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Electric Home Journal

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WELLINGTON, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1930.

EMPIRE SHORT WAVE STATION.

A MATTER which has been under discussion in influential circles for some time is the provision of a central Empire Short Wave Broadcasting Station, with the object of providing all parts of the Empire with a news service from British headquarters and maintaining continuity of service and interest. The problem has been to decide which body should undertake this service. On representations being made to the British Broadcasting Corporation its reply was it derived its funds from listeners in the British Isles for the provision of a service for them, and that if the British Dominions overseas desired the establishment of a short wave broadcasting station for the duplication of programmes for their benefit and the transmission of news, it was up to the Governments of the Dominions concerned, or the Colonial Office, or some authority with Empire backing other than themselves, to contribute to the cost of the station. This point of view was sound enough, and it plainly became a case for compromise and adjustment of views as to the provision of the necessary financial backing.

ACCORDING to an announcement made on the authority of the "Wireless World," a conference has been proceeding in Britain under the auspices of the Colonial Office between representatives of the overseas Dominions concerned and the British Broadcasting Corporation. As a result of that conference it is understood that a formal report will be submitted to the forthcoming Imperial Conference advising that a sum of £23,000 will be found by the Colonial Office for the erection of a short wave station, presumably at Daventry. Further, the cost of maintenance will be met by the Colonial Office,

including a sum of £3000 for the provision of a special news service by Reuter's News Agency. The British Broadcasting Corporation will staff the station and technically conduct all transmissions.

THE details of procedure are not yet complete, but in the course of the earlier negotiations it was announced that the hope was entertained of being able to provide a 24-hour service. This would be desirable in order to give all parts of the Empire the opportunity of securing the news. Owing to the time factor, the quality of reception varies in the different Dominions overseas, so that to give equal service to all, continuity of service and a certain amount of repetition of the important news is necessary. To achieve this it may be advisable to record the programmes as they are transmitted and repeat them at intervals.

TECHNICAL difficulties of this nature will doubtless be satisfactorily overcome. The important thing is that unanimity has been achieved, permitting of the vigorous prosecution of this scheme. All the colonial interests involved appreciate its significance and the importance of their being provided with an Imperial news service from the heart of the Empire. To no country is this more vital than Great Britain because of the size and variety of her overseas possessions. Germany, France, Holland, Italy, Spain, and Russia have high-powered short wave stations for the sake of providing prompt communication with their overseas possessions. Some of these stations are heard regularly in New Zealand. Hitherto Britain has relied upon the inadequate power of 5SW. This station has been merely of an experimental nature, but has doubtless served its function in providing data which will be useful in the bigger scheme now to be undertaken. The value of this service cannot be over-estimated, and it is particularly appropriate that finality should have been reached prior to the Imperial Conference about to assemble in London. The great political feature of the day in Empire circles is the desirability of promoting closer unity of trade and political thought between all parts of the Empire. In attaining that objective this short wave station will play a very important part.

Famous Light Opera Address on N.Z. Week from 4YA from 2YA

ONLY twelve months ago, the newly-formed Dunedin Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society made its first public appearance and achieved wonderful success with its presentation of the ever-popular "Our Miss Gibbs." The distinction it achieved among the critical, but greatly appreciative, musical world of the south, encouraged the originators of the society to continue.

Six months ago the second production was put on, and this eclipsed the presentation of "Our Miss Gibbs." Listeners to 4YA will remember the success attained when "A Runaway Girl" was broadcast. The chorus singing of the Operatic Society has been stated to be the finest any amateur society could produce, and this encouraged such favourable reports from the Press that the society was overwhelmed with applications for membership. However, the vocal test for membership proved a bigger hurdle than some anticipated, the officers of the society recognising that the high standard of chorus work had to be maintained. This means that only singers of a set high standard are now members of the chorus.

"The Belle of New York" contains some brilliant choruses, and 4YA has been fortunate in obtaining the services of the Dunedin Operatic Society to perform, at the studio, the better known choruses, solos and duets of this very popular musical comedy on Monday, September 29.

USE was made of Station 2YA in connection with New Zealand Industries Week, when the Hon. P. A. de la Perrelle, Minister of Industries and Commerce, delivered an address on New Zealand goods and New Zealand scenery. Dealing specifically with the question of employment, the Minister expressed the hope that listeners would concentrate on the purchase of New Zealand manufactures. He commended the policy of his Excellency the Governor-General, who had stated that the remedy for existing unemployment was in the hands of the people themselves. His Excellency was wearing clothes made in New Zealand from New Zealand materials.

"If we adopt a policy of buying New Zealand goods," said the Minister, "we shall be buying something made by New Zealand labour from material produced in New Zealand. For 1928-29 there were 64,000 persons employed in the manufacturing section of our secondary industries. The value of the products of those industries was £42,000,000. Each £1,000,000 worth of goods therefore represents the employment of 1500 persons. Our manufacturers have to depend almost entirely upon local markets. If every New Zealand household will, on the average, increase its proportion of New Zealand goods by only 2/6 a week, the demand will necessitate increased production to the value of one and a quarter million pounds per annum. Such an increase would involve the employment of nearly 2000 additional workers."

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