

# THE RADIO RECORD

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## Breaking Down the Barriers

*We live in a progressive age when accumulated science is being employed by man to make his way easier. The rough pioneer days are forever gone, and one by one those obstacles are being removed which have made harder the life of those who venture beyond city bounds. One of the greatest trials has been isolation, but radio, by conquering space, has alleviated its worst dreads, and the task of the settler is lighter and happier.*



NCE again the Christmas season has passed by; for some it will long be remembered as a time of happiness, for others it will slip by almost unnoticed. Far removed from the bustle of the cities and town this festive season is likely to be unnoticed, for, scattered throughout this country, there are thousands of homes so remote that there is nothing to break the dead monotony. In times long passed one day was like another, and Christmas and New Year meant nothing more than perhaps an extra holiday from the daily toil; in most cases it did not mean this.

For those nearer civilisation this has never been the case; there has always been the gaily decorated shops, and the care-free holiday atmosphere. Christmas and New Year's Eve are, for those who dwell near or in the town and cities, times for making merry. There is always plenty of fresh company, many things to see,

and a rapidly changing environment.

There are very few who are within range of even a small town who will not go there to see "the fun" on these two nights. But this cannot be for those who are lost in the back country, with probably very little change from their humble fare, their monotonous and often dismal surroundings. There is nothing to convey to them the happy atmosphere of elsewhere.



Announcer Cufford Bell, who will describe the gay scenes at Auckland on New Year's Eve.

**BUT** this order is passing. In 1927 a new force came into being in New Zealand which has dispelled loneliness and carries the air of good cheer and happiness far beyond the reach of any other medium. This is Radio.

One has only to visit one of these outback posts to see the very great part radio plays in the lives of these people. The wireless set is one of the most valued pieces of apparatus in the whole establishment. It is their sole means of communication with the

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*The modern Christmas is a time for universal rejoicing. In the rush of urban life and the quiet of the backblocks, Christmas might mean little were it not for the ever-widening influence of radio. Its approach has been heralded by special sessions, culminating in an entire programme devoted to carolling. To rich and poor, near and far, radio, with its message of good-will, penetrates and rents the shroud of oblivion which in these days might otherwise envelop it.*