

The New Zealand Radio Record

—AND—

Electric Home Journal

(Incorporating the "Canterbury Radio Journal.")

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WELLINGTON, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1931.

THE "HAM" AND RADIO GIVE SERVICE.

IN the biggest national disaster that has yet afflicted the Dominion the radio broadcasting service vindicated itself and ably served the people. With an eye upon possible national crises and emergencies the Government some four years ago arranged that station 2YA should be of major power and audible over the widest possible area of the Dominion. In the disaster of Tuesday last and throughout subsequent days 2YA and associated stations were able to render an appreciated service to the waiting multitudes and anxious hearts throughout the Dominion. In those hours all must have been thankful for radio in its prompt dissemination of news.

IT was through radio that the first news of the disaster came. Particular credit in this connection is due to three amateur radio transmitting enthusiasts for their part in informing the Dominion of

the disaster and in providing definite avenues of communication between the stricken areas and the outside world. Without them many valuable hours must have been wasted ere any true story of the situation and the remedial measures necessary could have reached centres capable of giving aid. The high courage under continuing danger and steady devotion to duty throughout long hours of service displayed notably by Mr. Tyler, of Napier, Mr. Mills, of Hastings, and Mr. Hands, of Gisborne, are creditable in the extreme. The story of their work outlined in a special article elsewhere is of epic character. Wireless has to its credit many tales of devotion to the duty of maintaining communication. This story adds another to the roll. These amateurs ably served their fellows in time of need and added honour to their craft.

THE news slowly acquired from these sources was concentrated upon the Secretary of the Postal Department in Wellington and thence promptly communicated to 2YA, broadcast by it and relayed by all other stations which were in contact. Eagerly indeed was that news awaited at every loudspeaker throughout the Dominion that evening. Hours were extended to midnight to permit of every possible item of authentic information being collated and broadcast. In retrospect, the immensity of the disaster of which news thus slowly percolated through was not, and could not be, realised. New Zealand had become so accustomed to minor shakes that the possibility of a major visitation had rarely been contemplated. Unfortunately, the later news that has been so fully available and broadcast, has driven into the consciousness of all the terrible nature of the calamity. All accounts agree that the heroism of the sufferers has been remarkable. In the face of disaster money and position ceased to count. Fundamental humanity triumphed and the universal desire was to help one another. The extent of that help already given has been wholly admirable. It is for the Dominion to see to it, in the cooler moments that follow the first recognition of disaster, that that spirit is not buried under the ceaseless tide of everyday affairs and the helping hand left unextended. Radio has played its part in disseminating the news to the people—in telling them of the events of the crash and the needs of the sufferers; it is for the people now to play their part. All the indications are that that task will be faced nobly.

News for London

Radio Telephone Talk

A TREMENDOUS increase in the number of calls made through the trans-Tasman short-wave radio telephone service has been reported as the result of the tremendous upheaval in Hawke's Bay.

On February 6, New Zealand's Prime Minister, Mr. G. W. Forbes, conversed by radio telephone over a distance of 12,000 miles with Sir Thomas Wilford, New Zealand's High Commissioner in London. The Prime Minister stated it was still impossible to give any definite figure of the killed and injured in the earthquake, but in view of the anxiety which Sir Thomas Wilford explained was felt by New Zealanders in England, the Prime Minister said an effort would be made to send a casualty list the following morning.

Band Contest

THROUGH the courtesy of the committee controlling the band contest which is to be held in Wellington at the end of this month, several of the principal events will be broadcast by 2YA.

Radio Concert for Earthquake Sufferers

Wellington Town Hall,
February 23

A SPECIAL concert for the benefit of the sufferers in the earthquake area is being organised for presentation in the Wellington Town Hall on the evening of Monday, February 23. This concert will be specifically presented by performers frequently heard over the air from 2YA. Initial organisation is being undertaken by Mr. Victor S. Lloyd and Mr. Leon de Mauny, acting in conjunction. It is hoped to make this concert the basis of a special effort by radio listeners. Administration work in connection with the concert will be given by the "Radio Record," and an appeal will be made to radio listeners to attend in their numbers in order to make the concert an outstanding success, or forward subscriptions to the office of the "Radio Record," P.O. Box 1032, Wellington, when they will be acknowledged and added to the funds derived from the concert.

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