

Both at Fault.

I HAVE read with interest the two letters of "Coal-shovellers" and "Dante," respectively. Re "Coal-shoveller's" complaint about the Eltham relay. It certainly was not a wise move on his part to arrange or attempt a demonstration on a relay programme, while there were three other YA stations on the air. Further, if the "good radio set" (his own description of his set) is a good radio set what is wrong with demonstrating on 2FC, 2BL, etc., etc.? Why pick on 2YA? Personally, I heard the Eltham relay, and the only trouble I had was about ten minutes' noise at the start; in fact, I heard conversation that was never intended for the "Mike," namely: "Well, I suppose we'd better present these shields," and "Where are the shields?" "Has anyone seen the shields?" "Don't tread on that wire," etc., etc. What was wrong with the relay?

Concerning "Dante's" reply to "Coal-shoveller," I think he has hit "Coal-shoveller" below the belt in his attack on his status as radio dealer. Evidently "Dante" loses sight of the fact that every set these "itinerant dealers" sell is providing revenue for the concerts and relays he enjoys.

No, Sir, the radio dealer is the backbone of radio reception, etc., and I ask you when "Dante" wants advice, valves, batteries, or service, where does he go? I am not a radio dealer myself, but I think "Dante's" attack on "Coal-shoveller" is over the mark, while he ("C.S.") did not use much tact in demonstrating on a relay. Further, his remarks re the "star effort of the great 2YA" are ridiculous as far as I find the quality of the 2YA programmes.—"Static" (Wanganui).

The Eltham Band Relay.

CRITICISM has been levelled at the Radio Broadcasting Company concerning the Eltham relay recently, and complaint has been made at the poor quality of programme from Eltham. In addition, the Broadcasting Company was blamed for the entertainment. I have been a hard critic during past years; but I must say that to blame the company for poor quality of a relay is going beyond reasonable bounds and is to my mind hardly fair play.

The company saw an opportunity of providing what they expected would be a unique relay, and incidentally give a boost to radio in Taranaki. The relay was duly "put over" the air, with the hope that listeners would be satisfied; and if the artists, music, singing, etc., displeased listeners, it was not the company's fault. No doubt the Eltham people and the company felt sure the programme would be acceptable. Personally, I say unhesitatingly, that a poorer programme could not have been imagined. It was amateurish practically right through; but that is no fault of the Broadcasting Company. More often than not we have to suffer some "dud" amateurs, even from 2YA, and for that I blame the company through not offering suitable remuneration. Even in the case of 2YA artists, it frequently happens that an artist during an "audition" appears to be fairly OK., and when performing before the "mike" goes to pieces.

It would be ridiculous to say that all programmes from 2YA were good, or that all artists at 2YA were satisfactory. Not by any means. The cure is, of course, bigger fees. Mr. Harris states that he is paying out



as much as the company can afford; and we have no means of forcing the position except through the Postmaster-General's Department. Apart from the Broadcasting Company's expense in providing relay lines (which work is done by the Post and Telegraph Department) the programmes on relay are, for the major part, given gratis; and it appears to the outsider that there should be ample funds available for payment in more generous form to first-class artists. As I have previously mentioned, Mr. Harris is no doubt securing the best he can for the poor fees offered. However, by increasing

a cold, wet day it is pleasant to eat one's dinner listening to the music. The concerts of the Wellington Symphony Orchestra were splendid, the third one being in my opinion a magnificent one, a star item being the Tannhauser Overture. It took my mind back to the evenings I used to spend in the Cologne Opera House. The 2YA orchestras have made a special appeal for the splendid renderings of excerpts from the works of the great masters.

The brass band concerts have been pleasing, the performance of the Miramar Silver Band some Sundays back making a special appeal. Its clarity of tone, tune blend, and balance, together with the clear distinction of the soloists above the accompaniment, and colourful playing, made the performance very pleasing. The writer looks forward to hearing this band again. The gramophone recordings of operatic music and song appeal, but not the fox trots and the jazz.

