

to R4 by 1.30 p.m., after which they slowly decreased, being inaudible by 3.30 p.m. NRH was very rough at R4. They closed at 3.30 p.m.

W9XF: Their carrier only was heard. W3XAL was quite good except for slight gush, being R5 at 4 p.m., increasing to R7 by 4.15 p.m. They signed off at 5.35 p.m., when strength was down again.

W2XE was just audible at 4.30 p.m. On about 44.2 metres an American was calling and talking to London at 4.30 p.m., R5.

KIXR at 10 p.m. were very gushy at R5.

RA97 was R9 at 10 p.m., static being medium.

Short-wave News From America

STATION CJRX, Winnipeg, Canada, after a silence of almost four months, is now back on the air daily (except Sunday), from 23.30 Greenwich mean time onwards, broadcasting for a period of several hours. They are always R8 to R9 here, at a distance of approximately 1500 miles. During the time they were off the air they were transmitting through VE-9-CL, which is another one of their experimental stations.

This station was very poor here. The call book says that VE-9-CL was on 49 metres, but in fact their actual wavelength was more nearly 53 metres. CJRX uses 25.6 metres. In the "Round the World on Short-wave" page of the "Radio Record" of February 7, 1930, I noticed a question asked by Mr. Sellens about the identity of station WOO which was heard by him on 23 metres. He states that this station is not in the call-book. This is a new transmitter owned by the American Telephone and Telegraph Co., and is located at Deal, New Jersey, U.S.A. It is used for working the steamships Majestic, Olympic and Leviathan. It uses the following wavelengths: 23 metres, 34.74 metres, 46.5 metres, and 72.87 metres.

The short-wave transmitter of WENR in Chicago (W-9-XF) will now be found also on 25 metres in addition to their 49 metre wavelength. The trans-Atlantic 'phone station in the New York and London circuit (WND) will also be found

on 44 metres occasionally after 24.00 G.M.T. Another Canadian short-wave station that has been on a great deal lately and is new is VE-9-AP, on approximately 46.5 metres. It has been broadcasting after 2.00 G.M.T., and is owned by the Canadian Marconi Company at Drummondville, Quebec, Canada.

I have never seen a report of reception of W-2-XE on 24 metres in the columns of the "Record." They are on daily on this wavelength, but not so very loud here on account of skip effect. A station heard here at good volume is the new Dutch station PGV at Kootwijk, Holland. This station is very close in wavelength to PHI. It will be used for telephone communication with Java. It uses 80 k.w. power on 16.82 metres. It is just between PHI and PLF.

W-3-XAV in Philadelphia is on daily until about 22.00 G.M.T., on 31.2 metres, and is very loud here. I have also heard W-6-XN on 17 metres lately. I have been hearing the tests going on at the present time between VK-2-ME, 2-XAF, and the New Zealand stations 2YA and 4YA. I have heard 2YA and 4YA talking to W2XAF through VK2ME. I also have heard VK2ME re-broadcast 2YA. I get 2ME at good loud-speaker strength here around 11.00 to 13.00 G.M.T.

I would greatly appreciate any information as to the identity of an Australian station which was broadcasting on approximately 31.5 metres on the morning of February 28, 1930. When I first tuned in on them they were broadcasting from a theatre in Sydney, and someone had just concluded making a speech. I was unable to get the call letters. On the morning of March 3 I also heard this station, which signed off in a few minutes after I had tuned them in. I heard a woman sing "Ave Maria" and "My Old Kentucky Home." After this they signed off, and again I was unable to get the call letters owing to interference from automobiles passing my house.

I heard on this occasion that it was hoped that Admiral Byrd would hear the programme. These times of course were in the evening in Australia. I have never heard an Australian on 31 metres before. I hear 2ME on 28.5 though. I would appreciate any information on these two broadcasts from any listener who heard them. The summer months are by far the best here for reception on the shorter wavelengths (below 35 metres), and we

are now entering the period of best reception.

I note that KDKA is now on the 49-metre band, having forsaken the 62.5 metre wavelength. We do not hear much of Zeesen on 31.38 as they go off the air early in the evening (6.30 p.m.), at the time when reception on this wavelength begins to improve. It might interest you to know that PLF in Java is the hardest station I know to tune in. The wave is so unsteady. It is impossible to hear more than occasional words from PLF owing to that cause.

