



Safer Aviation

Director Asks for Wireless

USING the experience of Mr. Stannage on the Atlantic flight with Kingsford Smith as an example of the value of wireless in aviation, the Director of Air Services, Wing-Commander S. Grant-Dalton spoke at the Wellington Aero Club's dinner on Friday night of possible future developments in this way in New Zealand.

He stated that he had asked the Government, if it were going to give any money to commercial aviation, to spend it on wireless and in night-landing equipment. He hoped to have wireless direction posts as far east and west as possible, for example, New Plymouth and Hastings. The idea was that the machines might fly, despite the weather, and link up the whole of the Dominion.

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S-O-S

TRAVEL IN COMFORT BY
CAR

WELLINGTON — PALMERSTON
NEW PLYMOUTH

Relieve
throat
soreness
quickly
with

Pulmonas
PASTILLES

Suck them slowly

1/6 all chemists

Extended Hours and Special Attractions for the Christmas Season

SPECIAL programme arrangements are in train at all the YA stations for the coming Christmas season.

Beginning on Monday, December 15, all stations will be on the air at noon and there will be no silent day. These special sessions will continue until Christmas. The same extended hours were observed last year, and are intended primarily for the benefit of radio dealers in order to give them the opportunity of demonstrating receiving sets for which there is always an extra demand at this time of the year. A radio set makes an ideal gift to the family.

On the programme side an outstanding attraction will be the presentation at 2YA on Tuesday, December 23, of Dickens's "Christmas Carol" by Mr. Clement May, Wellington's well-known actor-elocutionist.

"St. John's Eve"

An Old English Idyll

A DELIGHTFUL musical fantasia of old English country life will be broadcast under the title of "St. John's Eve" from 1YA on December 8. The company presenting the entertainment will be the 1YA Auckland Choir, a band of excellent artists, who will need no introduction to listeners. The solo parts, which contain some of the prettiest selections, have been allotted as follows:—Nancy, a village maiden—Miss Gladys Payne; Robert, a young villager—Mr. Len Barnes; Margaret, an ancient dame—Miss Cathleen Mulqueen; the young Squire—Mr. H. S. Poffley; the organist, Mr. Eric Waters, and the pianist, Mr. Cyril Towsey. Mr. Len Barnes is also the producer.

"St. John's Eve" is an old English idyll by Joseph Bennett, set to music by one of the best known of English composers, Sir Frederick H. Cowen, who, to mark his association with the Melbourne Exhibition of 1888-9 when he conducted the famous choir, inscribed his composition: "To the People of Melbourne, Victoria."

The story of the poem opens on the eve of the Feast of St. John, and a picturesque description is given of the villagers decorating their cottages with flowers and foliage—"for by their night protected, when St. John's Feast is here, no bolt of thunder can harm their dwellings." The village maidens sing of the power of the fairies who bring to them, in their sleep, the image of the man each shall marry. Margaret, in speaking to the village girls, tells them how each might behold her destined husband, but is jeered at for her pains. However, one of the girls, Nancy, believes, and Margaret directs her to pluck a rose and hide it until Christmas Day, when he who takes it from her breast shall be her husband. Robert, a suitor for Nancy's hand, boasts that he will be the favoured owner of the charmed rose when the time comes, but Nancy looks coldly upon him and turns away. We now see the villagers piling the wood for St. John's bonfire, and at midnight the men and lads dance round the flaming pile.

The next scene is the garden of Nancy's cottage, at midnight. She plucks the rose, as suggested by Margaret, and sings the beautiful solo, "O Peaceful Night." She asks the rose to call her lover, and suddenly she hears a voice singing in the distance. It is the voice of the young squire.

It is now Christmas Day in the Squire's hall, where the villagers are gathered. The scene opens with a beautiful carol sung by Margaret, with the villagers joining in the chorus. Nancy enters wearing an unfaded rose, and Robert snatches the rose from her breast, claiming her as his bride. However, Nancy still spurns him, and the young Squire enters, telling how he has already taken the rose and replaced it by another. Robert rushes from the hall pursued by the girls, and the young lovers, Nancy and the Squire, sing their betrothal. The final chorus is a grand paean of praise to God for his wondrous gift of love at Yuletide.

Linked by Telephone

(Continued from page 2.)

ordinary business telephone on his desk. Science was more and more rendering assistance to the ramifications of business.

"The only difference," said Mr. McCutcheon, "in comparing the wireless call with the usual telephone talk was that the voice, though quite loud and clear, appeared to be further away. This did not in any way affect the audibility."

Mrs. Barker, who was present at the Wellington office, spoke to her husband. She said later that it was a delightful experience to be able to hold a conversation over such a long distance. The voice was readily recognisable and surprisingly clear.

During the official proceeding, Mr. McCutcheon, who was present, informed Mr. G. W. Robertson, New Zealand manager of A.W.A., that he had made the first call, and pencilled a note to Mr. Robertson commenting on the remarkable success of the inauguration.

Exchange of News.

ANOTHER quite unexpected incident shortly after 2 o'clock was the first Press talk when the Sydney "Sun" rang up the editorial department of the "Evening Post." The two staffs exchanged greetings, and to put the matter on a footing possibly indicative of the future use of such a service in the newspaper world, a news item was sent in each direction.

Another conversation took place between Oscar Garden and Kingsford Smith. The call was put through and a few minutes later Kingsford Smith was speaking. Mr. Garden, in response to a question from Kingsford Smith, said that he had had a good trip across the Tasman and had met Mr. Stannage, who sent his regards and hoped to be present at the wedding. Kingsford Smith asked for everybody in New Zealand, and replying to a further question as to whether he was going to do another Pacific flight, said that such an item could be "washed out." "I do not know anything about that. You can tell them that the only flight I contemplate is the matrimonial flight."

At the Sydney end a gathering representative of official, professional, and business men met in the offices of Amalgamated Wireless. Mr. J. E. Fenton, Acting Prime Minister, spoke from Canberra and exchanged greetings with Sir Apirana Ngata.

Service Well Patronised.

IT is understood that the service is being well patronised and calls have been received from all over New Zealand. The head of one Wellington business firm told us that he had used the service successfully during the short time it had been available and had found it of the greatest use. It was much more satisfactory than the cablegram, which only presented one side and one point of view. Through the wireless telephone points could be discussed and settled ever so much quicker than by other means. "It is certainly going to save me quite a few trips to Sydney and quite a few misunderstandings," he remarked.

THE new service is expected to have a good run at Christmas time, for it offers an ideal method of exchanging greetings—for those who can afford it.