The other forms of entertainment are appreciated.—A. E. Elliston (Reefton.)

Outward Bound.

I WOULD like to congratulate the Radio Broadcasting Company on the play they put over from 1YA the other night. "Outward Bound" is about the best play I've heard over the air.—"Satisfied" (Auckland).

Football Broadcasts.

MANY letters have reached us in which opinions for and against the broadcast of Rugby football are expressed. As the question has now been settled no useful purpose can be served by publishing them.—Ed.

That "Thirty Bob."

WHEN an item does not appeal to us we flick over the switch or turn the dial, and are content. Atmospheric conditions are a nuisance, as they play a large part in the quality of radio reception. But, in spite of these, and all the other defects and maladministrations spoken of by your correspondents from time to time, I

paid me 30/- on Saturday, March 29. The broadcast that afternoon proved that this was a good gamble, as I, and each of my friends, had a good 30/- worth that afternoon. Although that day was really in the last radio year, I consider that the R.B.C. do not morally owe me one more item this year.

Last evening we had the pleasure of being taken back some 50 odd years by the "joker with the whiskers and things," and very much appreciated the whole evening's broadcast—at least that is till the jazz started, when a movement of the dial transported us to the ringside of the Sydney Stadium. Hoping this may assist in livening up the stragglers.—K.O.P. (Wellington).

Talking Picture Broadcasts.

I READ with great interest and enjoyment the letter by K. Swiney (Northland), in criticising the American sound film and the broadcasts of their theme songs. I do not agree with him, and I think they are very enjoyable. Just give a thought to us country listeners living in the "bush" who only get a chance to see and hear a good sound film when time permits. Also, I suppose, if the truth is known, Mr. Swiney, despite his disparaging remarks concerning American goods, uses an American-manufactured radio set. If this form of broadcasting does not appeal to him, I would advise him to twiddle the dial a little, or else turn the switch to the "off" position—and pick up a book—not pick his pen up and criticise the Americans and the Broadcasting Company on the good programmes they are putting over. Carry on with the talking-picture broadcasts—we are not getting enough of them.—"Plenty More" (Okato).

A Compliment

A CORRESPONDENT in Ohio, one of the central States of U.S.A., writes reporting reception of the Dunedin-New York two-way conversation. He enjoyed the novel experience of hearing direct as well as from the re-broadcast in America. "Considering the distance, your performance was remarkable," he says. The same writer heard New Zealand last year and a copy of the "Radio Record" was sent to him. In expressing his thanks for the paper he says: "I read every word of it with great pleasure, and am preserving it in my library. You people go in for quality, but up here they go in mostly for quantity. I prefer the former, myself."

Washing Machine Competition

Results Soon.

THE competition for an Electric Washing Machine, run by the "N.Z. Radio Record" and "N.Z. Dairy Exporter" in conjunction, closed at 9 p.m. on Saturday, April 12. A great deal of interest was taken by readers of both papers in this competition, and a very heavy entry has resulted. Judging of the entries is now proceeding, and, if possible, the award will be announced in next week's issue of the "Radio Record" and in the April issue of the "N.Z. Dairy Exporter." A preliminary glance through the entries as they have come in shows that a great deal of thought has been given to the problem and a high standard of merit has been attained. Whatever else it may have done, the competition has certainly directed concentrated thought upon the advantages of an electric washer in both urban and rural homes, and has thus laid the foundations for a wider use of this apparatus as opportunity permits.

the fees, he will have a much larger field of artists to work upon.—R. Leslie Jones (Wellington).

[Substantial fees are necessarily paid for relay lines; relays are usually more costly than studio evenings; our correspondent's argument there is weak.—Ed.]

An Appreciation.

THE time of license renewal is fitting to record my appreciation of the R.B.C. in their efforts to entertain listeners during the past year. The dinner time session as a whole is of a high standard, and after the discomforts of

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