

## Following 1930

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were being spilled along the roadway. Another group of merry-makers lifted the rear wheels of a Baby Austin off the ground, and the motorist, completely nonplussed, was helpless.

Another crowd gathered on each side of a tramcar and a motor-bus, and rocked these vehicles in an alarming manner until they threatened to fall over. A nearby piecart was doing "business as usual" and was experiencing a roaring trade.

The motor-bus found it impossible to get through the crowd and now endeavoured to back out, but it was rushed and its rear wheels were lifted clear of the ground, so that the driver was unable to move the vehicle. The rocking of nearby motor-cars next became general, and it was observed that girls were joining in this diversion. The hour of midnight arrived, and then bedlam broke loose. Cheers, choruses and motor-horns joined in a prolonged roar. Shortly afterward 1YA closed down.

DUNEDIN possesses the patent rights of celebrating in true style the advent of the New Year. The Caledonian City of the South, with its large proportion of Scottish folk, has an hereditary aptitude for this particular celebration.

The microphone placed at the Octagon enabled the benighted folk outside of Dunedin to learn from 4YA, Dunedin, how to speed the parting year and to salute the new. The local colour was lent by the bagpipes and traditional songs by the New Year Chorus Party.

### The Australian Stations

AND as the Old Year, with the New Year right on its heels, raced away from New Zealand, westward bound, on its 1200 miles' rush toward Australia, I gladly accepted an opportunity for a spell from so much boisterous enthusiasm. The going had been terrific, and as I pored over my notes I visualised again each tumultuous scene they recorded. Two hours' difference in time meant 2 a.m. before the New Year would reach Sydney.

A HAPPY band consisting of "The Australian Broadcasting Company's New Year Party," held revel at 2FC, Sydney. These merry folk comprised members of the Broadcasting Company's office staff devoted to the preparation and compilation of the daily programmes. Not a little vocal talent was displayed by those ladies and gentlemen. There was jazz music, dancing and community singing by the assemblage. The community singing was directed by that "star" comedian, Mr. Charles Lawrence, the hero of the Ashfield and Chatswood Town Halls' community singing. He was in great fettle, and with his quips and humorous stories kept everyone amused. He announced that the assemblage would sing "I Wouldn't Leave My Little Wooden Hut For You," and added, "I wish someone would come and clean mine up," which bore a suggestion of recent revelry in his domicile. The chiming of 12 o'clock brought a loud-speaker-rattling din of cheering, and, as there was a lack of announcing, I am inclined to believe that the hulla-balloo came from a dense crowd as-

## Following the Old Year Round the Globe

### Radio's Great Achievement

RADIO has shown us in a new and remarkable way how the New Year is ushered in to the world. This week we have two interesting impressions of the New Year broadcasts. Mr. Levy commences with an account of the New Zealand stations. Being near the international date line, we are about the first country of any note to see the coming year, and consequently our broadcasting stations put out the celebrations first. Then come the Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane stations, who see 1931 two hours after New Zealand. A little later Adelaide, and still later Perth. The New Year is gradually working its way round the world. It is now 3.15 a.m., our time, and Mr. Levy closes down.

New Year comes to India and Africa before Mr. Sellens, listening on shortwave, shortly before our mid-day on New Year's Day, hears it come in to England. Across the Atlantic, a few hours later, it is welcomed by New York, and from there, still moving west, crosses the great continent. After passing Honolulu it reaches the date line where it is no more. Thus in a truly remarkable way radio has followed the old year, surely a feat which as Mr. Levy says, surpasses the magic carpet of the Arabian Nights.

sembled around the Sydney G.P.O. The whole effect was overwhelming.

Presently it was announced from the studio that Tennyson's superb and appropriate "Ring Out, Wild Bells!" would be recited. The lines were well given by a male performer, with cathedral chimes worked in as an enchanting background to the words. Finally a chorus of "Auld Lang Syne" came through, and what again seemed to be the cheering of the multitude in the streets was superimposed on the chorus.

TUNING in, early, to 4QG, Brisbane, I listened to an exceptionally capable dance orchestra of 18 performers playing in the ballroom of Lennon's Hotel, the commentator describing the brilliant and gay scenes. Many wonderful frocks were worn, and the dancers were decked with fancy jazz caps.

At one end of the ballroom was a huge wheel with many variegated electric spotlights, and when an operator turned the wheel round the coloured lights flashed in waves on the dancers with gorgeous effect.

