

News by Radio

Growing Use in America

RADIO is becoming used more and more by prominent newspapers for the collection of news. The paper which is giving the lead in this direction is the "New York Times." Recently, in a full-page advertisement, published in a number of other papers throughout America, this paper outlined the steps taken by it for securing by radio prompt news of world events for its services.

The "Times" maintains its own highly equipped radio news room, and receives nightly Press despatches from Rome, London, Berlin and Paris, Warsaw, Jerusalem, Moscow, Madrid, Geneva, Cairo, Istanbul, Athens, Helsingfors, Sofia, Budapest, Bucharest, Calcutta, Vienna, Dublin and Copenhagen, which are relayed by radio from London. From Paris, radio despatches are received covering news from Brussels and Lisbon.

The "New York Times" claims to have received direct radio messages from the Byrd South Pole Expedition; Kingsford-Smith trans-Atlantic and trans-Continental flight; Lindbergh goodwill flight to Mexico, Central and South America; Byrd North Pole Expedition and his trans-Atlantic flight; the Yancey Bermuda flight; Putnam North Greenland Expeditions; special test messages from Australia; Dyott's Expedition to the River of Doubt; Hobbs' Greenland Expedition; Grenfell Missions to St. Anthony and Labrador; Stoll-McCracken Expedition to Northern Siberia; Hassell-Craner attempted flight to Stockholm; Prospector's Expedition to Canada; Unflin Bowler 'plane, Chicago to Sweden attempt; President Calles' statement from Mexico City when insurrection threatened; Graf Zeppelin at Pernambuco on the American flight; the Yancey goodwill flight to South America; the Bartlett Greenland Expedition and the Dallas Spirit entry in Dole trans-Atlantic flight, in which it intercepted the S.O.S. when the 'plane went into a tail spin.

Historic Radio Station

Discovered on Long Island

A **DESERTED** shack which for years has stood neglected on Long Island, U.S.A., has been suddenly discovered to be of great interest as an historical landmark of the early days of wireless.

It has been identified as one of the first wireless stations in America, and was used by Marconi in 1900. The building has now been removed, and an effort will be made to restore it to its former condition as a wireless station. It was in the late autumn of 1900 or early in 1901 that Marconi located his Long Island transmitter near the coast line, where his wireless station might have best communication with incoming vessels while they were still some distance from New York Harbour. During the years that followed the building was abandoned for larger quarters.

Galapagos---Lost Isles of the Pacific

Stirring Broadcast from 4YA

THE stirring sea story of "Galapagos" will be broadcast by 4YA on Friday, February 27, by a strong cast of characters under the direction of Major Lampen. When first presented to an American radio audience "Galapagos" created a sensation, its echoes reaching even New Zealand.

This occasion was noteworthy because of the fact that Martin, "Red" Christiansen himself, told the story of his experiences at Galapagos. He is a taxi-driver in New York.

In introducing Christiansen to the radio audience, the announcer explained how one morning he had been sitting in his car reading a paper, when he chanced to see in the news that William Beebe was homeward bound from the Galapagos Islands, one of the lost places of the Pacific.

Christiansen read that item and rushed down to the dock so that he might greet the only man he had ever heard about who knew those islands. Christiansen was on the dock when the explorer arrived and the story he told Beebe afterward constituted a rattling good chapter in the explorer's book about those islands. All of that explanation was packed into a few sentences by the announcer, who then turned over the air to Christiansen, and let him speak for himself. He was the sort of man fully capable of that effort and proceeded along this line:—

"Well, I suppose the story begins when I signed up with the barque Alex-

ander, down on the other side of the world. That was at Newcastle, New South Wales, in Australia. The Alexander was loaded with a cargo of coal bound eastward across the Pacific for Panama. She carried a captain, mate, cook, and sixteen of us men.

"I had been living in a sailor's boarding-house, run by Nellie Simonds. The day we shipped, Nellie rowed out in the bay and brought some refreshments along as a parting gift. I don't mind telling you that her brand of refreshments made a bigger hit with us than the stuff we had to drink before we got through that voyage. As the tug took hold and started off, we sang to her, and she sang back. It was a happy send-off."

Before Christiansen stopped talking, there was hardly a radio ear in some thousands of miles that was not a-quiver with his story about those forsaken islands and the things that happened there. It was such a yarn as Stevenson would have liked to spin. A listener could experience for himself all the heartache, thirst, and peril that went into the sailor's adventures. In the end, it was pleasant to know that he had adopted the comparatively easy and safe pursuit of driving a New York taxi-cab, although many men of a less eventful past might call that high adventure.

