

OTAGO NOTES.

Cheery Chatter at Opening of Bridge

"Official" Broadcast by 4YA From Balclutha Turned Out To Be A Bright Item—Rebroadcast of Cambridge-Oxford Boat Race—"License Renewals Excellent," Reports Dunedin Inspector.

WHAT had every prospect of being an interesting, but perhaps rather "official" broadcast by 4YA, turned out to be an exceedingly bright item from the entertainment point of view when the official opening of the Balclutha Bridge was relayed. As listeners will have heard, the day was bright and warm, and one suspects that the warmth of the sun's rays got into the veins of the gentleman who was responsible for the descriptive announcing before and after the opening ceremony, as he considerably enlivened the broadcast by his humorous references and asides on what was taking place. It is rather a pity that he had to leave the microphone as soon as the procession had passed, for, no doubt, he could have continued his cheery chatting indefinitely. It is worth mentioning in passing that both the shortwave apparatus belonging to the station and the land line were used in bringing the proceedings to the public ear. It is understood that the shortwave transmitter was commissioned to broadcast from the dais on the bridge to a receiving point connected with the relay line to Dunedin.

EVERYONE will agree that credit must go to 4YO for the recent rebroadcast of the Empire station at Daventry on the occasion of the broadcast of the famous annual boat race between crews from Cambridge and Oxford. The recording of the actual description was a particularly fine one, the incidental sounds giving a most realistic impression of the weather conditions at the time. The transmission was excellent, and the reception at the official receiving base at Halfway Bush was perfect, so that everything was favourable for a splendid rebroadcast. There is no doubt that listeners greatly appreciate 4YO's work, which demonstrated the value of an auxiliary station while the main transmitter was engaged in handling a church service relay. It was a very fine description of the race that was heard, and it was indeed a treat to hear it from the lips of a cultured English speaker.

FULL programmes of topical matter have been arranged by 4YA for broadcasting at Easter. On Good Friday church services will be specially featured in accordance with the usual practice on that day, while a big list of rowing events is to be dealt with on Saturday. This will embrace descriptions of the interprovincial eight-oar race, the North v. South Island eight-oar race, and the inter-universities eight-oar race. It will be a memorable day in the history of Otago rowing, and listeners in all parts of the country will be interested in the results of the races, so that the main station should have a very large following on that day. On Easter Monday the New Zealand University track and field athletic championships are to be put

on the air. Altogether the Easter schedule gives promise of being most alluring.

"LICENSE renewals are excellent," was the reply given to an inquirer of the local radio inspector as to how the new licenses were progressing. As is usual when renewals are applied for, a number of licensees are notifying changes of sets. The old types of valve receivers and many of the crystal sets are now being replaced by modern equipment, Brownling Drakes and the like having served a useful purpose in the years gone by, but failing to satisfy the requirements of the owners who have once heard some of the latest jobs in action. It is also usual just before the renewal date for many to loudly cry: "I'm not going to renew this year; radio isn't worth the money." However, it is notable that the majority of those who make similar remarks are generally among the first to visit the Post and Telegraph counter to buy a new license.

THERE were great doings last week when the Radio Church of the Helping Hand celebrated its first birthday. It was early in April that the radio church idea was conceived by the Rev. L. B. Neale, who received the co-operation of 4ZM, and it was shortly after this that the church made its first appearance on the air. Since then a little service has been broadcast daily, usually by the reverend gentleman, who goes before the microphone as Uncle Leslie, and in the first year of its life the church has gathered some 2500 members into the fold. Each of these members assists in some practical way

to alleviate the sorrows of others, and to build up a big brotherhood fostering the Christian ideals. The celebrations previously referred to took the form of a huge meeting in the Dunedin Town Hall, 3000 persons gaining admission, while several hundreds were unable to find space in the building. Solos and choral numbers were features of the service, while Uncle Leslie outlined the main objects of the radio church, and referred to the valuable work being accomplished in connection with the relief of distress. There were other short addresses, and the service was broadcast by 4ZM.

UNDER the terms of the new programme schedule, provision is made for an old-time dance night from 4YA every alternate month. The next programme of dance tunes that were popular with a former generation is to be given on April 27, when a local band and a master of ceremonies will take possession of the studio for the evening. For some reason best known to the dancing public, old-time dances are very attractive in Dunedin and the surrounding districts, and so, when 4YA arranges one of its own it usually broadcasts to both the older and younger listeners.

DESPITE the public warnings that are issued from time to time, there are some who evidently persist in the belief that they can operate a receiving set without taking out a license. Poor, misguided people, they realise their mistake when it is too late. Proof of this statement is often to be found after a glance at the daily Police Court news, in which many defaulting listeners feature from time to time.

Steady Advance in Licence Figures Continues

Grand Total Now Exceeds 150,000

At last the grand total of radio licence figures stands above 150,000 as shown in the February figures of the Post and Telegraph Department. For the first two months of this year the proportion of increase has remained steady, indicating a continued willingness to buy receiving sets. The increase in licences does not take into account the new sets which are sold to replace older ones. Below is the table of figures:

	Receivers.	Dealers.	Trans- mitting.	Experi- mental.	Free.	Broad- casting.
Auckland	45,820	415	189	1	138	5
Canterbury	27,320	237	177	—	58	3
Otago	20,420	151	107	—	38	8
Wellington	55,626	390	379	2	85	9
Totals	149,195	1,202	852	3	319	25

GRAND TOTAL: 151,596.

Totals at 28/2/34:

115,414 1,161 779 3 300 29
GRAND TOTAL AT 28/2/34: 117,686.