

The Radio Telephone Service to England

IT is announced by cable from London that the opening of the London-New Zealand telephone service is expected to take place on Friday, December 19. In a statement the secretary of the Post and Telegraph Department, Mr. G. McNamara, explains that the cabled date was only a tentative one. At the present time the transmission at Sydney was causing some trouble, and, although they had been able to get through once or twice, no definite date could be fixed until the service had given complete satisfaction. With a little luck they might be able to open the service at the date mentioned.

Radio with a Military Bias

REVOLUTION by radio was the nature, if not the title, of a programme which the Brazilian Government was giving listeners every day during the progress of the recent turmoil in that country.

Radio was for a while the only means of communication with some of the isolated districts, but finally everybody having wireless sets were encouraged to listen-in on the daily communiques. Citizens were also asked to assist in locating transmitting stations controlled by the opposition.

Radio News

TESTS recently made at the University of Minnesota in connection with the St. Paul broadcasting station KSTP have proved that students in college study better when listening to jazz music broadcasts. In the tests students were given mathematical problems to solve under different conditions. When a thrilling story was "on the air" they had difficulty in concentrating, but when dance music was played more problems were solved than when the room was quiet.

WHAT is claimed to be a record in quick frequency changes has been established by a New York station. Just after transmitting its morning news a few weeks ago on a wavelength of 200 metres, a letter arrived saying that the Federal Radio Commission had changed the station's wavelength to 333 metres. The engineers got busy, and the programme was well under way, on 333 metres, when a wire arrived: "Present wave-length a mistake. Change to 220 metres." Thus, when the station switched off that night it had had the distinction of changing its wavelength more times in one day than most stations do in all their lives!

A FEW days ago the British Postmaster-General, Professor Lees-Smith, remarked in the House of Commons that some months ago he instructed some Post Office officials to listen-in on wireless messages from Russia, and report concerning their nature. This was done, but the dispatches proved to be uninteresting and innocuous, and so listening-in was suspended. It appears, however, that lately the character of the messages has changed, and once more they are being watched.

The Mysteries of Short-Wave Listening

Educating the Listener

WE have recently received from Mr. Ivan O'Meara, of Gisborne, a copy of the International Short-wave Club's magazine, an American journal devoted to the interests of the short-wave amateur. As an illustration of the intense interest taken in this fascinating branch of radio it may be stated that though this magazine was inaugurated only a little over a year ago it has extended over the world in a phenomenal manner and now the membership covers 40 countries and possessions.

The issue to hand contains an illuminating article on short-wave listening, in particular on the seemingly inexplicable peculiarities encountered by the unenlightened listener on his first attempt in experimenting on the higher frequencies. These difficulties are often quite enough to discourage the beginner, with the result that he finally discards his set in disgust. It is in explaining these mysteries of short-wave listening that the following article will be of great assistance, either to those who are already in difficulties or to those who are contemplating taking up this comparatively new and different form of broadcast listening.

THE new short-wave broadcast listener invariably finds tuning a short-wave receiver different from tuning a broadcast receiver. Many heretofore unknown features on the broadcast band are common to the short-wave field. Some such things are fading, harmonics and skip-distance. Some say that bringing up such a matter is adverse to the growth in popularity in short-wave, but we feel that such matters should be discussed openly and thereby the listener will become educated to short-wave tuning, and by becoming educated will become a better listener and a more satisfied owner of a short-wave receiver.

"The short-wave field is just recovering from its first period of 'over-selling.' A few months ago the novice was taught to believe that all he needed to hear hundreds of overseas short-wave stations was to gather up all the old discarded junk around the home and wire it together in a haphazard fashion, and these stations would come rolling in.

"Hundreds, yes, thousands, of experimenters became discouraged over the results obtained and have ever since been decrying instead of 'boosting' short-waves. The present-day short-wave receiver is a marvel of efficiency—compact, well designed and built, and in every way equal to the broadcast receiver. However, the acquisition of a good receiver does not overcome the peculiarities of short-wave reception.

"Probably the first thing the beginner must learn is that stations do not cover a very large space on the dials. The short-wave field covers a band of frequency 25 times as large as the broadcast band. In other words, the stations on the broadcast band could be put into a space of 20 degrees on

the dials of a common short-wave receiver. To pick up a station properly the dial must be set exactly to the centre of the carrier wave. A dial may be set one-third of a degree away from a station and it cannot be heard, but if moved directly on the wave could bring in a good clear programme.

"The first requisite to successful tuning is therefore 'tune slowly.' Do not skim over the dials and expect the station to come rolling in. Instead, put your regeneration control up to where a slight hissing sound is heard in the speaker, denoting oscillation, and then keep it near this point while you slowly revolve the wavelength dial. If the hissing sound dies out, then turn the control up again. You will then locate the station by a whistle. After picking this up, then detune the regeneration until the music or voice is heard best. A little practice soon makes an expert on this.



MR. JAMES SIMSON,

Under whom the Dunedin Trinity Methodist Church Choir most acceptably rendered "The Morn of Glory" on Sunday last.

"The second noticeable peculiarity of short waves is that but a few stations can be heard at one time. Regardless of whether a certain station is on the air at a certain time or how much power it has, you may not be able to hear it. Certain stations can only be heard at certain times of the day, and certain seasons of the year, regardless of their schedule. Many foreign stations have never been heard in the United States. Short waves offer 24 hours of entertainment each day, once you learn to tune. It is not a fact that you can get better results at night than at daytime. It is possible that better reception may be had at daytime.

"Broadcasting on short waves is confined mostly to four bands of frequency, although stations may be picked

A Bad Slip

World-famed Combination

THE ingloriousness of it... Some one has thought it prudent to comment on the "appearance" of the J. H. Squire octet at IYA. And they have gone into print with it too, which makes matters worse. Yes, this is what an Auckland weekly journal says about this happy event: "The J. H. Squire Celeste Octet provided two excellent numbers from IYA on Wednesday night last, and these were the gems of the programme. 'Trauma,' the first number presented, was rendered in a very able manner. The standard reached was good."

"The standard reached was good." A combination that has thrilled millions in England, and in fact over the world, thought to appear from IYA, is classed as good—and what about the other item—wasn't that so good? It is no use—they mustn't play those tunes again. Please ask IYA to send the record back.—Murray.

Sending Letters by Wire

THERE will shortly come into operation in England a public service of radiotelegraphy by means of which one may send by telegraph an entire sheet of type-written foolscap. It is telephotographed, not by wireless, but over the ordinary telegraph wires to its destination, and arrives there in exact facsimile. This system has been working for some time in other countries as part of their public service. As the charge is quite reasonably small, there should be a big future for the business of sending letters by wire.

Advertising in Bad Times

IT is easy in difficult times like the present to retrench a little in business, and save money, and advertising is one of the first things on which some business men save. That is because they do not realise that advertising is indispensable, said Mr. Gordon Selfridge, in an address to the British Glass Convention in England. Mr. Selfridge said that what some business men did not realise was that the public was ever changing. What they advertised to-day was forgotten to-morrow. They had to keep on advertising and giving the public the facts and particulars.

up at other points on the dials. These are from 14 to 18, 24 to 26, 30 to 32, and 48 to 50 metres. The beginner would do well to locate these bands and search them out before tuning over the other parts of the dials."

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