, Crown Hotel, Oamaru.
Saturday, April 6 to Tuesday, April 9, Wain's Hotel, Dunedin.

Wednesday, April 10 and Thursday, April 11, Invercargill.
Friday, April 12, Wain's Hotel, Dunedin.
Saturday, April 13 to Monday, April 15, Warner's Hotel, Christchurch.

If there is no Radiola dealer in your territory, you will be well advised to get in touch with Mr. Ramsay at the nearest centre to your district.
Immediately on his return from the South, Mr. Ramsay will be making a comprehensive tour of the North Island. * * *

Information Coupon

(To be used with all requests for information.)

Name of set
Model
Name
Address

Nom de plume
To be kept in subsequent inquiries.

Please Note:—

- (1) Be specific and brief, tabulating if possible.
- (2) Write legibly and on one side of the paper.
- (3) We do not design circuits.
- (4) Limit three questions unless 1/- is enclosed.
- (5) Postal queries limit 3 questions. Enclose stamped and addressed envelope and 1/- fee.