

OTAGO NOTES.

Amateur Shortwave Interference

Complaints of Radio-Telephone Speech All Round the Dial — Election Results Service Should Be Ample — Tano Fama's Talks Worth Listening To — Incomplete Dismantling.

SOME of the listeners in the St. Kilda district have been complaining bitterly about a certain amateur using phone and causing interference, especially on Sunday mornings. They say that the offender can be heard over practically the whole dial on the short-wave band, and one or two have reported picking up his conversation on certain broadcast frequencies. It seems that some of the complainants have fairly ancient receiving sets, which, of course, are broader in tuning than modern designs, but the others claim that their sets are comparatively up-to-date, and, therefore, selective. The position should not be a difficult one to deal with, as it is believed all amateurs are only too willing to rectify faults in their transmitting apparatus to oblige listeners who are receiving interference. However, there is another point of view. Shortwave listening is becoming more popular every week, and as none can produce any evidence in support of the futile conversations carried on by the amateurs on 80 metres, the latter would be well advised to study the hours during which they use radio telephony, just in case listeners should take it into their heads to bring pressure to bear on the Government to prohibit amateurs from extending their activities to phone. It should also be explained that if this were done the listeners would have right on their side.

THE general election is now only some five weeks off. At one time the public depended almost solely on their local papers to supply them with the returns as they came to hand, but that time is passing, and nearly everyone naturally and rightly expects to hear the results at home, radio, of course, being the means by which to receive them. At the last election the main stations were able to give their listeners fairly full accounts of the results of the polls, but for this year, it is understood, even more complete arrangements are now well under way for advising listeners of the various returns. Provided no unforeseen hitches occur, and the possibilities of that are remote, all those who care to tune to 4YA on the night of November 27 will be supplied with complete results almost as soon as they come to hand. No doubt this will be a very satisfactory arrangement from everyone's point of view.

A COMPARATIVELY new speaker at 4YA, giving a series of talks by weekly instalments, is Mr. Tano Fama, whose true Maori historical incidents are proving very interesting. There is no doubt that Mr. Fama is thoroughly versed in his subject, and he makes each story as vivid as possible. Judging by his chatty style, one has the impression that he does not completely write his talk beforehand as most radio speakers do, but prefers to note a few

of the major points on paper to act as a guide to the actual phrasing of the matter before the microphone. Mr. Fama is a well-known figure in Dunedin public life, being the manager of one of the city's picture theatres. He has also been associated with the legitimate stage, being the leader of a troupe of diggers, who toured New Zealand and Australia shortly after the war. Incidentally, another member of that party, Mr. Stan. Lawson, is also a resident in Dunedin, and has been heard once or twice from the local studio.

COMPARATIVELY speaking, the number of listeners who dismantle their receiving sets are small, and those who actually dismantle after notifying the authorities of their intention to do so are even fewer. It had been found by the Post and Telegraph Department officials that most of those

who return the completed form stating that they are not renewing their licenses and have put their sets out of working order have performed the latter duty in an entirely satisfactory manner. However, every now and then someone slips on the dismantling. The officials decided to investigate one or two cases recently, and made the discovery that the receivers were still in perfect working order, although the licenses had not been renewed. It might be that the listeners in question did not understand that dismantling meant the removing of all valves from the set, the shifting of the receiver from the power mains, and the taking down or breaking of the aerial, and perhaps imagined that if the sets were not in actual use they were then dismantled. However, they have learned differently now, and their sets are definitely out of commission.

Auckland Notes

(Continued from page 18.)

A REAL comedian so well known for many years on the boards in Australia and New Zealand, Mr. Fred Bluett, who is at present touring the New Zealand national stations dispensing cheer, is to return to Auckland next week to make his final appearances at 1YA. Fred is a truly delightful soul who makes listeners really laugh at his quaint line of patter and mirth-provoking anecdotes. He will be heard from 1Y₂ on Monday next at 8.43 p.m. and on the following day at 8.32 p.m.

THE Brown's Bay remote-controlled long and shortwave receiving station has recently been rebuilt and is now the last word in remote-controlled receivers. Full control over a distance of many miles is secured by means of a highly ingenious system of relays and rectifiers. It is possible to control the tuning, volume and sensitivity of the far distant set just as completely as if it were installed in the Chief Post Office, where the operator is stationed. This apparatus, which was designed by Post Office engineers, is used for commercial traffic and reception of Empire broadcasts.

THE Auckland Transport Board has now completed the removal of all centre-poles, for so many years a bug-bear to traffic. It is to be hoped that the next task to engage the attention of the board will be elimination of the interference which, since the inception of broadcasting in Auckland, has spoilt reception for thousands of listeners. The revenue is on the improve and the expenditure of about £2000 would earn the heartfelt thanks of harassed listeners. Unfortunately, the removal of centre-poles has not been an unmixed blessing. Listeners not previously troubled with tram interference now report a much higher level, due to the earthing effect of the metal centre-poles being lost. On referring the matter to an engineer for an opinion, I was informed that it was a fact that the removal of the poles caused increased interference and that the technical reasons therefor were well known to the profession.

Twenty-five pounds to the little New Zealander who most resembles Shirley Temple. See pages 30 and 31.

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