

Speeding Up News Newspaper Schemes

AN Australian trade paper reports a case of interest in connection with radio and the use made of it by an up-country Australian newspaper. It appears that this particular newspaper depended for its late news on long-distance telephones, and had installed elaborate equipment to enable it to get news quickly. In recent times, however, the paper concerned suffered from departmental delays, and was not able to get telephonic calls at fixed times, in addition to which charges for Press telephones were increased by the Australian authorities by 38½ per cent.

In these circumstances, being unable to get race results with the promptitude necessary, the newspaper concerned turned to radio. From the loud-speakers reporters took down the race results within two or three minutes of the completion of the race. Publication was thus made in ample time, whereas if the news had to come over the telephone or telegraph the edition could not be caught. Under the Australian law, however, this constitutes a technical breach of the postal regulations. These provide that newspapers shall transmit their news by telegraph or telephone.

This regulation is designed to protect the revenue of the Postal Department from encroachment by undue reliance upon radio. Action was therefore taken against the publisher concerned, with victory to the department.

The same general regulation in all probability applies in New Zealand, but, if so, it is not administered as strictly as in the Australian case, because it is almost a common practice for certain newspapers in the Dominion to rely upon radio for either broadcast descriptions of important football matches or boxing and other sporting results at certain times. This certainly seems a case where elasticity in the administration of departmental regulations is desirable. Press wires, of course, are received as well, so that departmental revenue is not affected.

THE football announcers who have been describing the matches against the British Rugby team have, on the whole, done excellently. A tendency, however, to the too-frequent use of the word "I" has been commented upon by Wellington listeners. This is, in the writer's opinion, but a trifling flaw, but it is quite remarkable how quickly listeners observe such things.

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Observations on "New Zealand" Night

Some Biographical Sketches



FOLLOWING are some interesting biographical sketches on the composers whose work figures in the special New Zealand programme to be presented from 3YA next week:—

Dorothy Filkins, L.C.C.I.

MISS FILKINS, who has adopted the pseudonym "Gene Doryn" for her music writings, was born in Dunedin, but is now resident in Knowles Street, Christchurch. Her love of music developed early and she studied the piano in Dunedin, where her early childhood was spent. A severe illness, which kept her from the piano for nearly a year, overtook her when a child. During her convalescence she wrote little tunes and airs, which apparently implanted the ambition to do bigger things in composition, and when her people removed to Christchurch she studied theory and other branches of elementary composition under Dr. Bradshaw at Canterbury College.

That she was a bright pupil is proved by the fact that she completed in two years a course that ordinarily takes three. The Society for Imperial Culture, Christchurch, in 1928 offered a prize of £50 for the best original composition, giving contestants the choice of writing either a cantata on "Prometheus Unbound" by the poet Shelley, or a string quartet. Miss Filkins did not avail herself of the option, but wrote both the cantata and the string quartet.

Miss Filkins was awarded the prize. Both these works are to be performed this evening, and also a 'cello solo, "Nocturne," and a song "slumber song," written by Miss Filkins.

Harry Rossiter.

HARRY ROSSITER was born in Christchurch, but spent his early teens in Dunedin, where he studied composition under the late Mr. A. J. Barth—a very gifted musician, who resided there for over a quarter of a century, and to whose guidance several musicians of note owe much of their success.

Mr. Geo. H. Moore, now well known in London musical circles, was a fellow student under Mr. Barth, when Harry Rossiter was in Dunedin. On one occasion, wishing to test his pupil's progress, he asked Harry Rossiter to "write something in three-four time." Harry retired to another room and wrote a waltz. Showing it to Mr. Barth, he was questioned as to its originality and spontaneity, and when satisfied on these points, Mr. Barth made one or two suggestions, after which it was immediately published, and became instantly popular as the Onslow Waltz. It was dedicated to Lady Onslow, wife of Lord Onslow, the then Governor of New Zealand. The Onslow Waltz is still a good seller.

Mr. Rossiter has written several

works, some of them big and ambitious, and some of them performed with conspicuous success. His song "Zealandia" about to be sung, gained instant success, has gone through several editions, and is still a popular song throughout New Zealand. The words are by the late Mr. R. Thompson, founder of the firm Milner and Thompson, predecessors of Chas. Begg and Co., Ltd., Christchurch, and are well worth the composition which adorns them.

