

New Zealand Heard In The Solomons

"THERE are several New Zealanders in the Solomon Islands, all planting copra, and all have radio sets operated by batteries. Frequently they hear Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin on the air," said Father J. M. Wall, S.M., on furlough from the Solomons, in an interview with the "Record" in Christchurch last week.

Father Wall explained that his mission station was entirely cut off from communication with other countries, except from the mail service by sea, which was not so frequent as they could wish. Radio sets in the tropics were expensive things, as anything likely to rust through close proximity to the sea had to be eliminated.

Best results in the Solomons are obtained on shortwave, and Australian, French, Italian, Russian and German stations are well received. It is interesting, too, to note that several New Zealand amateurs on shortwave are heard on Malaita Island. There are two amateurs in the Islands using telephonic sets. They are constantly experimenting, but conditions are against them climatically.

"The first two years in the tropics are very trying. No, perhaps the first year is all right for the New Zealander, because he still has all the vitality of a colder country. The second year finds out all his physical weaknesses, and imposes a great strain on him, but by the third year he has become acclimatised and is as good as the next man," said Father Wall.

He added that if anybody in New Zealand felt disposed to help the mission on the way to installing a radio receiving set a contribution sent to Father J. F. McHardy, S.M., of St. Patrick's College, Silverstream, would be welcome.

ON the subject of radio propaganda the following apt reply was made to a reader of an English paper who was perturbed by all the talk of anti-British propaganda being poured out by powerful radio stations over peaceful tribesmen in the Near East. The writer who answered him wrote:—"In my opinion the average Arab never sees a wireless set; if he does, he doesn't bother to listen to it; if he did it would probably not be speaking in his own dialect; and, if it were, and if he understood every word, he wouldn't believe it, anyway!"

THE British Post Office announces that the total number of radio licenses in force at the end of September, 1937, was 8,347,800, representing an increase of 51,713 for the month and 557,995 over the figure for the same date in 1936. The month of October showed a further increase of 24,000, bringing the grand total to 8,372,000. The potential maximum figure for Britain and Northern Ireland, indicated by the number of families, is more than 11,000,000.



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