

Broadcast Innovation

B Station Relays 2YA

FOR the first time in the history of broadcasting in the Dominion, an "A" station was relayed by a "B" station when, on March 11, 2ZF, Palmerston North, relayed the programme of overseas recordings from 2YA, Wellington.

This innovation was the result of a decision of the Broadcasting Company made about a month ago when it was realised that relays of this description would give additional service to listeners-in. Owing to the Napier earthquake a line was not available until last Wednesday, but in the future it is hoped that the relay will be a weekly fixture.

The reception in the Manawatu, according to reports, was clear, with ample volume.

Radio in the Jungle

Keeping In Touch With Civilisation

THE directional antenna at station KDKA, Pittsburg, used for communication with Byrd at the South Pole, has now been arranged to point to South America, and messages will shortly be broadcast to members of the Matto Grosso Expedition in the heart of the South American jungle.

The explorers intend to keep in short-wave touch with the outer world when they are as far as 2500 miles up the Paraguay River. Special messages from relatives and friends will be transmitted on short waves from KDKA every Saturday night, and also relayed on the normal broadcast wavelength.

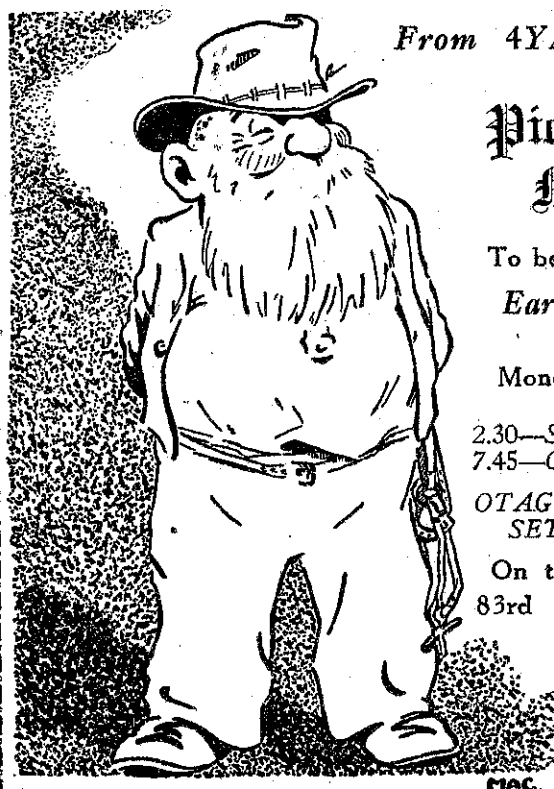
Story of 'Quake Heard by Radio in U.S.A.

THE following paragraph, published by the "New York Times" within twenty-four hours of the recent terrible earthquake, provides a forcible illustration of the distance annihilating qualities of radio:

"Perry W. Esten, radio amateur, said to-day he had received a message that 100 persons had been killed at Napier, New Zealand, by an earthquake.

"Esten, operator of short-wave station W8BOX, said the message was received from short-wave station ZL3OM, in New Zealand, under perfect reception conditions. He talked with the New Zealand station from 1.30 until 2 this morning, signing off when the New Zealand operator said he wished to get in touch with nearby stations to summon aid.

"The earthquake rocked many towns along the entire North Island district, Esten was informed, causing most serious damage at Napier. Here 59 oil tanks on the water front were set ablaze, the flames spreading inland and sweeping over the city. Doctors and nurses, said the radio message, were being rushed to the scene by water."



From 4YA, Dunedin

Pioneers' Night

To be Relayed from
Early Settlers'
Hall,
Monday, March 23

2.30—Speeches & Music.
7.45—Concert arrgd. by

OTAGO EARLY
SETTLERS' ASSN.

On the occasion of
83rd Anniversary of

Otago
Province

Interference Problem at Denniston

Listeners Form Radio Society

A LARGE meeting of radio enthusiasts was held at the Denniston Hall on Thursday evening, March 5.

The chairman explained that the meeting had been convened at the request of licensed owners of sets and dealers. For some considerable time reception had been poor, due almost entirely to local interference, in the form of howling, and to the effect of battery chargers being used during broadcasting hours. The purpose of this meeting was to devise ways and means of relieving the position, to request the authorities that some regulations be framed to give local radio inspectors authority to examine sets when there was suspicion that they were the cause of interference.

Were a society set up it would receive more recognition through its members than an individual responsible to the department. Some correspondence was read, showing there was no regulation to enable the local postmaster to deal with any offender. It was explained that there were 57 licensed radio set owners at Denniston and Burnett's Face, who were paying an annual fee of 30/-, and that in the majority of cases the sets owned by these ran into from £40 to £90, and that of late it was common for all to forgo the use of their sets through local interference.

The Broadcasting Company was powerless to assist, as were the Postal authorities, owing to there being no legislation to assist them.

Mr. W. Hanstock moved that a Radio Society be set up, this being seconded by Mr. W. Henderson and carried unanimously. The following were elected to the official positions:—Chairman, Mr. J. Brownlie; secretary, Mr. W. Hanstock; committee, Messrs. J. Adam, S. Morrow, G. Curry, H. Smith, V. Hanstock and Whitehouse, with the chairman and secretary as ex-officio members.

Mr. Hugh Smith suggested that there were several present who were thoroughly qualified to examine sets and by their findings be of considerable assistance to owners of sets who were not conversant with the technical side of radio, and he felt sure the latter would welcome advice and services. In many instances it would be found that those who were offending were doing so quite unconsciously. The meeting decided to appoint Messrs. H. Smith and V. Hanstock, who will, in company with the postmaster, call on all set owners on the Hill.

It was decided that the secretary communicate with the Postmaster-General, through Mr. H. E. Holland, M.P., and the Radio Broadcasting Company of New Zealand Limited, requesting that legislation be enacted to deal with local interference of all de-

scriptions which handicaps radio reception.

An effort is to be made for the establishing of one or more transmitting stations on the Hill. The wisdom of this latter idea was shown in the Hawke's Bay district during the disastrous earthquake recently, when it proved the only means of communication with the outside districts after the failure of the ordinary means of telegraphic communication. The society is very much indebted to Mr. Curry, the local postmaster, for his attendance and information and willingness to assist in every possible manner as local radio inspector.

In connection with the above the committee appointed at once set to work. In the first ten sets inspected one was found to be causing a great deal of interference. It was also found that two battery chargers were being used and the owners were requested to confine their use to outside broadcasting hours. A method of preventing interference from the vibratory type of battery chargers was also suggested. The committee is inspecting all the sets in the district.

Special French Radio Tax

A Listener's Difficulty

IN addition to the usual radio license fee, every set owner in France must make a declaration at the nearest post office and make a payment of sixpence. An English contemporary thus describes a French listener's experiences while endeavouring to pay this imposition.

"The girl who attended to him informed him that he was the first person to ask for a declaration form during the two years that she had been at the post office. After making a thorough but unsuccessful search, she consulted her senior colleagues, whose efforts were also fruitless. The would-be taxpayer was then requested to call again in a few days' time, when the form would be available. This, he remarked, he intended to do, and declared his determination to pay the tax, even if he had to visit every one of the 128 post offices in Paris."

It appears that there are instances where listeners have paid this tax, but these are very few in number, and no cases are known of any listener getting into trouble for not paying.

Czecho-Slovakian Radio

THERE are now 293,000 listeners in Czechoslovakia, and it is expected that the 300,000 mark will be reached shortly. To mark the event, the Czech broadcasting authorities will make a presentation to the 300,000th listener.

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