

reply came back: "Twenty minutes to nine in the morning." The clock in the room, twelve hours ahead of London, showed the identical hour.

A few brief moments' conversation took place between Mr. Forbes and Sir Apirana Ngata, who greeted his chief with "Is that you, George? Tenakoe!" Reception was becoming increasingly better, and Mr. Forbes's voice from London sounded round the room as he returned the greeting. He asked if everything was well in New Zealand, and he received the reply: "Keitepai," or "Very good."

Sir Thomas Sidey then came to the telephone, and Sir Apirana said: "Hullo, Sidey, the Attorney-General here," a remark whose humorous significance lay in the fact that Sir Apirana is acting in that capacity during the absence of Sir Thomas. A few personal questions were exchanged, and Sir Apirana put down the receiver with the remark that it was quite easy to recognise his colleague's voice at the other end.

Brought into sudden contact with a familiar room many thousands of miles away, one of the first questions asked by Mr. F. D. Thomson, Permanent Head of the Prime Minister's Department, was: "What horse won the New Zealand Cup?" and he was told that the winner was Nightmarch.

For nearly an hour others in the room spoke to those of their families

in London. An interesting few minutes' conversation was held between Mr. C. A. Berensden, head of the External Affairs Department, who accompanied the Prime Minister, and his two small sons. Mrs. Ransom also spoke to Mrs. Forbes and Sir Thomas Sidey and Lady Sidey to their son; Mr. A. B. Mulligan, secretary to Mr. Ransom, and Mr. T. R. Aickin, secretary to the Minister of Railways, also spoke to members of the party.

Mr. Forbes then returned to the telephone, and he spoke briefly to the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. A. J. Murdoch, whom he told that he had visited Smithfield as well as other places identified with the marketing of New Zealand produce. He said he was going into questions affecting butter and cheese, and that he was doing his best to look after the interests of New Zealand. He added that he intended to investigate the wool question before he left.

The Minister of Defence, Hon. J. G. Cobbe, then spoke to Mr. Forbes, and it was almost ten o'clock when, after Mr. J. McCombs, M.P. for Lyttelton, had spoken to the Prime Minister, Sydney at last cut in, and brought to a close a unique hour. Before the receiver was hung up Mr. Forbes was told that it was intended to put him on to his home at Cheviot, near Christchurch.

Wellington was then cut out, and Mr. Ransom congratulated Mr. J. Robertson, assistant secretary of the Post and Telegraph Department, and his staff upon the success of the tests. He said it was particularly pleasing that the conversation had been so clear, and the work of the postal staff was worthy of commendation. Mr. Robertson said that his staff had worked hard, and they had to be thankful that conditions had proved so good.

There was a considerable amount of atmospherics throughout the conversations, which were officially closed at ten o'clock. However, when speaking to Cheviot, Mr. Forbes said he could recognise his children's voices. There was a little interference in the Sydney area at times, and although Wellington spoke to London through Sydney, the reply conversation was picked up direct. During the evening Mr. Forbes asked for Mr. G. McNamara, Secretary of the Post and Telegraph Department, who was unable to be present, and he asked that he be thanked for making the communication possible.

And so ended the first telephone call between London and New Zealand. It will probably be a few days before a commercial service is established between the two countries, and it is to be hoped that with the opening we will be able to tell the full story of the growth and development of Empire telephone communication.

## A Wireless Colour Scheme

### To Aid Service-men

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The colour coding system has been in use by the telephone industry for many years, but the new system represents the first attempt to standardise the code in the radio trade.

### A Radio Scarecrow

RADIO is being employed by an English orchardist to prevent birds from robbing his orchard. Scarecrows and revolving mirrors were tried first of all, but to no avail. Finally he concealed a loudspeaker inside a scarecrow and connected it to his wireless set. The birds deserted.

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