

Transmission by Invisible Rays

A Modern Invention

NEW systems of communication are constantly being sought—to relieve the congestion of existing channels and to increase the usefulness of communication apparatus. A demonstration was recently given of such a new system, which used ultra-violet light as a medium over which intelligence could be conveyed.

The ultra-violet ray exhibition made apparent immediate scientific usages and opened a wide experimental field. An example is ship-to-ship communication in time of war, when radio signals and visible light beams would be impractical. The same is true of communication between aeroplanes. In fact, an invisible ray, for the transmission of sound and pictures, which ray can neither be seen nor heard, has far-reaching potentialities.

The demonstration of this new means of communication was recently held in New York. The casual spectator observed a group of transmitting equipment at one end of the building and a receiving device at the opposite end. A bulb emitted a beam of varying coloured light from the transmitting end. The light flickered and changed in intensity in accordance with the words which an official spoke into a nearby microphone connected to an apparatus operating the bulb. The bulb behaved the same way when attached to the television transmitter.

At the opposite end of the floor a loudspeaker and headphones delivered the same speech; or when television was being sent a screen showed the image of the person seated before the television transmitter. Whenever the light or rays were intercepted, reception stopped. Following this, a filter allowing ultra-violet rays to pass through was placed over the bulb. Reception of both sound and television still continued.

The feasibility of the system is due in large measure to the extraordinary qualities of the mercury induction lamp, originally developed for therapeutic work, but recently discovered to have desirable characteristics for light modulation beyond the highest frequency needed for television. A remarkable feature of this lamp is that the radio frequency which actuates it causes it to darken and glow at least thirty million times in every second.

The Passing of Hamiora Hakopa

Solemn Pageantry of Maori Burial

FROM an impressive account in the "Wanganui Herald" of the burial of Hamiora Hakopa, whose untimely death was announced last week, we take the following:—

Something of a scene in the setting laid for the radio Maori pageant, yet of more real consequence, was provided in the closing ceremonies incidental to the passing of Hamiora Hakopa, who died on New Year's Day. Here, in the old Kawhaike pā, the final scene in the passing of a life was enacted in a real setting. No announcer here; the events must take their own course. Outside the tent where lay the casket, covered with a mat and ensign; in the back ground scenes and photographs taken of the pageant party in Wanganui and Wellington. Several wreaths, including one large floral representation in blue and gold in the form of a 2YA studio microphone, a token of love and respect from the party, were laid on either side by the sorrowing mother and widow, the assisting wailing women taking their accustomed places on either side of the coffin.

In this impressive sanctuary covering the remains of this young orator whose voice no more would be heard, the mourners remained with their precious charge, regardless of the weather; but a few minutes longer and their long vigil would be at an end. In the meeting house adjacent the tribesmen are gathered, representative chiefs from the Wanganui and up-river settlements, others from the Rātana movement. There the father of Hamiora sits by himself, isolated and in grief. One by one the chiefs present their tribute to the works and memory of the departed young man. Most of them men advanced in years, saddened by the thought of one who would have taken his place in the councils of the race removed so suddenly from among them.

The building in which these orations are being made is of great historical interest, and prominently displayed is a very valuable photographic record of the first Kotahitanga set up many years ago. It is a memorial photograph now, for practically all these worthies have passed into the realms of night.

In this building where these met in council long years since the virtues of this young leader were being placed on record by his elders. To the uninitiated

ed a drab place, but a place of memories precious in the records of the Maori race. Here in a centre of ancient Maori lore two years ago practices were put in hand for the first radio pageant. Yesterday, thanks to the Broadcasting Company, the leaders referred to the wide knowledge the radio world had gained through the medium of Hamiora Hakopa and the party of the Maori people.

Among those present with members of the 2YA party were Messrs. O. Kitson and R. M. Ritchie, both associated with the present organisation and specially privileged visitors who were accorded a tribal welcome when they appeared on the marae.

Final Obsequies.

