

Soviet Control Uncertain

Radio Reveals Position

EVIDENCE that the Soviet Government is meeting with considerable opposition from a section of the better class farmers in Russia, and that the "Five yearly Plan" inaugurated by the Soviet is not progressing as well as Dictator Stalin desires, was forthcoming Friday last. Our representative, together with Colonel Shebalin (late of Russia) listened in for a considerable time on Friday night, and the following translation indicates what took place.

A huge meeting was held at the theatre in Kharbarovsk, the chief speaker being the Commissar of Kharbarovsk. A Commissar is really the local head representative of the Soviet or Communist party, appointed by the dictator. He is the temporary city manager.

The meeting was relayed through Station RA97, Siberia. The first speaker said: "Owing to the workers not being well organised, the five years plan as outlined by the Soviet is not meeting with much success so far, and the workers must organise and make better preparation for the future."

"The Soviet Government wants everyone to advise it as to the position regarding their local organisations, and to inform the Government of any suggestions they may have for the better organising of the workers; and also to advise the Soviet by letter of any persons committing sabotage," continued the speaker.

An interval of 15 minutes was announced, but actually it was 40. Continuing the relay from the theatre, another speaker said: "Numbers of peasants do not like working under the Soviet new system; the reason is the propaganda Kulak (rich peasant). We must organise the workmen, and the Red army, and prepare to break up the Kulaks, and confiscate their implements and possessions. If you don't do this it means that Russia cannot hope to remain a Communist country, but will fall back again into the hands of the capitalists."

The Commissar of Kharbarovsk then addressed the meeting, and appealed for a special agitation amongst the peasants. In a sarcastic voice he said: "All Europe is preparing to defeat the Soviet, and wage a religious war against our ideals, and we must be prepared to fight these believers in Christ."

"Europe is at present holding a great Naval Conference in London, and is talking a lot about curtailing navies, battleships, and other war weapons. What have they achieved?" asked the Commissar. "Nothing! The Conference is nothing but bluff," shouted the speaker with derision and ridicule. "There's too much talk. After the Conference, the powers will have bigger fleets still." The Commissar appealed to Russian workmen and the Red Army "not to worry about Europe or their Conference." He told the meeting that the peasants fail to realise and understand the Soviet's instructions regarding the new system which was commenced by the Soviet, relative to handing over of wheat and other products to the Soviet.

"The result of this misunderstanding may be a famine," said the speaker.

Power Line Interference at Eastbourne

Listeners Demand Immediate Remedy

DURING the past few weeks complaints have been received from listeners in Eastbourne concerning power-line interference. The following letter from Mr. Birkett, a radio dealer of Eastbourne, is typical of others received and of verbal complaints made. They indicate that immediate action on the part of the Hutt Valley Power Board is desirable.

I HAVE read with interest the letter from "Fed Right Up" in your issue of February 28 regarding power-line interference at Eastbourne, and thoroughly endorse the statements made. "Fed Right Up" has by no means exaggerated the position; in fact, if anything, conditions are infinitely worse than outlined. I am a radio dealer operating in Eastbourne and I can, if necessary, give various definite instances where I have lost sales of high-priced radio sets due entirely to the interference. Within the last fortnight two sales were lost in this way. In fairness to the many listeners-in and to the development of radio sales in Eastbourne, something should be done immediately to remedy this interference, and I trust the Hutt Valley Power Board will realise their responsibility and investigate the matter.—H. Birkett (Eastbourne).

An extract from the complaint signed "Fed Right Up," the correspondent referred to by Mr. Birkett, reveals the overwhelming nature of the interference. "It is absolutely impossible to tune in even Christchurch, let alone more distant New Zealand stations, due to power leaks on the high tension lines passing along the main road. The interference is not merely an occasional crackle, but a continuous nerve-racking clatter, as if a buzzer was doing its best to deafen one. I find that it comes into the picture at about 600 kilocycles, and as one goes up, so it increases, until at 1000 or over it is nothing short of a deafening roar. Of course, I can get 2YA without any interference, as the reception is perfect without using the aerial, but immediately the aerial is connected, this clatter spoils everything, making it impossible to get Dnenedin, Auckland or Christchurch, Australian stations, of course, being absolutely impossible."

