

and recover and stumble again. Our course is arduous.

There are no signposts to guide our steps, but we shall go on and on, certain that radio can bring inspiration, culture, stimulation, into the school-room. We know that it can and will be made a tremendous asset in the cause of education. Just how this is to be accomplished the future alone will demonstrate. It will require the best minds in broadcasting and in education to reach the heights we seek.

## Radio Telephony with England

### Service Still Experimental

EARLY in December the Post and Telegraph Department, with everything mechanical in order at this end, was advised from Australia that telephone speech would probably be available between New Zealand and England on December 10; later the date was postponed until December 20; and later still that it was postponed indefinitely because of certain static interruptions which were inconsistent with permanent and reliable service.

That does not mean that vocal communication with England from this end is not possible. Speech has been made experimentally on more than one occasion with England by the officers in charge. On such occasions it was necessary for the tests for the officer speaking at this end to know the voice of the man he was speaking with in England, because it was essential in

judging the strength of the voice to know its natural quality, for the purpose of judging the efficacy of the service, for were the voice a weak or husky one, it would be no general guide to work upon. That point was not a difficult one to overcome. The Chief Telegraph Engineer (Mr. A. Gibbs) was able to establish communication with a man with whose speaking voice he was familiar; and though he was able to converse with him, it was not considered sufficiently satisfactory to ensure a telephone service that would meet the demands of an everyday service for the general public.

In the meantime the experiments are being continued, by way of Sydney, in the hope that the weakness in the connection may be overcome. That weakness apparently lies between Sydney and England. New Zealand could establish a telephone service direct to England, but that would mean rather heavy cost in new apparatus, which is not considered justified at present, particularly in view of the prevailing economic conditions.

### Toll Calls.

PEOPLE in New Zealand are apt to complain at times about the cost of telephone calls. These rates in the Dominion, however, are cheaper than they are in any other part of the world, which in view of the comparatively small population, may be regarded as an achievement. Australian charges are closely akin to those in New Zealand, but as the distances grow greater the Australian charges jump a little ahead of those in New Zealand, while those for the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and South Africa are very much higher than they are on this side of the globe.

To take one instance, for a toll call 400 miles (three minutes) the charge in New Zealand is 5/-, the charge in Australia is 5/3, in the United Kingdom 6/6, in the United States 8/-, in South Africa 8/4.

## Community Singing

### Australian Broadcasts

THE Australian Broadcasting Company recently desired to ascertain through various country centres, as to

## "THE MASCOTS"

Present Two Sketches,

(a) "The Fire Brigade"

(Alfred Lester)

(b) "The Baggage"

(Bertha Moore)

From 1YA — Feb. 14.

what constituted the most popular portion of the A.B.C. programmes. In each instance, Community Night broad-

## Useful Tips

IF for any reason it is necessary to remove the diaphragm from the telephone earpiece, it should be slid off sideways, and not pulled up from the magnets, as this is liable to bend it.

AN excellent means of reducing the damping of an aerial for short-wave work is to connect an ordinary neutralising condenser in series with it.

THE free gassing of an accumulator on charge is quite a good indication as to whether this is satisfactory, and if one cell gasses less than its fellows, it probably needs an individual charge.

casts from the Ashfield Town Hall were awarded the palm.

Community singing was recently introduced at the Sydney Town Hall, and thousands of people congregate there every Friday from noon till 2 p.m. Entrance to these concerts is free, but a collection is taken up for the A.B.C.'s hospital radio fund.

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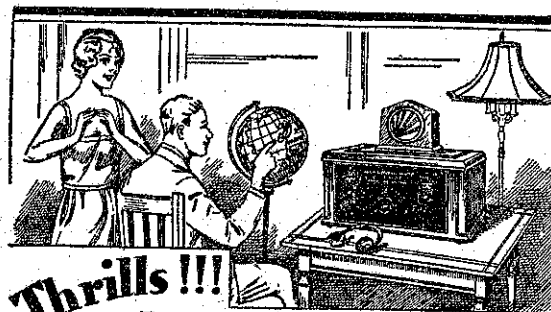
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