

Short-wave News

Vatican Station Testing.

THE new Vatican City short-wave station, of which so much has been written in the English and Continental radio Press, has at last come "on the air" with some very satisfactory tests.

The writer heard this station for the first time on Wednesday morning at 5.45 a.m., when a male choir was received at good speaker volume, with only one stage of audio. Several items were heard by this choir till 6 a.m., when "Hullo, hullo, is our volume all right?" etc., was called in excellent English. Then "Hullo, Paris!" "Hullo, New York." "Hullo, London!" all the main cities of the world being called in turn, followed by "This is the Vatican City testing." The wavelength was given as 50.26 metres. Reading tests in French, English, and Italian were carried out.

It was stated that a rehearsal would take place on the 6th, and the station be opened on the 12th. Volume continued good till about 7 a.m. Soon after this the station closed down.

Similar tests have been heard each morning since, always at the same wonderful volume and clarity. According to the daily paper, His Holiness the Pope will speak from this station on Thursday, February 12, at 3.30 or 4 p.m.

As Rome observes Central Europe time, this will be equal to 2.30 or 3 a.m. on the following morning in New Zealand. If conditions are good, reception should be all that could be desired.

KEQ, Hawaii.

MR. A. I. BREEN (Dunedin) reports hearing KEQ, Kauhuka, Oahu, Hawaii, on 44.5 metres from 8.10 p.m. till 8.34 p.m. on January 30. Volume at best was R9. Rapid fading reduced readability to about 20 per cent. Orchestral, Hawaiian guitar, and vocal items were heard.

News from U.S.A.

W9XAA is testing irregularly on 25.34 and 16.87 metres.

W3XAL—WJZ, 49.18 metres, revised schedule. Daily, except Monday, 4 p.m. till 6 p.m. Tuesday, 10.30 a.m. till 11.45 a.m. Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday, 10 a.m. till 11 a.m., and Friday and Saturday, 10.30 a.m. till 11 a.m.

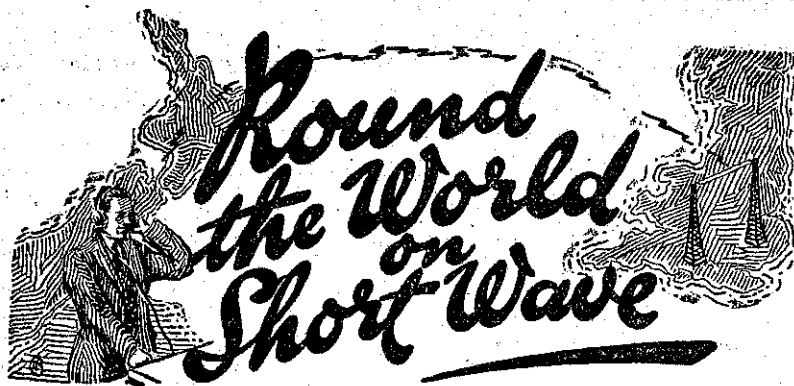
Mr. Raymond M. Bell, Carlisle, Pa., U.S.A., kindly sent this information.

12RO, Rome.

THE power of this station is 12 kilowatts. Hours of transmission are: 4 a.m. to 6 a.m., and 7.30 a.m. to 10 a.m., N.Z. summer time.

Short-Wave Station in Java.

IN addition to the Government stations in Java, particulars of which were published last week, various radio societies transmit regularly between 11.40 p.m. and



2.40 a.m., N.Z. summer time, on powers varying from 0.3 to 1 k.w. The following are the most active:—

PMY, Bandoeng, 58 metres.
PK1AA, Weltevreden, 74 metres.
PK8AN, Sourabaya, 49.7 metres.
PK2AF, Djocjarta, 50 metres.
PK6KZ, Macassar, Celebes, 25.5 metres, and
PK2AG, Samarang, 95 metres.

It is stated that the power of these transmitters will be considerably increased within a short time.

Log for Week Ending February 7.

RV15, Siberia, 70.1 metres.—Every evening at good volume.

Vatican City, Italy, 50.26 metres.—Testing each morning since Wednesday till about 7 a.m. Volume and quality excellent.

7LO, Nairobi, 50 metres (about).—Each morning till 5.45 a.m. Then from 6 a.m. Volume about R5 on average, but readability always poor.

W9XF, Chicago, 49.83 metres.—Till 7 p.m. each evening, R9 after about 5.30 p.m.

