

## AROUND AND BEHIND THE DIALS

## HOW TO VERIFY THE LATIN STATIONS

A Report In Spanish  
Brings A Reply

By "The Southlander"

WITH the increasing popularity of shortwave dxing and the greater number of South and Central American broadcast-band stations being heard, the following article on reporting in Spanish should prove particularly helpful to dxers not acquainted with that language.

SPANISH is probably heard more by dxers than any other language, except English, and besides Spain itself, Mexico, Cuba and nearly all the States of Central and South America are Spanish-speaking countries.

The following is a copy of a letter written in Spanish, with the English translation, which appeared in "Radex" some years ago:—

Ingeniero en Jefe,  
Estacion Radiodifusora (call),  
(City and Country),

Muy Estimado Sr.,

Acabo de tener el gran placer de oír su estacion radiodifusora (call) en — k.c. y a continuacion me permito darle la lista de unas de las muchas selecciones que me ha sido grato sintonizar. Le quedaria altamente agradecido si Vd. pudiese hacerme el favor de comprobar mi audicion con sus radiodifusiones y mandarme confirmacion de mi recepcion.

1. Seleccion de orquesta.
2. Seleccion de piano.
3. Seleccion de violin.
4. Seleccion de organa.
5. Seleccion de marimba.
6. Seleccion de acordeon.
7. Solo vocal (senor).
8. Solo vocal (dama).
9. Coro.
10. Musica clasica.
11. Musica popular.
12. Musica nacional.
13. Musica de baile.
14. Fox trot.
15. Marcha.
16. Vals.
17. Habla.
18. Anuncios de la estacion.
19. Volumen—debil.
20. Volumen—mediano.
21. Volumen—fuerte.
22. Calidad de tono—mala.
23. Calidad de tono—buena.
24. Condiciones atmosfericas—buenas.
25. Condiciones atmosfericas—mala.
26. Musica Americana.
27. Musica Espanol.
28. Guitarr.
29. Duo trio.
30. La Vez.

Anticipandole mis mas efusivas gracias, abrigo la esperanza de enviarle otro reporte dentro de poco tiempo y me ofrezco de Vd.

Afmo atto. y.s.s.

## ENGLISH TRANSLATION.

Chief Engineer,  
Radio Station (call),

My dear Sir,

I have just had the great pleasure of hearing your station (call) on — k.c. and on the log below I am giving you some of the selections I listened to. Will you be so kind as to check this with your station log and send me verification of my reception?

1. Orchestral selection.
2. Piano selection.
3. Violin selection.
4. Organ selection.
5. Marimba selection.
6. Accordion selection.
7. Vocal solo (man).
8. Vocal solo (woman).
9. Vocal chorus.
10. Classical music.
11. Popular music.

12. Native music.
13. Dance music.
14. Foxtrot.
15. March.
16. Waltz.
17. Talking.
18. Station announcement.
19. Faint volume.
20. Good volume.
21. Great volume.
22. Tone quality poor.
23. Tone quality good.
24. Atmospheric conditions good.
25. Atmospheric conditions bad.
26. American music.
27. Spanish music.
28. Guitar.
29. Duet; trio.
30. The time.

Thanking you in advance for your verification, and hoping to send you another report in the near future, I am,

Yours very truly.

Of course, someone at most of the bigger stations understands English, but, at many of the smaller-powered ones, they do not, and for these the above translation is most useful. Fuller particulars can be added in English at the bottom of the letter.

It is not easy to make out a report if one does not know the names of the selections played, but it is possible, however, if one listens carefully to the announcements, to hear the name of the type of selection to follow. The Spanish word for a song is a "cancion" and a march "marcha," while foxtrots are usually called "fox," a waltz "vals" and a dance is a "baile."

Although strange to our English ears, Spanish music is enchanting and the information above should help readers in reporting to stations "below the Rio Grande."

Voices Of  
The Famous

SOUND recording and films provide a new and almost perfect medium for passing on the history of our times to posterity, and the BBC, fully aware of the necessity for organisation in this direction, has inaugurated an historical library of the spoken word.

Already there are many thousands of valuable records of the past in the possession of the BBC and among these are such momentous speeches as were made by Lord Lee of Fareham, speaking on the problems of disarmament in 1909; H. H. Asquith discussing the Budget of the same year, when income tax soared to the unprecedented figure of 1/2 in the pound; Walter Long on Irish Home Rule and an eye-witness account of the sinking of the Titanic. Such records as these, made with the urgent address of actuality, will provide first-hand accounts of history.

