

New Zealand telephones to Great Britain

Test transmission provides
successful link between
homeland and outpost
of Empire



ANOTHER milestone in the rapidly-forming New Zealand radio history was reached last week when a small group in Parliament House spoke by wireless telephone to England. We have heard of the remarkable service that is operating between Australia and England. This was preceded by the trans-Atlantic service, and each in turn was regarded as a marvel of radio engineering, but it remained for New Zealand to link with England and make the longest known commercial radio chain. The service, though not yet opened, promises to be one of the marvels of present-day radio.

It was led up to by a series of experiments, and many readers

have intercepted these test transmissions and wondered what they were all about. It will further be remembered that some time ago 2YA was conducting a two-way telephone with Sydney. This led on to official tests being made by the Post and Telegraph Department in conjunction with A.W.A. We announced only last week that the apparatus was ready for trial and that occasion was being made of

the presence of our Prime Minister, the Right Hon. G. W. Forbes, in London to speak with the Acting-Prime Minister, Hon. E. A. Ransom, and arrangements were made by cable for an attempt at radio-telephone conversation on Tuesday last.

PRIOR to that time a group of officials assembled in Parliament House to participate in the greatest radio experiment New Zealand has yet entered into. Some time before the arranged hour, Wellington and Sydney were in two-way conversation, and the final tests were commenced at seven o'clock. Conditions were not of the best, and although at times the voices were fading, they were yet clear, and it seemed possible that the great experiment would succeed. Finally the way was clear, and Sydney put through Wellington's first toll call to London. This was at 8.27 p.m. on Tuesday, November 11.

Those in the room waited anxiously for several minutes, and then a bell at the elbow of the Acting-Prime Minister, Hon. E. A. Ransom, rang. Mr. Ransom lifted the receiver, and although he spoke calmly, there was a touch of exhilaration in his voice as he said: "Hullo, George. How are you?" With the clarity of a nearby business caller the voice at the other end echoed: "Hullo. Good morning."

For a little while conversation was carried on with difficulty, but Mr. Ransom was able to tell the Prime Minister about a cable message he had received from London that morning. Then communication became better, and Mr. Forbes informed his listener that he had just returned from Scotland and that the weather had been very cold. Everyone in the party was well, he said, and they were looking forward to leaving for New Zealand.

"What is the time over there?" Mr. Ransom asked, and the (Concluded on page 2.)



The Acting-Prime Minister, the Hon. E. A. Ransom, speaks from Wellington over the wireless telephone to the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. G. W. Forbes, in London. Seated at the table are Sir Apirana Ngata (left), the Hon. E. A. Ransom and Mrs. Ransom. The Hon. A. J. Stallworthy and the Hon. J. G. Cobbe are on the extreme left, and standing behind Mr. Ransom is Mr. Sidey, son of Sir Thomas Sidey. Mr. M. Thomson, brother of Mr. F. D. Thomson, Permanent Head of the Prime Minister's Department, is standing behind Mrs. Ransom.

—Photo, "The Dominion."