

The New Zealand Radio Record

—AND—

Electric Home Journal

(Incorporating the "Canterbury Radio Journal.")

P.O. BOX. 1032, WELLINGTON.

Published Weekly. Price 3d. Subscription Post Free in advance, 12s. 6d. per annum; booked, 15s.

Literary communications should be addressed: "The Editor"; business communications to "The Manager"; technical communications to "The Technical Editor."

Advertisers are asked to note that alterations of advertisements should be in hand Friday of each week for insertion in the succeeding issue, printed Tuesday, bearing Friday's date. No responsibility is accepted for blocks remaining unclaimed three months after each insertion.

RADIO PUBLISHING COMPANY OF NEW ZEALAND, LTD.,
P.O. Box 1032, WELLINGTON.

WELLINGTON, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1930.

REVOLUTIONARY IDEAS IN RADIO.

REVOLUTIONARY ideas in radio, as indeed they are in any other science, are rare. Wireless has proceeded along a quiet orthodox path and the number of outstanding revolutionary ideas are indeed rare. To revolutionise there must be a sweeping and sudden change that alters the whole character of things. In radio we can recall only one, the discovery of the thermionic valve. Its application to radio has meant the establishment of radio as we have it to-day. Following it there has been a gradual evolution from the very simple circuit worked out by Fleming and improved upon by De Forest until we have reached our present achievement. The progress has been an evolution but revolution—no. Improvements have been small and each year has seen its quota until to-day we have seemingly reached the possibilities of the present systems. The same can be said of television, for it is realised that unless some discovery akin to that of the radio valve is made, television will mark time for a while yet.

In both radio and television we are confronted by two serious problems that have been unmoved for many years, interference and the limitations of broadcasting channels. Now it is well known that if two stations are operating on a frequency less than 10 kilocycles away, a heterodyne whistle will interfere with reception. A case in point is 1YA which has been quite spoiled in many districts through the interference of an American station, which though it cannot usually be heard itself, is strong enough to spoil the transmission of the New Zealand station. In Europe and America, where there are many stations all on high power, the problem is acute and many conferences have met to discuss the question. Sharp checks are kept on the transmissions of all stations, and those erring even as little as 3 per cent. are brought to book. Many stations have had to go off the air through not staying on their allotted frequency.

It has long been realised that the prevalence of atmospheric noises necessitated the increased power of stations if reception was to be noise free. But the amount of ether space has been against this, for

every listener knows the amount of interference even a five-kilowatt station like Wellington can cause, and what elaborate apparatus is necessary to eliminate it without lessening the sensitivity or impairing the quality of the received signals.

These problems have been with us for all time and anything that would provide a solution could be looked upon as truly revolutionary, providing, of course, it was nothing of an extremely simple nature such as one of the anti-static devices that were heralded as revolutionary in the early days of popularised radio. At the present moment a British engineer is demonstrating in America a system of transmission and reception which is claimed to allow of the operation of three times the present number of broadcasting stations, without interference on the broadcast band. If it is successful it will probably lead to the realisation of practical television and the solution to radio interference. We await with interest the results of these tests.

Interesting though the system be and revolutionary it promises to be there are several factors that must be considered before it can become universal even though it should succeed. The present market must be studied though it is likely that receivers now in use could be altered to accommodate this new system even supposing it should be released within the useful life of these sets.

Can You Compose a Song?

Comprehensive Broadcast

Prize of Three Guineas

Melbourne Cup Race

AT the last meeting of the 1YA Musical and Dramatic Committee the result of the first stage in the song writing competition was announced, and it was decided to offer a prize of three guineas for the best musical setting to the words of the poem.

A prize of £3/3/- is now offered for the best musical setting to the words of the poem. Copies of the poem may be obtained from Station 1YA or from the Broadcasting Company, Christchurch.

The judges will be: Dr. S. Kenneth Phillips, Mr. H. Hollingrake, and Mr. John Tait. In the event of the judges deciding that no entry is suitable, no award will be made. Each entry must be signed with a pseudonym and be accompanied by a sealed envelope containing the pseudonym and the competitor's name and address.

Entries must be addressed: The Judges, 1YA Song-writing Competition, Station 1YA, France Street, Auckland, and must reach the station not later than November 28.

IT is doubtful if any event in the world demands such a comprehensive broadcast as the description of the running of the Melbourne Cup at Flemington racecourse on the first Tuesday in each November. This famous horse race—the most famous handicap in the world—has come to be regarded as almost a national event in Australia, and, for that reason, the Australian and New Zealand Broadcasting Companies made arrangements for broadcasting this year from every "A" class station in Australia and New Zealand the description of the race by Eric Welch.

Shortwave stations 2ME and 3ME also broadcast descriptions, and it was from the latter that New Zealand stations rebroadcast. Everything taken in consideration the event was most successful. All four stations carried out the rebroadcast, and although all were good, Christchurch, which station came on the air especially for the event, was particularly so, being very steady and clear throughout.

As was done last year, the Broadcasting Company, by special contract with Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Ltd., arranged for a short-wave broadcast description, which all the New Zealand stations picked up and rebroadcast.

Many listeners will not realise that through these broadcast descriptions people thousands of miles away from the racecourse could know the result before 50 per cent. of the people on the course. At the very instant the horse passes the post the information is available to listeners, whereas, of the 12,000 odd people at Flemington, quite half of them were not in a position to identify the horses and sort out the winners.

The many appreciative remarks that have been passed concerning the broadcast show that most listeners took a great interest in the event, and were delighted at the successful rebroadcast.

Where Radio is a Necessity

News in Isolated Places

A TRIBUTE of an unusual nature is paid 2YA by the Rev. A. H. Barnett, of the Vicarage, Rakaia. "I have just returned to New Zealand after spending 3½ years as Anglican vicar of the Chatham Islands, and I should like to express our appreciation of the very clear and painstaking manner in which 2YA has, during that time, broadcast the world's news; for it means so much to the people in an isolated place such as Chatham Islands to hear the announcements clearly."

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