THEN, the approach of the hour fixed for the general obsequies. A priest, the Rev. Father Vibaud, takes his place before the tent, and in accordance with the ceremonial of his church, proceeds with the service, the natives joining in the responses with deep devotion. Gradually the rain becomes more and more incessant; then the singing of "Nearer My God to Thee"; next the preparations for removal of the casket to the cemetery. A lorry stands adjacent to the tent, beautifully festooned with greenery. In the pelting rain the casket is borne to the improvised hearse, the priest takes his seat, and with the mournful tinkling of a bell the last sad stage is commenced. Down the rough road by the river the procession goes, the attendants comparatively few, for the rain pelts down with increasing violence. But as the distance is traversed the wailing of the mourners can still be heard. From the hilltop the coffin is taken to the open grave. There among the hills the officiating priest performs the final duties of his office. Then the coffin is lowered to the grave, with the deceased's belongings, in accordance with Maori custom. Some earth from the battlefields of Europe is sprinkled over the casket, and all is finished.

Returned to the marae, the gathering is called to the festive board, literally groaning with the weight of good things. With the opening remarks a request is made for the pakeha visitors to speak. Mr. R. W. Ritchie, in conveying the sympathy of the Broadcast-

ing Company, referred in detail to the events of the pageant and of its sad significance that day. Mr. Kitson followed similarly. Their remarks were interpreted by Mr. T. Takarangi. Then the visitors disperse, leaving the people of the pā to themselves. Custom must have its way, but a newly-moulded grave guarded by "Parakala, the Spirit of the Pageant," on the extremity of the marae, will not be forgotten: for has not the voice of Hamiora Hakopa proceeded to the ends of the earth in his days of life; now he has joined the spirits of those in the uttermost parts of whose prowess and exploits it was his joy to tell. An end, but yet not the end of all.

Thus the final scene which no pageant can ever portray: a scene which only in its own time and place can penetrate in its sadness to the depths of the human heart.

With the exception of the officiating priest and the schoolmaster at Upokongaro, Messrs. Kitson and Ritchie were the only Europeans with the large gathering, and they appreciated the kind attentions bestowed upon them throughout the proceedings. Mr. Rama Whanarere and his people went to no end of pains to make them feel at home in the course of the proceedings, while the hand of friendship was extended freely by resident and visitor alike.

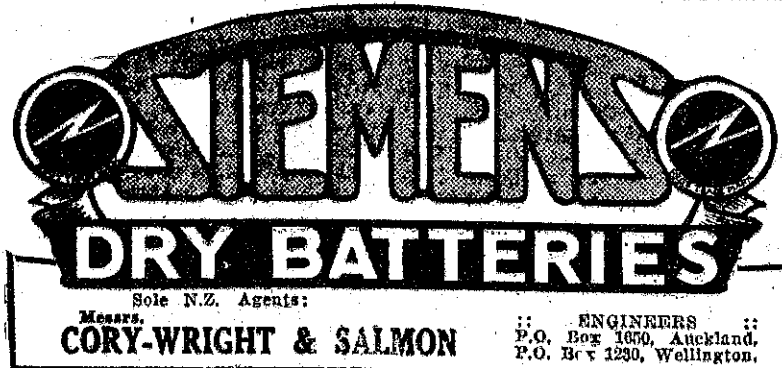
Aunt Gwen

Good Wishes from All

THE announcement of the marriage of "Aunt Gwen," of 2YA, Wellington, which is to take place at St. Paul's Pro-Cathedral, Wellington, on January 29, has caused widespread interest. Whilst everyone is pleased that the joyous entertainer of the children's sessions is about to be joined in happy wedlock, there is also widespread regret at the prospects of losing "Aunt Gwen" from 2YA. Here is one of those charming personalities whose mission in life seems to be to make others happy, and her sweet disposition has been interpreted to many hundreds, even thousands, of juveniles and adults per medium of the microphone. Letters are already commencing to pour in on "Aunt Gwen," now that the news has leaked out. The "Radio Record" wishes her very many years of happiness.

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