

AUCKLAND NOTES.

Taking Liberties With Licences

Sustenance Men Get Straight Talk From Mr. F. K. Hunt, S.M. —
Wrestling Season Opens — Star B Station Items — Uncle
Scrim Bound For Australia.

TWO out of three of those prosecuted for not licensing their radio sets, told Mr. F. K. Hunt, S.M., in the Police Court last Friday, that they were on sustenance. Both owned six-valve electric sets, which caused the magistrate to remark that it was strange that such men could afford expensive sets. The prosecuting radio inspector said that one man, in writing to inform him that he had dismantled his set, asked him if he could get him a job! "This man had his set four months without licensing it," said the inspector. "The tendency is with these men to use their sets until they have paid them off and then take out a license," he added. "Yes," said the magistrate, "and they think that because they are on sustenance they can break every law short of the criminal law."

LISTENERS are reminded that all licenses which expired on March 31 should by now have been renewed, and that the Auckland radio inspectors are now on the warpath seeking "pirates." It is a foolish policy to avoid paying 25/- per annum, only to find oneself summoned to appear before a magistrate and fined £1 and costs, 15/-, and then still have to pay for the license, of course. It is not sufficient to dismantle sets without informing

the radio inspector in writing. Even if the set owner satisfies the radio inspector, the latter will pay a visit to ensure that the set is properly dismantled.

2YA and **3YA** are being well received in Auckland, even in the late afternoon, but unfortunately, as far as metropolitan listeners are concerned, the programmes are frequently spoilt by bad electrical interference from high-tension lines and tramcars. Auckland is said to have the most powerful trams in the world. After listening to the abominable noise which they create in certain districts, one can well believe it. When, oh when are the Post and Telegraph officials here going to enforce the regulations governing interference gazetted in October last?

THE Auckland Wrestling Association's season opened on Monday night in the Town Hall, when the big bout between the two overseas grapplers was described by Mr. Gordon Hutter. Now that the popular sport has been resumed there are many, especially in country districts, who will no doubt derive much enjoyment from such broadcasts by this popular and experienced sporting announcer. As was the case last season the early birds were entertained by the wrestling association in the hall with a good programme of popular recordings broadcast by means of powerful amplifiers.

AMONG the best of the entertainment broadcast from the 12B station are the Song Story interpretations of the Romancers, a combination of artists under the leadership of Mr. Will J. Rowe. Miss Kirry J. Rowe, Mrs. Ray Stokes, and Mr. G. Barnes are outstanding among the many artists who regularly combine to complete the unusually interesting and regularly high-class radiocasts, the specialty of The Romancers. Last Wednesday in their monthly appearance this talented combination requisitioned the assistance of Friend John as the tenor singer, and his rendering of Toselli's Serenata, the theme song of the evening, has elicited high praise indeed from severe musical critics. The Romancers will be broadcast again from 12B on May 22.

BY popular request Station 12B will repeat on the evening of May 16 mezzo-soprano songs by Miss Pat Wallace, a lady of only sixteen years, whose handling of "Ave Maria" and "The Rosary" is beautiful beyond mere words. For voice production Miss Wallace reflects high credit on the training of the convent authorities. But it is the remarkable material available that has enabled already the cultivation of a standard of singing which has won Miss Wallace genuine congratulation from visiting musical experts.

NEXT Wednesday night at 9.5, Mr. Alan Mulgan, literary editor of the Auckland "Star," who has been doing the interesting series of "World Affairs" talks from 1YA, will give a special Jubilee talk entitled "King George and the Throne."

BEGINNING on Sunday, May 5, the Auckland Municipal Band will in future entertain listeners from the Town Hall. During the past few months when the band performed in Albert Park, great pleasure and enjoyment was obtained by city dwellers who spent the warm evenings listening to this good combination. All the band's concerts from the Town Hall will be relayed through 1YA.

NOW that 12S has been off the air for many months and 12M is only on in the evenings, and 12B's daytime schedule is very limited, Auckland city listeners have really only 1YA's programme to fall back on during the day. 1YX operates only at night, as a rule. Of course, 12J provides popular programmes twice a week between noon and 2 p.m., but this schedule can scarcely be termed an alternative to 1YA. Many listeners consider that the schedule of 1YX should be increased to provide a daytime service. If the board decided to this, the power of the auxiliary station would need to be considerably increased.

THE announcement has now been publicly made by Uncle Scrim that it is his proposal to depart for Sydney later in May to undertake there the definite inauguration of Friendly Road services. The laying of the foundations of the Road in the Commonwealth will, it is expected, involve the absence of Uncle Scrim from New Zealand for a period of three months, during which period arrangements have been made for the affairs in New Zealand to receive very reliable handling.

IN several American districts, notably in Kansas, Detroit, Los Angeles, White Plains, etc., there is a movement to organise amateur broadcasters into "emergency communications" to co-operate with the police by sending out descriptions of missing or unidentified persons, giving Bertillon measurements and fingerprints, etc. Mr. F. E. Handy, communications manager of the American Radio Relay League, has found it difficult to convince many police commissioners that this would be desirable; they say they don't want help from outside, and that, because the amateur service is free, it can't be worth anything. To which it is replied that even in post-war times, amateurs were helping the police and maintaining listening posts.

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