W8XAL, Cincinnati, 49.5 metres.—This station has been testing lately at a later hour than usual. On Wednesday and Friday I found them best, reaching R9 with recorded music. Reports were asked for. On Friday they signed off at 7.9 p.m. our time.

W3XAL, Boundbrook, N.J., 49.18 metres.—The best American at present for volume and quality till 6 p.m. each day. R9 for last hour.

W2XE, New York, 49.02 metres.—Very weak at 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Radio Saigon, Indo-China.—From 11.30 p.m. Heard on Saturday only, when volume as usual was R9.

W8XK, Pittsburg, 48.86 metres.—Sunday, R3 at 4.45 p.m., increasing to R8 by 5 p.m., with very noisy background.

HRB, Honduras, 48.62 metres.—Sunday, best just before signing off at 5.5 p.m., when they were R5, but only 25 per cent. readable.

Radio Piacenza, Italy, 45 metres.—Each morning good volume at 6 a.m., weaker by 7.30 a.m.

J1AA, Japan, 37.5 metres.—Monday, 9 p.m., R7, static, very bad. Typical Japanese music and singing was heard. Static was too bad to stay more than a few minutes.

VK3ME, Melbourne, 31.55 metres.—Saturday, from 10 p.m., test programme, consisting of records, relays of 3LO, and newspaper readings. Reception R9 with one stage of audio. Quality very good.

W2XAF, Schenectady, 31.48 metres.—Sunday reaches R8 by 4.30 p.m., but very gushy. Saturday, with a R.K.O. programme, till signing off at 4.1 p.m.; quite good at R7.

Zeesen, Germany, 31.38 metres.—Each morning; best about 6.30 a.m., but gushy each day recently; also a Morse station interfering.

W1XAZ, Springfield, Mass., 31.35 metres.—Saturday, signing off at 4.30 p.m., when they were R5.

N.Z. Short-Wave Club

Inaugural Meeting

A VERY enthusiastic meeting held on Monday last in the Dominion Farmers' Institute gave the newly-formed New Zealand Short-wave Club an excellent start in its activities. Mr. Sellens occupied the chair. The acting-secretary, Mr. McDonagh, then briefly outlined the objects of the club, and traced the work that had already been done toward definitely establishing it.

At the last meeting it was decided that the activities of the club be extended to country members, and in the intervening time many country listeners have sent in suggestions. These were one of the first considerations of the meeting, though several of them related more to the running of the club than to its constitution. Consequently the meeting unanimously supported the resolution adopted at the interim meeting to the effect that a club to help listeners and provoke interest in short-wave radio should be formed. All those present agreed to be members, and the officers were elected. Mr. Sellens and Mr. McDonagh were, without opposition, elected to the positions they had temporarily held. It had been agreed that the committee should consist of three members, and Messrs. Donnelly, Saunders and Comfort were selected. It was decided that the committee should approach technicians well

versed in short-wave radio with a view to selecting an advisory committee.

Quite a discussion centred round the question of subscription. There was a general feeling that it should be low, and that there should be differentiation between town and country listeners. All things being considered the meeting came to the conclusion that 7/6 for town members and 5/- for country enthusiasts would be a fair subscription.

For the country listener it was decided that the services of the advisory committee be made available and that the most interesting points raised be brought before the next meeting (held on the third Thursday in every month). An epitome of these should appear in the "Radio Record." Facilities would later be provided for country listeners to compare logs with other listeners, and valuable help would be forthcoming when it came to the compilation of reports. At the next meeting something would be decided about Q.S.L. cards for members, for it was intended to issue such cards to members and also to identify their receiving stations by a sign incorporating a serial number, a general sign, and a district letter. It was intimated that at some future date the log in the "Radio Record" be made that of the Short Wave Club. It would be truly representative of the whole country.

Mr. Donnelly, the delegate of the club to the meeting of the Amateur Transmitters' general meeting, advised that that body had been most sympathetic to the club and had offered whatever assistance would be acceptable. One member with an oscillator would be prepared to demonstrate the relative intensities of the "R" signal designations. This announcement was met with great approval by the meeting and a vote of thanks passed to the A.R.T. for their promised assistance. Likewise the acting-chairman and the radio press were thanked for their services.

The date of the next meeting will probably be the third Thursday in March, and in the meantime country listeners are invited to write the secretary, Mr. A. B. McDonagh, 274 Cuba Street, Wellington, for further information and to enrol. At the meeting some twenty or twenty-five enrolled, paying their subscriptions.

The club, being the first organisation of its kind to cater for town and country alike, merits whole-hearted support.

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