The Aria O Salutaris Hostia—also on to-night's programme—was written in Christchurch, and on Madame Dolores's visit many years ago she was shown a copy, which pleased her to the extent that she decided to sing it, which she did, with thrilling artistry, in the Pro-Cathedral, the composer standing, unseen, immediately behind her during its performance.

Madame Dolores very warmly complimented Harry Rossiter on the reverential charm and merit of O Salutaris Hostia, and has several times written from different parts of the world for copies of same to replace worn-out ones. This will be sung this evening by Miss Lillian Hanham, with violin-obbligato and 'cello obbligato by Miss Irene Morris and Mr. Harold Beck respectively.

Frank Hutchens, A.R.A.M.

MR. HUTCHENS, who has been a Professor at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music since its reception, was born in Leeston over 30 years ago. His parents moved up to Taranaki while he was very young, and where the early development of the talent he doubtless possessed asserted itself.

Fortunately both his parents were ardent devotees of music and both gifted in this direction. This is doubtless the origin of Frank Hutchens's genius, and his father—an accomplished musician—gave the boy the best possible advice and tuition in the circumstances to such purpose that Paderewski, on his first visit to Wellington, consented to hear the boy play, and immediately recommended his being sent to Europe. By considerable self-sacrificing and energetic effort on his parents' part this was ultimately achieved, and he was admitted straight into the R.A.M., London, and without any preliminary course such as is usually imposed.

His success there was meteoric; he won every scholarship for which he competed and returned to New Zealand with many honours. He toured Australia and New Zealand as pianist to Toscha Seidel, the great Russian violinist, with whom he scored many notable successes. As a teacher he is proving equally successful, one of his pupils, Linley Evans, having been selected by Melba as her accompanist on her last grand concert tour of Australia. Three of Frank Hutchens's compositions are on this evening's programme, i.e., "Instrumental Trio, F Sharp Minor," "Pianoforte Trio," "Andante and Elegie" (violin solo).

Waikato's Plight

(To the Editor.)

RE the discussion on the elimination of the silent night, I am inclined to agree with one of your correspondents who suggests that there are more pressing matters to be settled.

Has the following anomalous situation been appreciated by the R.B.C.? That, 2YA being geographically situated to serve both North and South Islands equally, the North Island has only one station, 1YA, and the South Island two, 3YA and 4YA? This position is all the more extraordinary when it is realised that the number of North Island licenses is double that of the South.

The most casual inquiry will reveal the fact that beyond a radius of 50 miles or so 1YA might as well be off the air after sunset.

I have been demonstrating radio throughout the Waikato and Bay of Plenty for over five years, and I have yet to find a single listener who can obtain any satisfactory reception from 1YA except in the afternoon.

As paying approximately two-thirds of the revenue derived by the R.B.C., the North Island is certainly entitled to better service than this, and the astonishing thing is that it has endured so long in comparative silence such wretched reception as is the general rule.

My suggestion is a relay station, somewhere between Auckland and Wellington, and it seems to me Rotorua deserves consideration, as it is not only fairly central but has the inestimable advantage of being well off for Maori talent—surely the most popular form of musical entertainment in New Zealand.

Before the R.B.C. incur any further expense I would like them to send a representative round the districts I have mentioned and ascertain the conditions we have to demonstrate under. It is a fact that before a sale can be effected the customer has to be disillusioned, and educated, to put up with fading and distortion and weak signals as the general rule and perfect reception as the exception.—C. J. Fleming (Taneatua).

Questions and Answers

An Additional Answer.

"EXPERIMENTER" (Christchurch) asks for constructional details of a twin coupler, antenna coupler, and a twin coupler inter-stage R.F. transformer with tickler, for an A.C. Brownling-Drake screen-grid tuner.

A.: Rather a tall order. We don't mind helping a constructor in difficulties, but we are not particularly thrilled about the idea of having to work up an article for one particular constructor. A great deal of experimenting is needed before satisfactory results can be obtained with S.G.O.S.

2. What is the voltage drop in a 280 rectifier?

A.: 10 to 30 volts according to the load.

WHEN using a voltmeter or milliammeter be sure to connect it in circuit the right way round, as marked on its terminals.