



The function in Wellington, on the occasion of the recent inauguration of the wireless telephone service between New Zealand and Australia and New Zealand and Great Britain. The photograph shows the representatives of Government departments and prominent business men of Wellington who attended the inauguration.

—“Dominion” Photo.

# Talking Overseas

## Wireless Telephone Service to Australia is Now Available

**A**N event of the highest importance in New Zealand radio took place last week when the radio telephone service between New Zealand and Australia was declared open. Last week we were able to tell how the experimental link between New Zealand and England had been successful, and it was intimated that the service between New Zealand and Australia would soon be commercially available. On Tuesday last the great forward step was made and now any telephone subscriber in New Zealand can ring up Australia, surely a remarkable feat. Wireless telephone has been in operation between England and Australia for some time, and it has been the ambition of engineers and the New Zealand business community to have this link extended to our own country. Now that it has been done it is reported that very full use is being made of the service.

They were historical gatherings which met in the Parliament Buildings and in a Wellington business house on the afternoon of Tuesday last. In the former Sir Apirana Ngata, representing the Prime Minister, the Secretary of the General Post Office, the Chief Telegraph Engineer, and a member of the Telegraph Engineer's Office were present, and it was from here that the first official telephone conversation was made with Australia. At the larger gathering were prominent business men from Well-

ington, and each was equipped with an earphone so that the conversation between Sydney and New Zealand could be heard distinctly.

In his speech in declaring the service open Mr. G. W. Robertson, the New Zealand manager of Amalgamated Wireless, remarked upon the wonderful achievement of the age which enabled the human voice to be flung over 1000 miles of ocean and permitted it to be reproduced faithfully at the other end through all the variations of the atmosphere. The apparatus must be thoroughly up-to-date, delicate and accurate. His company was very proud that they had had the opportunity of installing it, but he wished to stress the point that the actual work in connection with fitting the apparatus had been done solely by the engineers of the Post and Telegraph Department. They had had innumerable difficulties to contend with but had persevered and had finally shown that they were able to get 100 per cent. success from the apparatus. These engineers were New Zealanders, and the fact that they had not needed outside assistance was a point deserving of the greatest commendation. Normally the company would have put the service into operation itself, as it had done in other parts of the world, but in this case it was quite unnecessary.

He referred to the foresight and ability of the managing-director of the company, Mr. E. T. Fisk. It was through him that the