The signal of PLF fades very rapidly and violently at all times, and behaves differently from any short-wave station I have ever heard. This must be caused by its location, as I have never heard this on any other station, although a few months ago I heard PLG several times on 18.88 metres, and PLG did not behave like PLF. PLF acted the same way before they changed their wavelength from 17 metres to 16.80 metres. I am at a loss to explain the cause.—Fred Easter, 3353 Southside Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S.A.

NEW Zealand shortwave listeners will be interested to learn that, owing to the development in the demand for wireless intercourse, the proposals of the Dutch East Indian Government for the erection of the new station at Bandoeng have had to be considerably extended, so that in place of the two transmitters for the Holland-East Indies traffic and one for America-East Indies traffic, there are now to be added a short-wave transmitter communicating directly with Japan, two with Australia, and one with British-India. With the additional buildings, the extra current feeders, and the increased water-cooling plant, the estimate of the cost will be increased from £12,500 to nearly double that amount.

Writing on the Wall

AT a recent relay from a sports meeting in Berlin, the Communist element got out of hand, and, resenting the commentator's deliberate omission to describe the "writings on the wall" and other features of what, rather surprisingly, turned out to be largely a Communist sporting gathering, made from the galleries and elsewhere a massed vocal onslaught on the microphone.

This was defeated by the announcer placing his hand before the microphone. In future, such an attempt will be countered by a watching-post at the station, which will be authorised to break the connection with the microphone when necessary. The first instance of this control of outside broadcasts has already occurred—in connection with an attempt made by a Prussian deputy at the first relay of the recent Parliamentary proceedings at Berlin. The Communist deputy seized the opportunity on this occasion to approach the microphone, but it was out of circuit by the time he reached it. In future all German announcers and commentators will be authorised to interrupt a broadcast at any moment an unfair attempt is made to take advantage of the microphone.

A Remarkable Claim

A New Circuit.

I HAVE discovered a means for eliminating both valves and crystals and batteries from radio sets (writes R. Cochrane, Ohakune). This device, when tuned with a condenser and 50-turn coil, has enough energy to work a speaker on 2BL, Sydney. The volume is like that from an electric gramophone. When it is working and the speaker is uncoupled sparks jump from the speaker wire to the device. It seems that I have tapped the atmosphere.

At first I thought it was a freak performance, but a week's trial has convinced me that the discovery is a permanent one. I have had all the New Zealand and Australian stations that my coil and condenser will tune. The daylight does not make much difference to my device. I will not disclose the construction of the apparatus because I am taking out a world's patent on same, but will state that it is 2ft. square, and has no moving parts. Another inexplicable phenomenon that I cannot discover a reason for is this. When one tunes a crystal set to a station it does not squeal. But with my device, when a station is located, one hears a purring noise similar to that made by a motor-cycle. This disappears when the condenser is altered.

I had a torch where I was experimenting, and I flashed the rays from it on the device and could hear clicks in the speaker. At first I thought the device was picking up wave of spark from torch battery, so I rigged up a candle and allowed its rays to fall on the device. I could still hear clicks in the speaker. There seems to be a lot of power coming from somewhere, and I am afraid to put my telephones on device. I think that it is a high-frequency detector and amplifier, but even then it must be amplifying enormously. I overhauled my aerial and earth, and everything was O.K. I ran two wires from my workshop, where I experiment, to my bedroom, and had the device going on Wellington. When this station closed down I went on to the Aussies. There is no need to switch device off because it costs nothing to run.

The only way to prevent it working when it is tuned to a station is to take the aerial off. I tried it with two earths, but it would not work, so it seems that the device must have an aerial to work. My aerial is 26 feet high and sixty feet long, including the lead-in. I intend to rig up some short-wave coils, and see how the device works on high frequency. It is very clear, and for all the time I have listened-in I have never heard static on it—not even on the Australian stations.

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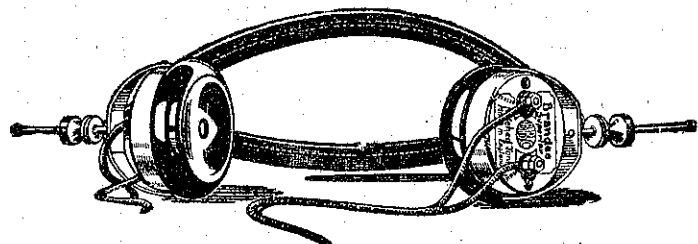
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