

# The New Zealand Radio Record

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## Electric Home Journal

(Incorporating the "Canterbury Radio Journal.")

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WELLINGTON, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1930.

RADIO PUBLICITY FOR NEW ZEALAND.

ON Sunday, January 26, the first of a series of short-wave broadcasts, from America, for the benefit of New Zealand listeners, was given by 3YA. This emanated from station WENR in Chicago. There certainly is an attraction about rebroadcasts of short-wave transmissions from another country. This was shown by the intense interest taken in the recent broadcast of the opening of the Naval Conference. That, of course, was a special occasion, but experience has shown that whenever conditions have warranted the rebroadcast of overseas short-wave programmes, listeners have greatly appreciated the favour. Opportunity was, therefore, taken to cater for this demand by the Broadcasting Company, who have arranged a special series of programmes. While conditions on the night in question were not perfect, they were still sufficiently satisfactory to give not only a technical thrill, but a large degree of satisfaction to a wide circle of listeners.

THE special value of the arrangement, however, lay not so much in New Zealand, but in America. In addition to distributing the programme on short wave, the station also broadcast on long wave for domestic American consumption. The announcer, it is recorded, had been at special pains to familiarise himself with facts about New Zealand and its history, and took full advantage of the opportunity presented to intersperse informative chat with his announcements. The value of this as an advertisement for the Dominion can hardly be excelled. It will undoubtedly serve to acquaint tens of thousands of people with information concerning New Zealand, and stimulate their curiosity. As the series of special programmes is carried to finality, the result cannot but be that that lack of knowledge of the Dominion, which is so frequently a subject of complaint on the part of visitors to the United States, will tend to disappear.

WITH the same thought of advertising the Dominion to the world outside, the suggestion has at times been made that a short-wave broadcasting station in the Dominion should be created and main-

tained. We think the time is not ripe for this development. It may be granted that if such a station were established it would be listened to by a number of short-wave enthusiasts in overseas countries. It would be impossible, however, to form any opinion as to that number or their importance. The probability is that the audience would be at any rate relatively small, and hardly commensurate with the cost involved. In the meantime, at all events, we think very much greater service is being rendered to the country by the method now being applied by the Broadcasting Company, viz., the arranging of a special programme for New Zealand consumption to be given by an American station for rebroadcasting in this Dominion. Dual transmission of long and short-wave serves the purpose of reaching a very much wider audience than would be possible if the programme emanated from this country, and moreover reaches the foreign audience desired at a minimum of cost.

### Band Contest

### Hearing by Electricity

### To be Broadcast by 2YA Demonstration in New York

WITH commendable public-spiritedness and enterprise, the committee controlling the band contest which is to be held in Eltham has accepted the offer of the Radio Broadcasting Company to broadcast the proceedings on the evening of Thursday, March 13. The evening's concert will be relayed to 2YA.

### After-Church Concert on February 16

ARRANGEMENTS have now been completed for the broadcasting by 2YA of a concert which is to be given by the choir of the Aramoho Methodist Church on the evening of Sunday, February 16. An excellent programme has been arranged.

### Mechanical Broadcast Programmes

### Specially Recorded

SEVERAL American organisations are now providing special broadcast programmes which are recorded on gramophone records or on sound films. As a result of recent improvements made in recording and reproducing apparatus, the main objection to the use of mechanical entertainment devices by broadcasting stations is largely obviated.

In fact, it is reported that some of these new programme records are far superior, from the point of view of loud-speaker reproduction, to programmes provided by less mechanical but greatly inferior entertainers. It is very likely that just as at the present motion-picture films are circulated among theatres all over the world, so within a few years specially recorded broadcast programmes will be passed on from station to station; and the frequent appearance of artists in person will be unknown.

BY hearing with an eardrum vibrated by electricity, instead of by sound waves, a man in New York recently listened to music inaudible to other members of the audience witnessing the demonstration. The inventor was electrically connected to a powerful audio-frequency amplifier, and when he placed a finger tip against one ear of a member of the audience, using a sheet of paper as insulation, the effect was to produce a condenser type loudspeaker with the finger tip as one pole and the eardrum and surrounding flesh as the other. This vibrated the drum of the stopped-up ear just as though sound waves were reaching it.

The experiment, which appears to have no practical value at present, demonstrated a novel way in which sound may be directly transmitted to the eardrums other than by ordinary sound waves. Every sound ordinarily heard, from the humming of a gnat to the crashing of thunder, reaches the ear through vibrations of gases or solid substances. Light, heat, and radio waves pass through the ether. Sound waves cannot travel through a vacuum. They require gases or solid substances as a medium of travel.

Vibrations that create sound are produced mechanically in several ways. In the phonograph, the needle, following the up-and-down or the side-to-side waves in the groove on the record, moves the diaphragm of the instrument. In the telephone the diaphragm of the receiver is vibrated by electrical impulses coming over the wire. In talking pictures, light and dark bands on the film allow varying amounts of light to reach a photo-electric cell. This transforms the variations of light intensity into electrical impulses which move a diaphragm as in a telephone.

One of the latest uses for the last method was also demonstrated recently in the form of an instrument that makes audible the numbers called on a dial telephone. When a number is dialed the operator hears it announced vocally. Small reels of talking film contain a voice record of the numerical units from zero to ten. These reels turn automatically to the numbers corresponding to those dialed by the caller. By a mechanism similar to that used in talking movies the numbers are made audible.

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**S-O-S**

**TRAVEL IN COMFORT BY  
CAR**

**WELLINGTON - PALMERSTON  
NEW PLYMOUTH**

It's not what you read, but what you remember that is of benefit to you. Try to remember that if you get chapped hands, rough hands, stiff hands, or almost anything wrong with your hands, your troubles will generally cease if you rub Sydal well into them. Sydal's use would have saved these troubles.