"The peasants are following in the footsteps of the Kulaks; the Kulak is like poison for the peasant people." After the Commissar of Kharbarovsk had finished his address, music, including an operatic duet from the "Spade Queen," with orchestral accompaniment, was broadcast.

Colonel Shebalin, during a general discussion on the Russian situation, explained that the Kulaks would naturally try and persuade the peasants to assist in combating the Soviet's confiscation of the farmers' products. The Kulaks did not like the Soviet demanding all they produced and possessed.

IN an endeavour to ascertain the extent of the trouble, our representative visited Eastbourne and personally investigated the matter. It was found that the reports received were in no way exaggerated, and that reception of stations necessitating the use of an aerial was completely spoilt by power-line interference. It appears that the trouble is prevalent along the main road and along the seafront as far as the Rona Bay pier. Fortunately in other localities interference is for the most part entirely absent.

Mr. Birkett informed our representative that in three cases during the past few weeks he had installed expensive sets in the homes of prospective purchasers. In every instance, however, a demonstration had convinced the would-be set owners of the futility of securing even passable reception, and he had been justly compelled to dismantle the sets. In fact, our representative met one lady who stated definitely that when the trouble was rectified she would purchase a set, but until then she refused to consider the matter.

THE statement made by "Fed Right Up" that it is possible to see the discharges responsible for the interference was found to be correct. On walking down the main road during the evening one can both see and hear the sparks discharging intermittently across the insulators.

Such a state of affairs is deplorable, especially when it is realised that owing to the distance separating Eastbourne and Wellington many residents rely solely on radio as a means of entertainment. In the past such interference has been very prevalent in and around the city of Wellington, but owing to the fairness and consideration shown towards listeners by the various bodies responsible for the control of power lines, trouble of this nature is now almost a thing of the past. It is to be hoped the Hutt Valley Power Board will not delay in taking prompt action in this matter and so earn the gratitude of every listener in the affected area.

The Art of Good Listening

Criticism of Programmes

SOME people have a most curious way of criticising the broadcasting programmes. They don't listen, and yet, strangely enough, feel perfectly competent to find fault with items they haven't heard.

"We never listen in to 'X.Y.Z.," they declare, "because the programmes are no good."

"But," you ask, "didn't you hear that programme that was put over the air on Friday night?"

"No, we didn't bother," is the usual reply, "but we're sure it wasn't up to much!"

The British Broadcasting Corporation has issued a bulletin specially for the edification of their vast public, and we have pleasure in passing on a few extracts to our fellow listeners, on "The Art of Good Listening."

(1) Make sure that your set is working properly, before you settle down to listen.

(2) Choose your programmes as carefully as you choose which theatre to go to. It is just as important to you to enjoy yourself at home as in the theatre.

(3) Listen as carefully at home as you do in the theatre or concert hall. You can't get the best out of a programme if your mind is wandering or if you are playing bridge or reading. Give it your full attention. Try turning out the lights so that your eye is not caught by familiar objects in the room. Your imagination will be twice as vivid.

(4) If you only listen with half an ear, you haven't the quarter of a right to criticise.

(5) Think of your favourite occupation. Don't you like a change sometimes? Give the wireless a rest now and then.

Police Radio

HIGH-POWERED cruising automobiles fitted with receiving sets on which messages describing bank-baudits, missing girls, and fugitives from the police can be picked up from headquarters is to be the future equipment of the Montreal police if the plans now awaiting presentation to the City Council are finally approved. In many of police communication are in use, other Canadian towns similar systems and are regarded as indispensable.

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