The International Broadcasting Union recently approved of a scheme for the international exchange of historical records, and it should be possible in the future to borrow from other countries such recordings which it has not been possible for the BBC to make.

Centennial March  
Competition  
Closed

OVER 100 entries were received for the Centennial March competition conducted by Charles Begg and Co., Ltd. The contest recently closed, and the winners will be announced in the near future.

The judges are Mr. James Dixon, manager of Charles Begg's, Dunedin, who was formerly conductor of the St. Kilda Band, Mr. George Buckley, of Auckland, conductor of the Artillery Band, and Mr. T. Kirk Burnand, musical adviser to the NBS. Professor Shelley is acting in an arbitrary capacity.

By arrangement with the Centennial Committee the winning march will be featured on ceremonial occasions during Centennial year.

Radio Round The  
World

IN order to prevent speakers in triangular discussions on the NBC network over-running their allotted time, three warning lights have been installed in each of the three sides of a new triangular table which, built up like a be-headed pyramid, is to be used by the debaters. The coloured lights flicker warnings at two minutes, one minute and 10 seconds before the speaker is to stop talking.

Nazi Virtue New Zealanders  
Should Emulate

## German Streets Are Always Clean

THE European country most "in the news" is, after Spain, Germany, and while there are many things in that great land New Zealanders would never dream of copying, there are some aspects of German life that repay investigation. For example, in a German city one looks in vain for a piece of paper, an apple core, or even a faint trace of untidiness; the streets are as clean of rubbish as a well-kept kitchen floor.

As an American woman walked along the street of a city in Germany, she felt the urge to eat a banana. She stripped it of its peel and threw the peel along the way.

In a moment an officer was by her side, holding the discarded skin in his hand, and saying in good English, "Madam, will you please put this peel in the receptacle nearby? Thank you!"

And he was gone. He might as easily have deposited the banana peel in the container himself, but

he knew that the traveller was in need of a lesson. And she was.

One is led to wonder how such immaculateness of city streets is secured. The fact is the street-cleaning force is under the direction of a technically educated man of wide experience. The department is recruited from soldiers who have served their time and have passed a doctor's examination.

The rules of conduct, of uniforms, of duties, are outlined to most minute detail. The streets are cleaned for the benefit of the people, clean streets and pavements in German cities do not "just happen." There is a reason.

It is impossible for all of us to go to Germany to inspect their clean streets and to see how Nazism works, but radio globe-trotting now being fashionable in New Zealand, we can, in imagination, girdle the entire globe.

On Saturday, February 25, 2YA listeners will, in the now famous "Ports of Call" series, pay "A Visit to Germany."

LATEST estimates place the number of car radio installations in England at between 40,000 and 50,000, or approximately 22 per cent. of cars on the road, while 20 per cent. of America's cars are radio-equipped.

FIGURES issued by the International Union of Radiodiffusion placed the known number of wireless receivers throughout the world at approximately 70,000,000. Assuming an average of 3.75 persons per family, this places the total number of listeners at 262,500,000.

BRESLAU is the first town to be equipped with the elaborate PA installation to be erected throughout Germany in the next few years. Breslau's equipment consists of 100 of the special loud-speaker columns or kiosks.

THE BBC has to obtain a special Post Office permit for transmitting after hours. Strictly speaking, it is not authorised to transmit after the first stroke of Big Ben at midnight, though no official has yet issued a challenge regarding the relaying of the other eleven strokes!

Oxford Accent  
Unintelligible

THE problem of organising listening centres for the isolated hill people of Eastern Kentucky, U.S.A., was attack-

ed in 1933 by the University of Kentucky, which, with the co-operation of NBC and other educational broadcasting groups, succeeded in placing wireless receivers in twenty-seven isolated communities.

Miss Judith Waller, Educational Director of the NBC Central Division, who recently made a personal inspection of the listening centres, discovered many interesting effects which broadcasting exercise over the people. They prefer symphony music to their native hill-billy swing; they unanimously follow news bulletins; and they find an Oxford accent completely unintelligible.

Each group is in the charge of a "listening director," who receives guidance as to the choice of forthcoming programme from General Supervisor Miss Loris Whitaker, who each year spends a week with every one of the communities.

Arriving by all conceivable kinds of conveyance, the listeners come from twenty-five to thirty miles to hear programmes, and audiences number anything from 2 to 75 people.

## INVENTORS

For expert advice and assistance in patenting your ideas consult—

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