Major Lampen will take the part of Christiansen in the 4YA presentation.

Of Topical Interest

(By "Switch.")

"**SWITCH**" listened to the re-broadcast of the Pope's address from the Vatican, per medium of 2YA, 1YA, 3YA, 2FC Sydney, 2NC Newcastle, and 3LO Melbourne. 2YA, while on the job, was as clear as any, but Christchurch with its mysteriously superior local advantages for shortwave reception, was reproducing a speech from Rome, on one occasion, when 2YA had to substitute gramophone records until speech became audible once more.

"**ADVICE**" (Kelburn) asks: "Are these mantel-clock types of a.c. receiving sets, with loudspeaker combined, built of high-class components?" This new type of set is now being manufactured by many American radio factories, including those of the foremost radio companies in the United States. As in the case of other types, these sets vary in efficiency. One should be guided by actual tests, price, and the name of the manufacturers.

"**SWITCH**" congratulates the ringside commentator at the Johns-Leckie fight at Auckland, whose excellent description of the bout was heard by him

from 1YA, Auckland. His commentary was excellent, and listeners were able to obtain a vivid idea of the contest throughout. The egotistical "side-talk" which has marred some of these boxing relays was completely absent. Listeners resent being told that the commentator is feeling very warm, and that he hopes someone will bring him a drink.

"**SCREEN GRID**" (Opunake) writes: "I watch with interest your weekly reception table of Australian stations, and in forming you a table of the same stations as heard here, I wonder whether it is possible to publish similar lists from other localities. It would be very interesting to see how the various stations listed are heard in different parts of New Zealand:

2FC	10	3LO	7½	3DB	4
2BL	9	3AR	7	2KY	4
2NC	9	2GB	7	5OL	3
4QG	8	2UE	6½	6WT	2½
7ZL	7½	3UZ	5½		

"My list, which is average reception, here differs a good deal from yours, and demonstrates that locality has a big bearing on reception. 2HD, Newcastle, 3LO, Launceston, 2AY, Albury, and several other small Aussie stations are heard as clearly as 2KY." "Switch" would be interested to learn how the stations he lists are received elsewhere.

3YA Musical and Dramatic Committee

Economic Talks

A meeting of the 3YA Musical and Dramatic Committee was held on Wednesday, February 4, Mr. T. W. Dent (representing the Orchestral Society) presiding. There were also present: Mr. W. H. Dixon (Royal Musical Society), Mr. R. J. Loughman (Male Voice Choir), Mr. S. Williamson (Professional Musicians), Mr. F. A'Court (Harmonic Society), Mr. J. Mackenzie (Station Director), and Mr. C. S. Booth (Administration Office).

Before commencing business a resolution expressing sympathy with the sufferers in the earthquake was carried.

The work of the station, and of the other New Zealand stations, was reviewed. Mr. Mackenzie stated that up to date, eleven open-air concerts had been held by 3YA, with satisfactory results. They were widely appreciated by the public and they broadcast well, although the people attending the concerts frequently had some difficulty in hearing the vocalists. As a result, the amount of instrumental music had been increased and the vocal reduced. The open-air concerts now also concluded at 9.30 p.m. and were followed by half an hour's gramophone recital from the studio.

The committee gave some attention to talks, particularly such talks as would be appropriate to the present time. It was suggested that talks by recognised economic authorities, explaining to people the nature of the slump and how the economic situation will right itself, would help materially to lift people out of their state of mental depression and infuse a spirit of optimism.

A recommendation to this effect was passed and the names of several speakers were suggested.

It was announced that an Alfred Hill programme would be presented on March 5, provided all the music is procurable.

The question of the Broadcasting Company's Subsidy scheme was referred to and much approval expressed.

Mr. Dixon: "From our point of view we have been very glad of the opportunity of interesting the people by broadcasting, and also the assistance financially has been very acceptable. I am quite sure, as far as we are concerned that it will do a great service if it is continued. Mr. Williamson and I mentioned in the paper last week how helpful the Company had been with their subsidy, in assisting us not only in educating the people musically but also in helping the local organisations."

Chairman: "Speaking for the Orchestral Society, I may say that if it had not been for the Broadcasting Company, we would have been in the bankruptcy court, if it is possible for a society to be so."

A **LEAGUE** is to be formed in Canada to combat a growing tendency of wireless programmes to develop along American lines.

ALL the Italian stations commence their broadcasts with a gramophone record of church bells intermingled with organ and orchestral music.