

"Fortunately perhaps for this state of affairs, the high-grade range of a broadcasting station is somewhat limited, and while it is possible to increase this range by the erection of more powerful stations, local stations are more effective, and most listeners prefer them once the novelty of listening-in has worn off.

Local Stations Preferred.

"THE question of a local station and the power of the stations therefore becomes a vital factor in problems of this kind, and although the transmissions of broadcasting stations of other countries may cross the border, this is not necessarily the case with the transmitting equipment. Much of the same thing applies to the regulation of the local broadcasting service. Certain restrictions may be desirable in every way from a local point of view, but their enforcement is of little practical value if an adjacent country, whose broadcast service covers the same ground, but does not recognise the same restrictions. For instance, so long as powerful stations in the United States feature radio advertising it would not be equitable to refuse the Canadian business concerns the same privilege in respect to the Canadian stations, as this would be tantamount to allowing a free field in Canada for foreign commercial propaganda.

High Power Popular.

"DUE to the tendency in many countries to increase the power of their broadcasting stations, the conditions existing in Canada may possibly re-occur in other countries, if they are not already in existence, and although there is much to be said in favour of international broadcasting as a medium for better understanding between the various nations, care should be taken to make sure that a proper balance is maintained, particularly so if it is found that one country is using the air for one or more of the various forms of propaganda while an adjacent country is denied the same privilege. Although the matter of advertising propaganda does not apply in all countries to the same degree as in Canada owing to the difference in languages, or to New Zealand owing to the distances involved, no one can foretell what factors may subsequently apply, and the question of local relaying stations and more powerful stations should be kept steadily in mind if the governments of the countries concerned desire to retain their power of regulating the broadcast services disseminated within its borders.

New Zealand System Good.

"AS far as the system of broadcasting adopted for New Zealand is concerned, there is no gainsaying its many advantages in comparison with the system, or rather lack of system, in the

initial development of broadcasting in some other countries, and the more one realises the problems that will have to be met sooner of later as an outcome of that omission, the more one appreciates the wonderful foresight and sound judgment of the Government and its officials responsible for its inauguration here. Had matters been otherwise it is very evident that instead of being in a position to advance the service much time would have been lost and expense involved in overcoming the trouble, and complications that would have followed. Let us hope, therefore, that those seeking modification of the general principles upon which the New Zealand broadcasting service has been built will first of all see for themselves and study some of the conditions existing in other countries.

New Models for 1931.

"REGARDING broadcast reception I had opportunity of inspecting a number of new 1931 models now going into production, and while no radical change from that of the better class of 1930 model had taken place a number of novel features have been introduced.

"The sensitivity of sets will be about the same as those makes of last year that were already down to the noise level on certain wave lengths with the additional improvement of more uniformity on all lengths. Cross talk and

local interference is provided against by pre-selector tuned circuits and fidelity improved by the introduction of a band-pass audio frequency system, giving greater prominence on the higher and lower notes. Tone control will also constitute a sales feature, although of no actual musical value except that it might be used to some extent for reducing static when this is bad on the higher frequency. In addition some sets will make provision for adjusting the tone control to natural tone when preferred.

"Alternating current hum in the latter class of sets is entirely inaudible, and the use of fine tuned circuits render oscillation impossible. Probably the most marked improvement, however, in 1931 models is in the selectivity of sets, and while this is not so important in New Zealand the feature is most essential in those countries where the wave lengths of the many broadcasting stations are very close to one another. By provision of two band-pass filters and four tuned circuits heterodyne whistling and noise interference is reduced, and extremely high and uniform selectivity combined with reproduction of the harmonic overtones contained in the broadcast channel is effected.

"In general, however, the nature of the improvements introduced in the models now in production for the 1931 season demonstrates more definitely that radio receiving set development (Continued on page 29.)



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