

America's Crowded Waveband — Serious Interference

THE Canadian Government has instituted negotiations in the hope of an international agreement in regard to broadcasting on the North American Continent and Cuba.

Complaints are frequently being heard to the effect that certain Canadian stations are subject to continual interference caused by other stations "sitting on" the channels used in Canada. One powerful station in Montreal transmits its programmes to the accompaniment of a steady whistle which has been traced to interference by a station in Havana. Toronto is affected still more severely by interference from a station in Mexico, and Winnipeg also suffers from the same Mexican source of trouble.

The conference in Washington last year came to an agreement regarding the use of short waves, but no reference was made to broadcasting. The Canadian authorities now hope that a conference will take place for the purpose of specifically allocating channels. Should such procedure not be possible, now that the root of the trouble has been discovered, it may be feasible to eliminate it by some mutual arrangement.

Useful Hints

GENERALLY speaking, an increase in the B voltage on the detector valve will mean increased strength of reaction.

WHEN reaction seems much too strong and it is inconvenient to take off turns from the reaction winding, the effective capacity of the reaction condenser can be reduced by joining a fixed condenser of about equal capacity in series with it. (The smaller the capacity in series the greater the reducing effect.)

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NOTES and NEWS from the NORTH

IT has been definitely decided to hold a Radio Exhibition in Auckland, the dates chosen being May 13 to 16 inclusive. It is not intended to make this exhibition as pretentious as the one held in 1929, owing to the current depression, but it will be an interesting and entertaining show nevertheless. It is to be held in the Town Hall as was the last one, but this year the Concert Chamber will probably be used in place of the main hall, and the exhibition will be open in the evenings only. The IYA programmes during the exhibition will all be actually performed before the public at the Town Hall and relayed by the station.

THE programme by the IYA Broadcasting Choir on March 31 was, without a doubt, one of the best ever presented from the Auckland station, and listeners have forwarded congratulations by the score. Congratulatory telegrams came from as far away as Dunedin, and the choir and conductor, Mr. Len Barnes, have every reason to be proud of their very excellent work.

AN interesting relay is to be given by IYA on Sunday afternoon, May 3. This will be the inter-denominational youth rally at the Town Hall, when the principal speaker will be his Excellency the Governor-General, Lord Bledisloe.

THE only live body of radio enthusiasts in Auckland at the moment appears to be the Amateur Transmitters' Association. On Sunday, March 29, they held a field day, dividing into three parties and proceeding to three widely-separated points. During the day communication between the three parties was established and the whole outing was an unqualified success.

MR. FRANCIS CHICHESTER, who left Hobsonville, Auckland, on Saturday on an attempted flight to Australia, via Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands, carried a small transmitting set with him, using the call-sign ZKAK and a 43-metre wavelength. This is the first long-distance solo flight ever attempted with radio equipment, and is typical of Mr. Chichester's well-considered plans. Casual in manner, he is remarkably attentive to practical details.

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Professional and Amateur Musicians

A CONSIDERABLE amount of correspondence has recently appeared in the Auckland morning daily in regard to the musicians performing at IYA. The point raised is that by giving programmes from amateur musicians and organisations hardship is being imposed on unemployed professional musicians. The correspondents claim that a first-class band of professional players should be engaged for the station to replace the bands of amateur organisations and clubs which are now frequently heard. As it is a large number of professional musicians are engaged to play from the station and so also are professional bands. However, the unemployed musicians no doubt have a grievance which at any rate merits consideration, and it is stated that the Professional Musicians' Union is exerting itself to see what can be done.

In conversation with "Call Up" on the subject, Mr. Harold Baxter, well-known Auckland conductor, expressed the opinion that a professional orchestra must come. Mr. Baxter, who is a professional musician and also conducts for an amateur orchestra, is well qualified to speak on the subject. He stressed the point that now is the ideal time to form an orchestra of professional players in Auckland. Before the advent of the talking pictures the amateurs were keeping good music going, but music was, on the whole, in a poor plight. As soon as an amateur showed particular talent he was engaged by a theatre orchestra and became a sort of pseudo-professional content to play the cheap music of the cinemas. Consequently the theatres had the cream of players playing inferior music while the amateur orchestras had less talented players playing good music.

Now that so many former professional musicians are unemployed there is an unprecedented chance to form a first-class professional orchestra to play the best music. The excellent work done by Mr. L. de Mauny and his orchestra in Wellington was instanced by Mr. Baxter as a worthy example to be followed in Auckland. Unfortunately, although many unemployed musicians are longing to play for sheer pleasure, necessity prevents them from doing so without fee.

Let them begin to play, form an orchestra, and as soon as they become known they can be assured of public appreciation and support. So far as IYA goes no reflection is cast upon orchestras or musicians at present performing there. The octet is recognised as excellent, but after all it is only an octet. The amateur orchestras are undoubtedly good for amateurs, but it is generally agreed that the professional standard would be higher.

Mr. Len Barnes, station director at IYA, states that he has heard nothing official in regard to the matter. The station wants the best available whether it be amateur or professional.

Children's Sessions

From 2YA.

MONDAY, April 13: The St. Michael's Boy Scouts will give one of their enjoyable entertainments to-night. There will be hakas, Scout chorus work, and fireside scenes. Uncle Jeff will be present.

TUESDAY: Jumbo has arranged for the Radio Train to bring a party of performing cousins to the Studio to-night, from Khandallah. Uncle Toby will be here, too, and will play on his mouth-organ.

WEDNESDAY: Another "Meeting Pool" story to-night, and some some jolly community singing by some cousins from Wellington College. Mind you all join in the songs with them.

THURSDAY: Uncle George and Brother Jack are taking all in the Radio Ship for a trip to the East. Pupils from Miss Rastall's Studio will give a concert to the children in the East.

FRIDAY: Uncle Jim and Story Book Man will welcome all the little People who are in the Toy Symphony, which is conducted by Miss Gertrude Johnston. They will play trios, with violin, violincello and pianoforte.

SATURDAY: Uncle Jasper, Aunt Molly and Spot have just received an invitation from Mrs. Victor Lloyd to be present at a play called "How Margaret Helped the Fairy Queen."

SUNDAY: The Children's Evening Song Service will be conducted as usual by Uncle George, and he will be assisted by the Children's Choir from the Wellington South Church of Christ, conducted by Mr. Thomas.

From 3YA.

Monday, April 13.—To-night Cousin Margot and Mystery Man will tell the children stories of fairies and adventures. A number of children will sing and recite. Cousin Gwea will play on her zither and sing the "Good-night Song."

Wednesday, 15th.—It is Uncle John we hear on Wednesday. He has the support of Miss Moore's choir. So we are looking forward to a bright hour.

Thursday, 16th.—"Hello," say Ladybird and Uncle Frank to the little ones. In song and story always cheery with Uncle Dick's ditties to join in the fun.

Friday, 17th.—Chuckie and Cousin Frances have many tales to tell and songs to sing. An interesting hour is in store.

Saturday, 18th.—Here's Aunt Pat! What a jolly time we'll have. A band of little folk will help to entertain.

IT is a good rule never to discharge an accumulator at a rate of more than one-tenth of its actual ampere hour capacity. (A twenty actual hour accumulator should not be called upon for more than two amps., etc.)

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