

The New Zealand Radio Record

—AND—

Electric Home Journal

(Incorporating the "Canterbury Radio Journal.")

P.O. BOX, 1032, WELLINGTON.

Published Weekly. Price 3d. Subscription Post Free in advance, 12s. 6d. per annum; booked, 15s.

Literary communications should be addressed: "The Editor"; business communications to "The Manager"; technical communications to "The Technical Editor."

Advertisers are asked to note that alterations of advertisements should be in hand Friday of each week for insertion in the succeeding issue, printed Tuesday, bearing Friday's date. No responsibility is accepted for blocks remaining unclaimed three months after each insertion.

RADIO PUBLISHING COMPANY OF NEW ZEALAND, LTD.,
P.O. Box 1032, WELLINGTON.

WELLINGTON, FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 1930.

THE BYRD BROADCAST.

BY the magnificent performance of enabling the whole of the listeners in the Dominion, wherever they were situated, to listen in to the two-way telephonic conversation conducted between Rear-Admiral Byrd in Dunedin and Mr. Adolph Ochs and a number of other prominent associates in New York, a remarkable service was rendered by the Radio Broadcasting Company. Not only was it possible for New Zealand listeners to share in this marvel, but a total of listeners that can only be computed by millions in the United States, Canada, Australia and Europe also had the pleasure of sharing in the marvellousness of the feat. A full account, which we give elsewhere, explains in detail the routine of the technical procedure necessary for its accomplishment. The clarity of the results secured was a tribute to all who rendered technical assistance. These include the Post and Telegraph Department of the Dominion, to whose efforts in providing fault-free land-lines between 4YA and 2YA and other stations the highest praise must be given. That was the essential element of success. The staffs of the New Zealand stations were all on their mettle to make the event fully successful. To 2ME, Sydney, the technical station of Amalgamated Wireless, Limited, the highest praise must also be given as an essential link in the chain of distribution. The delight experienced in New York by the success of the conversation was manifest. No less so was the thrill afforded Admiral Byrd and his party in the studio in Dunedin in thus dramatically making telephonic contact with their friends in America, men with whom they were associated in the closest degree in their venture, and to whose backing and support the successful results secured were so largely due. The event has made a definite impression upon the public mind in New Zealand, and for several days after its occurrence was the one topic of conversation. The absolute marvel of it dominated all thoughts. With the speed of light the voice from Dunedin was carried direct to New York, and almost before the last word was uttered, reply came back. This accomplishment marks at once the tremendous advance made in the technical field in the last few years, and can be taken as an augury for even more out-

standing events in the future. Recently listeners were afforded the opportunity of hearing the opening of the Naval Conference and the speeches attending thereupon. That was a remarkable event, but was not quite so dramatic or so outstandingly successful from the technical point of view as was that just staged.

Reports Speak Well of 2YA

Reception in New South Wales Satisfactory

THE recent two-way conversations between 2YA and 2XAF, New York, per medium of the Sydney short-wave station 2ME have brought forth many reports from Australian listeners.

Although 2ME reported that the reception of 2YA was not good, being marred probably by local interference, the conditions for reception in other places seem to have been excellent.

The following excerpts are taken from a few of the letters received:—

Roseville, Sydney.—The transmission was very clear and modulation good, while the volume was sufficient to operate a cone speaker. The night was particularly good for reception, there being no static interference, etc. This is the best reception I have had from 2YA within the last three months.

Caulfield, Victoria.—I switched on to you about 9.15, when you began calling 2ME. You came in quite loud and very clear. In fact, I could hear you quite clearly and loudly all over the house.

Manly, Sydney.—On the whole the reception was 90 per cent. clear and loud enough to be heard 100ft. from the loud-speaker; quite small sounds at your end, such as a needle on a record, coughs, asides, and other usual sounds, were clearly heard. In fact, the announcer might have been in the room talking over a telephone here, everything was so plain, except for fading in the early stages for periods of from one to two minutes. In the last portion we could hold you loudly all the time and during the last 20 minutes was clearer and louder than the local station.

Katoomba, N.S.W.—We listened to you last night between 8.25 and 10.15 p.m. (Sydney time) and every word was clear. At times Adelaide overpowered you and we heard more of them than of you. Generally speaking the reception was as clear as we normally get Sydney. We noticed you were calling and conversing with 2ME, but we could not hear 2ME or 2XAF reply, although I dialed to different stations. Evidently 2ME was not getting you too satisfactorily at times.

West Maitland, N.S.W.—I have been listening to your test with 2ME Sydney. It is the most remarkable reception I have had, and you are to be congratulated on it. Quite the best volume I have had from the set. Our station will not deliver the same amount of volume. It was well above bad static, and can only be heard on the one spot. There is no distortion and you did not fade during the conversation. Accept sincere congratulations. It is a vast improvement on previous reception from you.

Lithgow, N.S.W.—Everything came over very clearly with ample volume; in fact, I had to cut it down. The voice of the speaker was natural and with full power on was much louder than the normal voice. When cut down it was exactly as if the speaker were in the room talking to me. There was a very little fading at long intervals and then not enough to interfere with the transmission. There was occasionally a little distortion.

Lindfield, N.S.W.—You will no doubt be pleased to hear that your transmission came over the air perfectly distinct and clear.

A Night at Sea

"Outward Bound"

Nautical Programme at Feature Broadcast by 1YA 4YA

The central figure in a programme which has been arranged for presentation at 4YA on Saturday, March 29, will be Mr. A. Ellis, the veteran survivor of the wreck of the ship "Surat" on December 31, 1873. Mr. Ellis will give an account of the voyage of the ill-fated ship up to the time she piled up on the coast near the spot where the "Manuka" became a total wreck a few months ago.

Listeners can anticipate a very interesting description of life at sea, made all the more realistic by a concert programme of sea shanties, etc. The performers will be Mr. H. Magon, Miss Muriel Ribby, Miss Bertha Rawlinson, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Bruce Gladwin, Mr. Bert Proctor, Mr. Bert Rawlinson, and Mr. Les. Ireland. There will be numerous vocal solos and choruses, with violin solos, etc.

SUTTON VANE'S three-act play "Outward Bound" will be presented by the Auckland Little Theatre Society, at 1YA on Tuesday, March 25. It will occupy the whole of the evening. This play was such a success when performed at this studio last March that, in response to many requests, the repetition has been arranged. The whole of the production will be under the direction of Mr. Kenneth Brampton.

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