

News and Notes From the North

(By "Call Up.")

OUR Auckland correspondent "Call Up" writes:—Among new artists who are to appear at IYA during the next few weeks are Miss Veda Nelson, contralto, who will sing on June 24; Alf. Healy and Fred Briggs, both of the Civic Theatre orchestra, a novelty saxophone and piano duo, who will play on June 25; Patricia McLeod, soprano, and Mrs. Keven, contralto, July 4; and Mr. W. L. Benbow, who will render vocal items with a Spanish guitar accompaniment on July 5. The last-mentioned artist has frequently broadcast from the Australian stations.

MR. R. LAKE, of the Radio Broadcasting Company's head office, Christchurch, is relieving Mr. Barnes as Station IYA director.

ON July 1 the Forensa Club will begin a series of debates from IYA, the first motion being that the spread of American influence is detrimental. These are not the first debates to be given from IYA, this form of entertainment having been inaugurated from the station in September, 1928.

The IYA Broadcasting Choir's part songs on the evening of Wednesday, June 4, were most enjoyable. It is interesting to note that two of these songs were written by a member of the choir, Mr. J. L. Heath. These two songs were "The Blue Alsatian Mountains" and "Drink to Me Only," and a gramophone record was taken of the choir singing the latter, the result being most pleasing.

On July 1 IYA is to give listeners a night of "Faust," sung by male voices only. The vocalists will be Messrs. Arthur Ripley, tenor, Owen Pritchard, and Len Barnes. These are three of the best voices in Auckland, and this night should be eagerly looked forward to.

AUCKLAND listeners have been supplied with plenty of sporting fare during the week. There have been relays of three days of racing at Ellerslie, and the Leckie-Shack contest on June 3, while many listeners also heard 2YA's broadcast of the big football match in Wellington on Tuesday. It was pleasing to hear a boxing contest over the air again, and if the races had only been broadcast from inside the course, our pleasure would have been complete.

INCLUDED among the short news pictures showing at one of Auckland's leading picture theatres this week is one of the two-way talk between Rear-Admiral Byrd in Dunedin and Mr. Ocks in New York. Mr. Ocks is seen and heard talking, and Byrd's voice can be heard coming through, although the words are indistinguishable. A map is also shown, an announcer explaining how the broadcast was carried out. Quite a good advertisement for little New Zealand in U.S.A., and particularly for Dunedin!

Rugby Appreciated

ONE of the interesting letters received by Mr. Lemberg, following on his interesting description of the Wellington versus Britain match at Athletic Park on June 3, was from the daughter of a veteran All Black. The writer was Miss M. G. Dumbell, whose father was a member of the first New Zealand team to go to Australia in 1884, and also an old member of the Wellington Athletic Club. She writes: "Although my father is now an invalid, he is still able to take a keen interest in Rugby, and you can imagine how overjoyed he was when Wellington won on Tuesday. The description came through perfectly, and your account was so splendid we could follow every part of it."

Mr. Lemberg's mail has been heavy since the historic broadcast, the letters without exception testifying to the great interest taken in country districts in the result of the match and their appreciation of the fact that broadcasting was permitted.

Frequency Tests From 2YA

LISTENERS will remember that last year special broadcasts were made for the purpose of giving listeners the opportunity of testing the capabilities of their receivers. These broadcasts comprised the whole gamut of frequencies and demonstrated the high and low notes which a serviceable receiver should be able to reproduce.

Similar frequency tests are to be carried out by 2YA on Saturday, June 21. There will be a daylight test at the conclusion of the relay of the First Test from Dunedin and a test under night-time conditions at 9 o'clock. These tests will be conducted by the Broadcasting Company's Chief Engineer.

Radio in Ireland

A REGIONAL scheme of broadcasting stations similar to that recently instituted in England has been proposed for Ireland. Though the new station sites have yet to be decided upon, arrangements are being completed for the erection of a central high-power broadcasting station at Athlone at a cost of £70,000. The site of the new station and its power will enable nearly everybody in the Free State (about 26,000 square miles) to use a crystal set. All wireless traders will probably be compelled to register their customers to prevent any evasion of payment of the listeners' license fees.



SEVERAL high-power wireless stations are now being erected in China for communication across the Pacific, and the cable companies covering this route are growing apprehensive. It is believed that China's radio zeal is being inflamed by American capital.

ALEXANDER PERTINI, an Italian lawyer who was recently arrested at Nice and charged with broadcasting anti-Fascist news from his villa there, has been sentenced in Rome to imprisonment for ten years and nine months, to be followed by three years of police supervision. A clear indication of the importance attached to radio as a means of reaching the people.

QUEER requests are received by station directors at times, but it is scarcely possible that anybody in this country has gone so far as a citizen of New Jersey, described as a "mortician." He recently requested the U.S. broadcasting authorities to set aside a fixed hour daily for the nationwide broadcasting of funeral music.

"THE manner in which various races react to the broadcast transmissions," states a writer in a French contemporary, "provides an interesting study in ethnopsychology. The fakirs of India make use of radio as a means of mortification; rather than flee from oscillation, they welcome it and show a truly Oriental indifference to morse. The moujiks of Russia grow long beards and sit round the loudspeaker as close together as possible in order to eliminate interference. On the Congo the negroes listen with their feet. They dance to every sort of programme, whether a talk or an excerpt from opera. Worn-out valves are used as ornaments hanging from the nostrils." There is also a legend about Alaska, which we cannot confirm, that during the winter the wireless waves are frozen and have to be broken up, with pickaxes, in order to render them audible.

IN a typical American radio factory a receiver is completely assembled, tested, placed in a cabinet, and packed for shipment only two hours after a raw chassis is started on the production line. Quick work!

A NEW land-line, 300 miles long, is being installed in Northern Ontario, and is to be operated on the "wired wireless" principle. This will make it possible for eight persons to converse at one time over the same pair of wires, or for two people to talk and forty people to be in communication on teletype or telegraph simultaneously. Construction will be completed within a year, and the line will handle not only the increasing telephone business between Toronto and the northern Ontario mining districts, but will be a link in the Atlantic-Pacific system. On the completion of this transcontinental project persons in Halifax will be able to talk to Vancouver over an all-Canadian route with perfect audibility.

GERMAN trains will shortly be fitted with an automatic stopping device, operated by a flashing beam of light which is reflected back to a locomotive from mirrors on signal posts. From a small searchlight on the front of the engine a narrow beam of light is directed upward. The mirror on the signal post reflects the beam back to one of a ring of light-sensitive cells surrounding the searchlight. This starts an electric current which makes a visible signal in the engine cab. If the engineer does not respond promptly to this signal, the train is stopped automatically. Movement of the mirror on the post determines which cell receives the reflected light, each cell giving a definite signal to the engineer. With this system all the complicated apparatus is on the locomotive where it can be adjusted and repaired in the roadhouse instead of along the right of way, as has been the case with other electrical signal systems for the same purpose.

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