

The New Zealand Radio Record

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Home Journal

(Incorporating the "Canterbury Radio Journal.")

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WELLINGTON, THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1931.

TECHNICAL PROGRESS OF RADIO.

WITH the publication of the "Radio Guide," which marks the opening of another radio "season," we naturally look back over the twelve months that have elapsed since our last Guide came out and point out the salient features of radio progress. We said that we were on the threshold of a "radio season." That term, though serving our purpose as a definition, is not quite correct, for one thing the radio designer has accomplished is a reduction of the marked difference that once existed between the "seasons." Radio now is almost as popular during the summer as it is in the winter, and this is due mainly to the introduction of the powerful sets we have to-day.

Twelve months ago, the a.c. screen grid receiver had just made its appearance in this country. To-day it is established, and the number of receivers coming into the country otherwise equipped are very small indeed. The audio side, too, has been improved, and in many cases the unsatisfactory audio stages have been eliminated. The receiver to-day is as sensitive as atmospheric conditions will allow. Were it any more powerful, the noise level would be increased to a degree that would render listening impossible. This point is an important one, and to some extent has been responsible for the reduction of the number of stages in many of the sets. There were far more electric four valve sets sold last year than there were the year before.

This brings us to another important development, the midget receiver. It has been popular and to all appearances it will be increasingly so next year, for already midgets with gramophone combinations are available. This reduction of the size of the set is almost universal. Taken all round, the aim of manufacturers is to eliminate a large percentage of the waste space in the console receivers, for "compactness and efficiency" has been the slogan of the makers of modern sets. Another interesting development has been the extension of the set's functions. Last year it was very successfully combined with the gramophone, and this example has been followed up with the introduction of apparatus for home recording and the recording

of items broadcast. Though somewhat of a novelty at present, there is no doubt that this additional feature will be one of those to make the 1931 set distinctive.

The superheterodyne receiver has reappeared with the releasing of certain patents held by an American corporation. Most manufacturers considered the decision to make the patents available came too late in the season to take advantage of, but with the factories now working at their maximum it is likely that the superheterodyne will be manufactured by a large number of firms.

Television seems as far removed as ever. Although interesting demonstrations have been given none were sufficiently convincing to entice manufacturers to begin the production of receivers. The transmission of still pictures, however, is quite an accomplished fact, and trans-oceanic picture services are now in great demand. A more important link between countries is the radio telephone service, which has this year been widely extended. At this stage most important countries are connected up.

Short-wave transmission and reception has come much more to the fore. Far more general listeners are being attracted to this department of radio, and manufacturers are giving them consideration in producing electric combination receivers for long and short wave. It is a wise move, for even at present there is real entertainment value to be had through listening to these transmissions. The superior carrying power of these frequencies has alluring possibilities, and it appears that during the forthcoming year many transmitting stations will send out regular programmes on these bands.

Radio is fast settling. We need not worry about revolutionary inventions, for with the high standard now reached it appears as though attention will be directed to cabinet design, the addition of the gramophone, short-wave adapter, tone control, remote control and a host of other refinements.

English Agricultural Expert

To Speak to Farmers

FARMERS are advised to tune in 2YA at 7.40 p.m. on Monday, April 6, to hear a talk by Mr. Walter F. Giles, A.H.R.H.S., of Reading (England); on the subject of "Plant Breeding and Seed Production in England."

Investigation of seed-growing possibilities has brought Mr. Giles out to New Zealand. He is an Associate of Honour of the Royal Horticultural Society, an award bestowed upon him for distinguished services, and he is a member of the vegetable committee of that society. He has also had the honour of explaining to the Prince of Wales the plant-breeding work being carried out in experimental grounds at Reading.

Broadcasting Copyright Music

Interesting Test Case

THE American Society of Authors, Composers, and Publishers propose to collect a royalty fee for the reproduction of copyrighted music broadcast by radio and received in the lobby of a certain Kansas City hotel.

The case is regarded as vital to American broadcasting, especially in view of the increasing use of radio receivers in public gathering places, including theatres. Counsel for the defence contends that broadcast reception is not a performance of a musical composition, and that, if it is, the broadcaster does not perform publicly.

Copyright holders are empowered under the law to collect royalties for the

Will Bishop on the Films Again

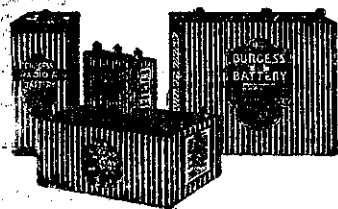
SOME considerable time ago the Government decided, very wisely, to film many of New Zealand's beauty spots and circulate these abroad. Many people who have made the trip to New Zealand will have seen some of them on the boat, others are shown in other countries.

With the advent of the talkies and the possibilities of sound synchronisation, these films are being brought up to date. Descriptive dialogue has been prepared, and the background is filled in, with specially-written orchestral scores. At the present time, two of these films are being shown in New Zealand theatres, one in Dunedin and the other at the Regent Theatre, Wellington. It is interesting to note that the commentator in both of these films Mr. Will Bishop, well-known to 2YA listeners.

The orchestration is in the capable hands of Mr. Mat Dixon, who has written and presented the special scores. His Salon Orchestra, which broadcasts regularly from 2YA, does excellent service in maintaining a musical background.

In Wellington the film "Rainbow River" is running. This depicts the very beautiful scenes along the Waikato River. One sees the trout fisher at his sport, the tumultuous falls, and the placid "wides"; the boiling pools in which the natives prepare their food. It is a picture well worth seeing and hearing.

public performance for profit of their compositions, and the broadcasters now pay royalties aggregating approximately 1,500,000 dollars annually (£800,000) for the right to use copyrighted music.



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