As midnight drew near 4QG switched back to the studio, where an informal party of vocalists and instrumentalists presented an enjoyable programme. Easily the best item was the male vocal quartet, "Life's But a Golden Dream With You." This was delightfully sung. 4QG's studio party celebrated the arrival of the New Year with unstinted enthusiasm, and before concluding there were several "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow." I recognised the voice of my old friend, Mr. J. Robinson, director of 4QG. I think I also heard someone say: "I'll see you at the piecart afterward."

"BREATHE there a man with soul so dead!" No wonder when I tuned in, 3LO in my native city, Mel-

bourne, I felt a great longing, or, shall I say a futile wish, to be there in body to see this New Year in. However, I was soon there in spirit. A splendid orchestra was providing irresistible dance music, with vocal items interpolated. In the last minutes of the expiring year an impressive New Year's message by the reverend president of the Council of Churches was delivered. This was followed by the Australian Broadcasting Company's own New Year message to the many thousands of listeners, and it concluded with "Pass the year well, with radio." Just before the chiming of midnight a solemn dialogue, or epilogue, was given by a male and a female character, and was artistically appropriate. The male voice, I believe, was that of Mr. Frank Clulow, formerly of the Allan Wilkie Shakespearean Co. The New Year was welcomed with an enthusiastic chorus of "Auld Lang Syne." But there was an air of cultured dignity at 3LO in the last minutes of the Old Year so characteristic of Melbourne, the Boston of Australia.

THE Cinderella State's broadcast station, 7ZL, Hobart, was having a gay old time. A well-balanced jazz orchestra was playing the latest "hits." There were several vocal numbers which were warmly applauded. The New Year was received with hearty enthusiasm — cheers and choruses.

THE end of the Old Year had now outdistanced me, and was career-ing westward toward the City of Churches, capital of the land of "crow eaters." With a turn of my tuning dial I flashed ahead again of the fleeing year, and was 2000 miles away in Adelaide, where it was still 1930. All was merry as the proverbial wedding bells, according to 5CL, Adelaide. Here there was a tip-top jazz

orchestra and the voices of many happy couples could be heard through the music. Vocal numbers were also given, the best of which was the offering of a coloratura soprano who possessed a well-trained, if light, voice. She was vociferously applauded at the conclusion of her item.

At a few minutes to midnight the assemblage at the cabaret sang "The Long, Long Trail" in excellent style. Then, alas, a gentleman essayed to recite Tennyson's "Ring Out, Wild Bells!" This was a poor, colourless effort, and was nothing more than the mere speaking of the words. What a contrast with the same item as heard from 2FC.

"It's a Long Way to Tipperary," sung by all, must have revived my sad memories of the war. Just as midnight was announced by the chiming of the hour the jazz band struck up "Happy Days Are Here Again," and all joined in singing that joyful item. This was followed by "Auld Lang Syne," "Pack Up Your Troubles," then an Australian national song, and finally Elgar's "Land of Hope and Glory."

I glanced at the clock; it was 2.33 a.m. on New Year's Day, New Zealand time. The Old Year was still within reach, and I could not resist racing the New Year to Perth. Once more I re-adjusted my tuning dial, and was instantly about an hour and a quarter again ahead of 1931. The music from 6WF, Perth, was coming in clearly across the intervening 3300 miles of land and sea.

Pondering over the wonder of it all, I caught myself sinking into a drowsy reverie. I roused myself; with one more farewell to the Old Year I switched off my set, and left 1930 still hurrying westward to its end.

### America Welcomed the New Year

(By F. W. Sellens.)

PERHAPS the most interesting reception during the past week was a "Coast to Coast New Year Eve Party," arranged by the General Motors of America and broadcast on short waves by W2XAF, Schenectady. Several stations across the continent were linked to New York by land lines, thus making it possible for the New Year celebrations in each time zone to be put on the air by the powerful W2XAF and heard by the whole world.

The first celebrations were at New York, where a peal of bells commenced at 11.55 p.m., their time (4.55 a.m., New Year's Day, here). After the bells struck 12 they played their National Anthem. Listeners were then taken to Times Square; Broadway, to hear the hearty reception of the New Year by the multitude there. This consisted of hooters, cheering, singing, bells, etc. Dance music followed till nearly 6 p.m., when they went over to Chicago to "see in" the New Year at the Edgewater Beach Hotel. While in Chicago dance music was heard from several hotels, the celebrated Paul Whiteman and his orchestra being at one of them.

Denver, Colorado, was the next city that 1931 was welcomed. Orchestral music from the Denver Athletic Club was heard till midnight (7 p.m. here), when they switched over to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception for a peal of bells and the striking of 12 p.m. This was followed by "Adeste Fideles" on the bells. Music was again heard from the Athletic Club, (Concluded on page 28.)