

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, THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 1930.

BROADCASTING BRITISH RUGBY MATCHES.

CONGRATULATIONS may be extended to the delegates of the

New Zealand Rugby Union who, at their annual meeting on Thursday last, decided after a full discussion that permission should be granted to the Radio Broadcasting Company to describe as play proceeded all matches under control of the Union played by the British team while in New Zealand. This ends a controversy which has aroused very intense interest, and even feeling, throughout the Dominion, more particularly in the rural districts. Discussion of the merits of the case by delegates seems to have been conducted on a high plane, and the varying points of view were presented with decorum and dignity. There is little need to traverse the arguments, at length, but we think it fitting that correction should be made to the suggestion of Mr. Dean that the action of the Radio Broadcasting Company in refusing a donation to the New Zealand Rugby Union, even for the purpose of installing wireless sets in hospitals, indicates any lack of sincerity or concern for inmates of hospitals. In raising that issue Mr. Dean, as we pointed out last week, is drawing a red herring across the scent. The Radio Broadcasting Company is quite sincere in wishing that, amongst other listeners, inmates of hospitals and charitable institutions should have the opportunity of hearing descriptions of Rugby matches and benefiting from radio. It is not the business of the Radio Broadcasting Company to provide that equipment, any more than it is the business of a newspaper to provide, as was wisely suggested by an able editorial in the Christchurch "Times," spectacles for elderly or short-sighted people. It is the newspaper's function to provide newspapers that those who pay may read. It is the broadcasting company's function to put radio on the air that those who pay may listen. The funds provided by listeners are required to cover the whole cost of maintaining the broadcasting service. The attempt of a section of the Rugby authorities to arrogate to a specific object a donation from those funds has, rightly enough, not been supported by the general body of delegates.

THE view of the majority of delegates was that the interests of the public were paramount, and that they were entitled to the broadcast descriptions of the match; secondly, that the cause of Rugby would lose very definitely if the publicity offered by such broadcasts was not utilised. This view is sound, and accordingly Mr. Sterling's motion, after the defeat of two amendments—the one proposing that a fee should be exacted from the company for the privilege, and the other that the descriptions should apply only to test matches—was carried.

IT is fitting that one warning given by Mr. Sterling should be emphasised. This was that it would be unwise to allow the public to gain the impression that the Union was "becoming too mercenary." This charge might be levelled by anyone who cared to take in conjunction the demand for fees for broadcasting rights and the charges for attendance at the British matches. Without stressing those points in any way, we think it fair to make the comment that if any unduly mercenary attitude is emphasised by the authorities, and a desire shown to extract the last possible shilling from the public for attendance at matches and rights connected therewith, the time will speedily arrive when the players themselves will begin to ask the question: Who really provides the sport that the public pays to see? Once that attitude begins to creep in, the players may look for more liberal allowances in regard to travel, and even ultimately payment for their services. It is to the great credit of Rugby football in New Zealand that it has attained the standard it has as an amateur sport. That constitutes one of the chief charms and glories of the game, and it would be a thousand pities for any line of conduct to be instituted which even in any limited degree appeared to introduce a more mercenary atmosphere into the game. Rugby has a fine record in the matter of charitable activities. We are very glad that in this particular instance that record is not going to be smirched by what would have been an unprofitable and unpopular insistence upon any fee, for whatever purpose, for permission to broadcast the matches. On behalf of listeners we heartily congratulate the delegates of the New Zealand Rugby Union upon their decision.

Baird Television

"Second to None"

Programmes Reviewed

WE are indebted to Mr. Neill Keith, a well-known Wellington service man, for an interesting information concerning the development of Baird's television in England. Mr. Keith is a friend of Mr. Will Day, principal of a prominent firm of wireless and electrical experts in London. Mr. Day has been associated with the Baird Television Company from their inception some years ago, and held half shares in the original company.

Mr. Keith recalls being taken by Mr. Day to one of the earlier demonstrations of Baird television, and during this demonstration his hand and face were televised from one room to another. It is probable that Mr. Keith is the only person in New Zealand who has been televised by this system.

The interesting news now to hand is contained in a letter from Mr. Day in which he states that he has sold his share in the company, and goes on to say that in his opinion Baird television will not be perfected under its present system. This endorses the opinions expressed by very many well-known technicians. It seems that before television can be realised, an entirely new system must be evolved.

"MICROPHONE," in the "Timaru Herald," says:—"We are now into a new broadcasting year, and I hope we have no pirates among us. Although we have criticised the company during its past twelve months of activity, we cannot let the occasion pass without congratulating them on their work, and, I might add, thank them for the pleasure we have derived from their broadcasting."

"Sometimes modulation has been bad, sometimes programmes have been poor, but what of that? Many times everything has been perfect. It's impossible to please all, especially where music is concerned, but I'm sure the majority of us will admit that the New Zealand programmes are second to none—considering the talent at the disposal of the company. Mr. Harris and his staff have done everything possible to make the transmissions a success, and we can look forward to this year being a record in every way. The Broadcasting Company has my sincere wishes for a successful year."

Mullard
THE MASTER-VALVE

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known to Valve Manufacturers.

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