

Wellington Carillon Yacht Racing with Radio

Suggestion for Rebroadcast

A CORRESPONDENT recently wrote making the suggestion that effort should be made to secure a short-wave transmission of the Wellington carillon, as now established in Hyde Park, London, and operated on at regular intervals by Miss Watkins, the talented carillonneur.

Inquiry into this suggestion shows that it is hardly practicable, as in addition to the difficulty of effective short-wave transmission and static interference, the fact is that carillons do not broadcast well. In a recent issue of the "Radio Times," the editor in a footnote, commenting on a suggestion of a correspondent that some broadcasts of carillons should be undertaken, said: "During the past few years the B.B.C. has, on various occasions, broadcast the carillons from several places, among which were those of the Malines Cathedral, Croyland Abbey, Gillette and Johnson of Croydon, and quite recently, the forty-nine bells cast for the New Zealand War Memorial from the North-East Coast Exhibition, Newcastle. Further, two broadcasts have already been made of the Bond Street carillons referred to. However, it has been found, in general, that carillons do not broadcast well. Much of the beauty mentioned by the correspondent is lost in transmission, due to technical difficulties which it is not possible to overcome."

Wellington Amateurs' Success

THE recent ocean yacht race conducted by the Royal Port Nicholson Yacht Club over a course between Wellington and Port Underwood, across Cook Strait, marked the first occasion on which short-wave transmission was carried out on a Wellington yacht.

Though it was unfortunately found necessary to abandon the race after part of the course had been completed, enough distance had been covered under racing conditions to determine if the radio equipment carried was working efficiently. This was installed on Mr. W. Mellor's 32ft. cutter-rigged yacht Marangi, one of the competitors in the race. The enterprising achievement was due to Mr. Mellor, owner of the yacht, Messrs. C. Liddell (ZL2BI) and S. Perkins (ZL2GK), the latter accompanying the craft and operating the equipment.

Through this scheme the progress of the yacht was communicated through Mr. C. Liddell's private station at the

In the circumstances, it seems impossible that anything should be done in the way of rebroadcast by 2YA. It may be remembered, however, that some time back 2YA did broadcast a recording of the carillon, and the results in that particular case were poor. However, when the carillon is established here listeners can anticipate regular broadcasts.

suburb of Lyall Bay (operated for the occasion by Mr. V. Roberts (ZL2AH), by land-line telephone to 2YA, Wellington, which station broadcast the progress reports.

The equipment on the yacht, which was for Morse transmission, comprised a short-wave transmitter with a six-volt semi-power radio frequency amplifier valve, and a six-volt valve as an oscillator, to maintain the stability of the wave-lengths used—40 metres and 80 metres.

The aerial on the yacht, which had only one mast, consisted of 66ft. of ordinary 14-gauge single copper wire, the lead-in of which was encased in rubber insulation. The aerial commenced halfway from the top of the mast to the tip of the bowsprit, and thence up to a position close to the top of the mast, down across the deck, being held about one foot away from three steel shrouds by a short insulated stay, and thence down into the cabin. As it was not practicable to use the more desirable counterpoise required for short-wave work, an "earth" was obtained by means of the 5 tons of lead on the keel of the yacht.

The Marangi was allotted the special call-sign ZL2DZ, for the occasion. The necessary transmitting power was obtained from a 90-volt dry B battery, with ordinary six-volt accumulators for the valve filaments. A short-wave ordinary two-valve receiving set, with two pairs of headphones, completed the equipment. A spare broadcast wave-length coil was carried also, and by means of it the occupants of the yacht were able to obtain good reception of 2YA, Wellington, and thus heard the news which had just previously been dispatched from the yacht, and which had been telephoned to 2YA by Mr. V. Roberts from Mr. Liddell's home.

The success of the installation on the yacht may be gauged from the fact that it was heard clearly up in New Plymouth. Messages were dispatched from the yacht every half-hour from the time they had made a good start until the arrival back at the yacht's moorings late at night. Unfortunately the yacht became becalmed in Cook Strait, off Lyall Bay, and as a special weather forecast by Dr. Kidson, Government Meteorologist, for the yacht, which was duly received, showed no promise of better conditions, the Marangi put about for home at 8.30 p.m.

