

The New Zealand Radio Record —AND— Home Journal

(Incorporating the "Canterbury Radio Journal.")

P.O. BOX, 1032, WELLINGTON.

Published Weekly. Price 3d. Subscription Post Free in advance, 12s. 6d. per annum; booked, 15s.

Literary communications should be addressed: "The Editor"; business communications to "The Manager"; technical communications to "The Technical Editor."

Advertisers are asked to note that alterations of advertisements should be in hand Friday of each week for insertion in the succeeding issue, printed Tuesday, bearing Friday's date. No responsibility is accepted for blocks remaining unclaimed three months after last insertion.

RADIO PUBLISHING COMPANY OF NEW ZEALAND, LTD.
P.O. Box 1032, WELLINGTON.

WELLINGTON, FRIDAY, MAY 1, 1931.

RADIO LISTENERS' LEAGUE.

WHEN radio first became popular in this country, and the Radio Broadcasting Company was struggling with a small revenue to give a service satisfactory to the public, leagues of listeners were formed in different parts of the country to act more or less as whippers-in of the Company, and energise effort for the improvement of programmes. These were supported by groups of enthusiasts, who advanced their ideas as to the course the Company should take. The Radio Broadcasting Company, anxious to please its listening clientele but handicapped with the wherewithal to provide all that was asked, did the best that it could to meet the demands for expansion. As time went on, it was able by increased revenue to enlarge its service, until the general all-round efficiency of the service reduced the need for continued energetic advice and the "leagues" of those days died a natural death.

WITH the inception of a number of B Class stations throughout last year, an effort has been made to revive interest in listeners' leagues, and institute a Dominion-wide organisation. This movement was started in Dunedin, in which centre there are a large number of B Class stations. The league was launched at the time the B Class stations were in difficulties with Performing Right Association, and through their then failure to come to terms seemed likely to be compelled to close down. On a wave of enthusiasm thus organised, the movement was launched and efforts made to "carry the gospel" into other parts of the Dominion.

ON Wednesday night last the initial meeting to establish a Wellington branch was held in trade premises. Although there are in Wellington city and district 14,000 to 15,000 licensed listeners, thus representing households of probably 70,000 to 75,000 people, the attendance at the meeting was approximately 50, of whom a definite number were intimately concerned in the organisation. This small attendance may be taken as a distinct compliment to the general satisfaction felt by listeners with the services now given by 2YA and other stations. Possibly listeners feel that the various committees

such as the Church Committee, the Musical and Dramatic Committee, and the Children's Committee, which have been formed by the Company among those specially fitted in those fields to offer advice on their special subjects, meet the position of moulding services to listeners' needs. Those committees certainly do good work. In establishing them, the Company felt doubtless that by collecting experts in each field together in one committee, it would secure the best advice upon which to build its programmes. With that in view listeners, as indicated, probably felt there was little need for further organisation.

THE "Radio Record" desires nothing more than to see the progressive expansion and development of radio, and the attainment of saturation point in the Dominion from the radio listening point of view. Anything, therefore, that will advance radio deserves fair treatment and support. We have our doubts, however, as to whether those primarily responsible for the organisation of the Listeners' League are entirely disinterested. The organiser is the secretary of the B Class Stations' Association, and that Association is naturally concerned to advance its interests by all possible means. The duality of office might therefore be compromising. It might easily be that the side interests represented by these B Class stations might later desire a policy inimical to the best interests of radio listeners in general and the secretary of one body and the organiser of the other might then find it difficult to decide just where he was. For instance, if the B Class stations demand a part of the listeners' fees, or desired the Government to appropriate money from listeners' revenue to relieve the B Class stations of copyright fees payable to the Copyright Association, it would, we think, be a course of action calculated to weaken the existing radio services. We do not feel satisfied that sooner or later some such demand as this will not be made, and therefore listeners are, in our opinion, well advised to view this League and its sponsors with some suspicion. Mr. Owen, elected president of the League, is well known in radio circles, having filled that position in a league now apparently defunct. Mr. Leslie Jones, also active in the organisation of the League, brings his reputation of interest in radio forward from the past. He certainly showed vitality and energy beforehand, and if listeners desire a repetition of the policies then urged, doubtless the necessary support will be forthcoming.

"And So To Bed"

Samuel Pepys in Radio Form

A THREE-ACT comedy, "And So to Bed," founded on the diary written by the famous Samuel Pepys, will be broadcast from 1YA on Tuesday evening, May 5. The studio presentation will be under the direction of Mr. J. W. Bailey, who will lead a strong cast.

The following note, written by the author of the comedy, J. B. Fagan, is very interesting: "For many years I had been fascinated by the idea of putting Pepys on the stage in a full-length play. I came to the conclusion that any attempt to dramatise the diary, or a part of it, would probably result in a scrappy type of chronicle play which would fail to give a living portrait of the diarist. So I began where the diary ended, and placed my play in June, 1669, a few days after the last entry. "There is no historical foundation for the happenings in 'And So to Bed,' but there is a seed in the pages of the diary from which they might have grown, and did grow in my imagination. I think I may claim to have drawn Pepys' portrait faithfully from his own revelation, and that there is little he says and does in my comedy which could not be paralleled in the pages of the diary. To those who may object that I have not shown the grave sober Pepys, the Secretary of State, the father of British Admiralty, I can only say that I happened to catch him as the amorous rogue on an afternoon that was all comedy. And that if I have not extenuated, I have set down naught in malice."

WHY?

Kingsford Smith uses Burgess Batteries. Commander Byrd uses Burgess. More Burgess Batteries are sold in New Zealand than any other make. Why?

BURGESS RADIO BATTERIES

Mullard

THE MASTER VALVE

Embodies all improvements known to Valve Manufacturers.