

News and Notes from the North

(By "Call-up.")

ON December 29 the band from the s.s. Rangitiki will play from 1YA. On the same evening four Wellington artists will appear at the Auckland station, these being Mr. S. E. Rodger, Miss L. Nicholas, Mr. V. Evans, and Mrs. S. Duncan.

MR. RALPH ESKRIGE, an Auckland tenor who has been in Australia for three years, has now returned to New Zealand and will sing from 1YA on December 28. Miss Phyllis Gribben, another well-known Auckland singer who has been away, is also returning and will be heard from 1YA on December 31.

THE new programme schedule which came into force at all the YA stations on December 1 has been very well received in Auckland. It is generally admitted to be a welcome improvement upon the former arrangements, and the 1YA programmes are definitely brighter when reviewed by the week.

THE new orchestral octet at 1YA which is conducted by Mr. Harold Baxter has proved a great success, and has received some very high compliments from listeners and from fellow musicians. Their balance and intonation are particularly fine, and one Auckland listener who is a recognised musical authority says that their playing is the most artistic he has heard.

HOLIDAYS for some people usually mean hard work for others, and Christmas with its holidays for most is one of the busiest times of the year in the broadcasting studio. Such is certainly to be the case at 1YA this Christmas. During the holiday week the station will be on the air from noon and there will be no silent day. On Christmas Eve the station will not close down till midnight.

A VERY well-known 1YA entertainer, Mr. T. T. Garland, is giving his last item from the station this week. Mr. Garland, who is better known to the children as "Uncle Tom," will be greatly missed from the ranks of the studio uncles, for he has attained a great popularity with the children. He has also been a fairly regular artist for the grown-ups, his forte being humorous items. As yet no successor has been appointed to the "uncleship" vacated by Mr. Garland.

A NEW mixed quartet known as the Orpheus Quartet and comprised of four members of the 1YA Choir is to make its first appearance from 1YA on January 14. The members, all well-known singers, are Miss Christie Foster, soprano; Miss Cathleen Mulqueen, contralto; Mr. H. S. Poffley, tenor; and Mr. E. M. Newling, baritone. Miss Mulqueen and Mr. Poffley were among the soloists in the 1YA Choir's presentation of "St. John's Eve" on December 9, which was one of the outstanding performances heard from the Auckland station during the last month or two. Listeners to the northern station are certainly most fortunate in having a choir such as this singing regularly before the microphone, for their work maintains a consistently high standard.

A Radio Christmas

Extended Broadcasts and Feature Programmes

THIS is to be a Radio Christmas. Never before have such elaborate arrangements been made to provide extra services than this year. Already all stations are on the air at noon, and broadcast a schedule that is meeting with general approval. Primarily these increased hours are to provide facilities for the radio trades to demonstrate sets, but the general listening public are appreciating the extension. All this, of course, means extra time for the station staffs, but no one is complaining—it is Christmas time and allowances simply must be made.

On Christmas Eve all stations will be on the air till after midnight, the programmes being marked by gaiety and brightness. In the cases of 2YA and 3YA, Christmas Day will be ushered in to the broadcast of the midnight Mass from St. Gerard's Redemptorist Church, Wellington. The stations will be on the air continuously for over 12 hours.

On Christmas Day the stations go on the air in the morning, in the afternoon, and again in the evening, with special broadcasts, including appropriate church services. Early morning children's sessions, in which all the "aunts" and "uncles" will participate, will go on the air from all but



2YA, and at 10 a.m. 2YA will go with a special service conducted by Uncle George and assisted by Rev. W. R. Hibbert, who will give the address.

During Christmas afternoon an unusual broadcast will take place when the Hon. A. J. Stallworthy, Minister for Health, speaks from his home in Auckland and to officially open the radio installation in Porirua Mental Hospital. This broadcast will mark the culminating point of a very worthy effort that started a few months back and which has finally succeeded.

At the other stations special afternoon and evening sessions will be broadcast. There will be no children's or news sessions, but the evening programmes will start at 7 p.m. and will generally include a relay of a church service or other appropriate event.

During the Christmas season there will be some splendid broadcasts, especially from 2YA, where Clement May, the noted elocutionist, will produce with full effects Dickens's "Christmas Carol." Another item of interest will be the tours of Jock Lockhart, the 3YA Scottish comedian, and J. F. Montague, of Auckland. With these notabilities in the programme there should be something good coming over the air in the holidays.

Tracking "Pirates" in Orchard Pests Killed by Radio

A Novel Scheme

MOST countries are blessed with an uncomfortable number of radio pirates, and each seems to deal with this growing menace in a different manner. Some years ago a secret radio census was made in Germany by the municipal chimney sweepers, who through their occupation had access to every house and apartment in the city.

In Italy the pirates, according to official statistics, exceed the registered license holders by almost two to one, and the authorities are adopting a novel method of tracking the culprits. In all the larger cities the police have distributed special forms to the house porters, and a complete list of owners of wireless apparatus is being compiled. It is the porter's duty to fill in the printed questionnaire and to return it to the nearest post office.

ORCHARDISTS will be interested in a recent application of radio as an exterminator of insect pests in the orchard. The system has proved both efficient and practicable, and hours have been allocated by the American broadcasting authorities for "spray broadcasting" in orchards.

A series of aerial and earth wires is used, attached to a generator which furnishes 110,000 volt of high frequency electricity. The current travels from the aerial, which is stretched above each tree, through the trunk to the earth wires below, and back to the generating machine, thus completing the circuit.

Fruit growers and State inspectors who have tested the system thoroughly report that the current kills insect eggs, scale, and other fruit parasites by "exploding" the cells and sterilising them. Insects flying in the path of the current are also killed.

The inventor of the system is the late Dr. B. N. Burglund, who is credited with extensive researches in radio and high frequency electricity.

South African Broadcasting

Increased Fees

AS a result of the financially bad times, states the South African correspondent of "World Radio," that the African Broadcasting Company has experienced from the beginning, the Union Government has decided, as from September 1, to increase the scale of license fees for listeners outside the 50-mile radius.

Under the present zoning system the scale of fees per annum is as follows. Within 50 miles, £1/15/-; beyond 50 miles, but not exceeding 100 miles, £1 5/-; not exceeding 250 miles, 15/-; and beyond 250 miles, 7/6.

The new system abolishes the 50-mile radius and levies a fee of £1/15/- upon all listeners living within 100 miles of a broadcasting station. Between 100 miles and 250 miles the new fee will be £1/5/-, and outside the 250-mile radius listeners will have to pay £1 as against 7/6 at present.

The revised fees have been prompted largely as a result of the disappointing response from listeners in the Transvaal following the erection of the new high-power JB station, of 25 kw., at Johannesburg, a few years ago. A radius of 100 miles around Johannesburg, with higher fees over half the area, should result in considerably more revenue, but at Cape Town, where the vast majority of listeners live within 40 miles of the broadcasting station, and where any ring drawn round the city covers water for three-quarters of the distance, it is not expected that the increase in revenue will be nearly as great proportionately. And the position regarding the coastal town of Durban is similar.

The manager of the African Broadcasting Company, Mr. H. D. Adler, states that the fees existing up to the present have not been commensurate with the value of the entertainment provided by the three stations of the company. They have also not been of a sufficient level to cover the expenditure incurred in maintaining the stations and providing daily programmes.

He feels sure that listeners will appreciate the necessity for a slight increase in license fees. Mr. Adler expressed himself as "very sanguine" with regard to the future of broadcasting in South Africa.

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