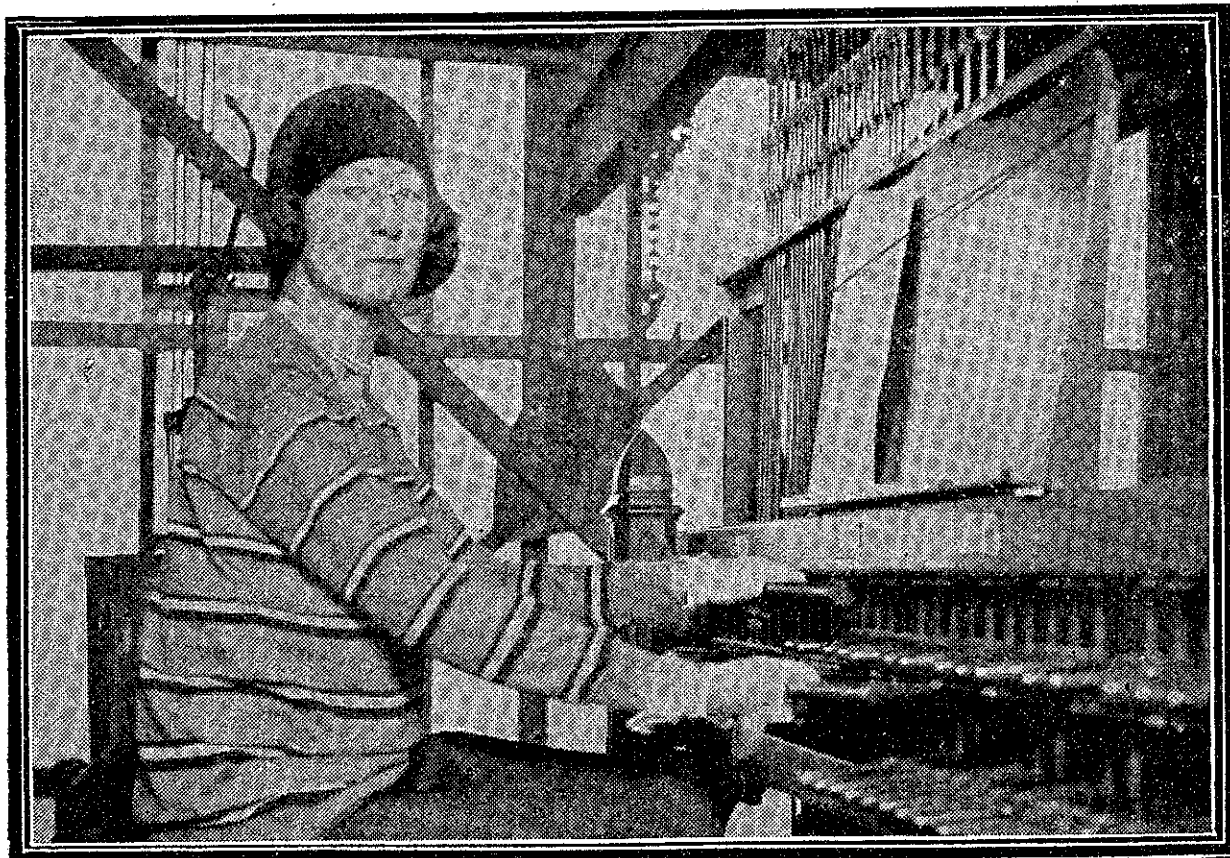
Altogether the enterprise demonstrated how successfully short-wave communication with the land could be maintained from a small yacht on the high seas, with only temporary equipment. The event is a striking tribute to the skill and zeal of Messrs. C. Liddell and S. Perkins, two of Wellington's prominent amateur radio transmitters.

Changes in Population

Shown by Electricity

AN interesting calculating machine is now in use at Census Headquarters of the United States, providing a constant and reliable estimate of the ever-changing population.

It is electrically-operated, a tiny light flashing each 13 seconds to indicate a birth, another every 23 seconds shows a death, and other flashes indicate the arrival of an immigrant, or the departure of an emigrant. A counter at the top of the chart gives an estimate of the total population of the nation at any time.



Miss Gladys Watkins at the keyboard of the Wellington carillon, now at Hyde Park, London, from where she recently broadcast. A gramophone record was made and broadcast from New Zealand stations.