

## Pioneering Days of Radio

### A Dramatic Rescue

THE incalculable value of wireless in preventing shipping disasters is apparent to-day to even the man on the street. The following incident, taken from a magazine dated July, 1913, shows that even at that period, when radio telegraphy was in its infancy, it was already an active agent in saving lives.

"The incident happened at Nassau, in the Bahamas. Just outside the shoal bar—Nassau has no harbour—the cruiser *Indefatigable* was anchored. There was a tremendous sea, the aftermath of a hurricane which had slid past Nassau and missed it by a hair's breadth. The terrific winds had stirred up the usually calm waters of the South Atlantic, sending out in all directions huge waves, veritable mountains of water.

On board the *Indefatigable*, on a tour of inspection, were the officer of the port and the Governor of the Bahamas. They stayed overnight. By morning the big seas had begun to come in, slowly and regularly, lifting the cruiser high in the air, letting her gently down into the valleys of water, and then striking the bar and rushing shoreward a mass of spray and foam. Daylight found the coast hidden by clouds of white.

At eleven o'clock an attempt was made to cross the bar. The Governor was anxious to return, and the commander of the cruiser was under orders to proceed at noon.

The long-boat, with seven pairs of oars, the crew wearing lifebelts, cautiously approached the dangerous passage. A dash was made. The next instant a big wave rose from somewhere, broke in the shoal of water directly behind the boat, and hid it from view. A moment later it emerged half-filled with water, while two of the crew were struggling in the sea perhaps fifty feet distant.

From the cruiser it appeared as if the entire boat-load was doomed. To send assistance from the ship was impossible. The only help could come from those on shore, who, however, could not have witnessed the accident, and with whom communication was cut off.

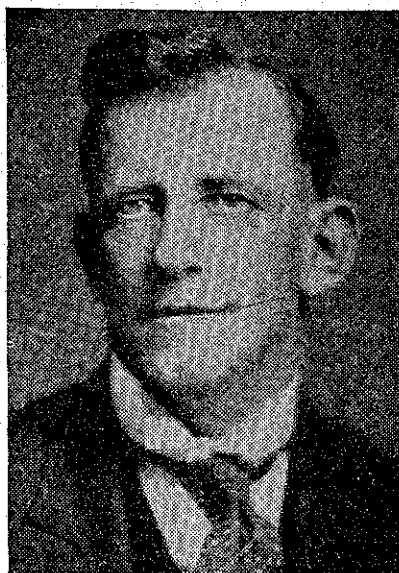
Then came a happy thought. The cruiser was equipped with wireless telegraphy. There was, however, no wireless station at Nassau, but two hundred miles away, on the coast of Florida, lay Key West, with its powerful Government wireless station.

Key West was called. In a moment a response was received. Three minutes more and the message for assistance had been telegraphed from Key West to the Bahama cable office, from there flashed beneath the water to Nassau, where it arrived at the Government building over the telephone. The complete passage took eight minutes. A few moments later a plucky little powerful tender found its way safely across the bar, and rescued the entire crew, who by this time were all in the water clinging to the sides of their overturned boat.

FROM 2YA, on the evening of Monday, October 20, will be broadcast a programme of the works of the well-known Wellington composer, Mr. Claude Haydon, Mus.B., L.A.B. This is of particular interest considering the very successful list of works Mr. Haydon has to his credit. Taking his Bachelor's degree in 1911, Mr. Haydon produced his first opera in May, 1920, at Melbourne. This was the well-known "Paolo and Francesca" with full orchestra and stage settings.

The opera was successfully repeated by the Wellington Harmonic Society in 1926. Mr. Haydon's String Quartet was performed in Vienna on May 27, and the first radio programme was broadcast on June 25, 1928. To his credit is the music of the Children's Radio Hymn, the words of which were written by the "Radio Record" contributor, John Storm.

On the occasion of the forthcoming broadcast from 2YA, a varied programme will be submitted, every item of which is his own composition. Special features will include the "Ballade in E Flat Major," for violin, with orchestra (Miss Ava Symons, soloist), and 'cello and piano-



Mr. Claude Haydon, Mus.B., L.A.B

## A Programme by a LOCAL COMPOSER to be Broadcast from 2YA

programme. Mr. F. Haydn Rodway, one of Mr. Haydon's most brilliant pupils, will play three groups of compositions for the pianoforte to include a composition "Five Glimpses of Fairyland."

Mr. C. Wilkie (baritone) will sing in addition to a cycle of songs, two lighter numbers of a humorous type, the words of which are written by New Zealand writers.

The accompaniments are in the capable hands of Mr. Gordon Short, and it is gratifying to note the warmth and friendly enthusiasm shown by all the artists in securing a worthy rendering of items on what promises to be a unique programme.

## American Scheme

### A Radio University

A RECENT proposal to establish an American radio university for purposes of national education was held to be premature by a committee appointed to consider the scheme. Their report stated that the magnitude of such an undertaking required that experiments be conducted on a smaller scale at first.

## Radio and Aviation

IN a recent interview with a representative of a New York newspaper, Colonel Lindbergh, the famous aviator, made some interesting predictions concerning flying and its future. He warmly praised radio as an important safety factor, and prophesied that within a few years every aeroplane, private or commercial, would be fitted with an automatic direction finder, thus enabling pilots to take infallible bearings on radio beacons.

## Attack on Interference

### Novel French Broadcast

forte sonata to be rendered by Claude Tanner and Madame Evelyn de Mauny, which contains four movements, but on this occasion the first only will be played.

For several of the songs, for example—the entire tenor cycle to be sung by Mr. Roy Hill—Mr. Haydon has written words as well as music. This applies also to three of the four songs which Miss Monica Malroy will present. Well-known 2YA artists, including Miss Hilda Chudley (contralto), will figure on this

PROBABLY every listener knows what radio disturbances are, but not every listener knows their origin. In France, under the general term "parasites"—a well-chosen and very expressive name—are included all varieties of troublesome noises which spoil the pleasure of listeners.

A well-organised movement, known as the "Anti-Parasites League," has been inaugurated by two French radio journals, and has already by its investigations brought relief to many harassed listeners. To enable a listener to detect the nature of the disturbance from which he suffers, an experimental station at Brussels recently made an unusual broadcast, devoted to "parasites."

First came the purr of household motors, then the roar of industrial machines, followed by the intermittent static-like crackling of tramways. Then he was introduced to his neighbour's use of reaction: "Twee-ee-ee-EET! ee-ee-ee-EET! . . . zzzzz!" He was taught what a heterodyne means: "Zzzzzzeeee. eet!" He received a faked thunderstorm and experienced the joy of having a high-tension line running near his home.

These revelations must have been intensely interesting to the happy listener, free from any annoyance, but were probably too acutely reminiscent for the martyr of "parasites" to enjoy.

## Radio in the Arctic

### An Indispensable Messenger

LISTENERS in Canada often pick up messages from the Canadian National Railways broadcasting stations in which instructions are given to the railroad engineers and the outlying Hudson Bay trade posts.

Quite recently the Canadian Government broadcast instructions to the post at Cape Dorset, Baffin Island, regarding food supplies. The delivery of such a message before the days of wireless would have meant many weeks of travel by sled and canoe.

The railroad engineers in the more lonely parts of the system invariably carry small receiving sets, and tune-in for instructions from headquarters at regular intervals.

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