

Long and Short Wave Broadcasts

4ZO Schedule

LAST week we announced that station 4ZO, Dunedin, would broadcast simultaneously on long and short waves. Here are fuller details:—

4ZO is owned and operated by Barnetts Radio Supplies, The Octagon, Dunedin.

At the present time it is operating on 30 watts, but in the near future this power will be increased to at least 150 watts. The long-wave is 277.8 metres (1080 kc.) and the short-wave is 49 metres. The schedules are daily from 12.0 to 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., except Sundays. Additional hours, Monday, 8 p.m. until 11.0 p.m.; Friday, 7.0 p.m. until 11 p.m., with extra sessions from time to time.

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New Variable-Mu Valve

AT a recent meeting of the Institute of Radio Engineers, a new principle in screen-grid valve design was announced, according to George Lewis, vice-president of the Arcturus Radio Tube Company, Newark, N.J., and chairman of the Vacuum Tube Committee of R.M.A.

"This new valve, known as the type 551 variable-mu tube, bears promise of having a wide and useful application in radio set design in the near future," says Mr. Lewis.

"The type 551 operates on the variable-mu principle, wherein cross-talk and modulation distortion, caused by high-powered local stations, is practically eliminated. It is built to handle a signal 25 times greater than present-day screen-grid valves, which means smooth, even volume in reception at all times.

"This new valve," says Mr. Lewis, "not only makes possible a vast improvement in the operating efficiency of a radio set, but permits certain advantages and simplifications in the circuit arrangement. I believe that this is the most versatile valve development in a good many years."

Our Mailbag

Government Control.

IN a previous issue of the "Record" you invited your readers to send in their opinion of the projected Government control of broadcasting. In my opinion it would be an absolute calamity. I think the Radio Broadcasting Co. is doing all it can to please listeners, often going out of its way to give them something good and fresh. In the radio notes of a weekly contemporary of about three weeks ago, an article was published showing what Australia has lost by the Government taking it over. I think it would be interesting to your readers if you were to reproduce that article. Now, I have heard many expressions of opinion about radio. For instance, I have heard it stated that there is nothing in wireless, or that there is too much music sent over the air, or that wireless is not yet perfect.

In reply to these statements, I would like to instance the opening of the Dunedin Radio Exhibition lately by the Postmaster-General at Wellington (not of Wellington, mind you). This was rendered possible by the wonderful system of relay.

Then, as to too much music, the other evening just before going to bed, I

tuned in to Adelaide and heard part of an address by Lord Baden Powell to boy scouts. It was most interesting, and was one of many lectures and addresses that can be heard any night.

As to not being perfect, is anything perfect? Four or five years ago we thought motor-cars were perfect; now a five-year-old car is almost out of date. These facts are well worth considering. —Scotty.

B Class Stations.

YOU mentioned in your editorial that you were afraid that some of the money paid for listeners' fees would be given to B class stations. I think that as far as Southland is concerned some of the money should be given those stations because the Radio Broadcasting Co. has not given us a station of any consequence to suit this part of New Zealand. The only station any good for this part is the Wellington station, and at times is quite unsuitable, and not suitable in any way for crystal sets. One local B class station is increasing the power from 100 watts to 1000 watts in the next few months. I do not think that listeners who could get a reliable service from this station would object to their fees being paid to it. Apart from that, the programme he gives with records is superior to the Wellington station's programme, with its 80 per cent. singing articles, and most of them are only third-raters. What we want is powerful stations with plenty of good musical items, and when singing is put across it should be of the very best. Otherwise I think gramophone music the best every time. —Efficiency.

[The position of Invercargill and provincial towns in a similar position would most satisfactorily be met by arrangement being made for the Broadcasting Company to extend its services to such provincial centres by the establishment of suitable relay stations. A programme proposing this development was advanced by the Radio Broadcasting Company more than two years ago. The main advantages of such a scheme would be (1) that the one overhead would cover the whole service, and (2) linking in with the main stations would result in the provincial towns being given a much better range of programmes than can be given by a number of independent and isolated B class stations. The provincial towns certainly deserve consideration, but they will receive a far better service by incorporation in one full scheme for the whole Dominion than by the diffusion of listeners' funds over a number of independent B class stations.—Ed.]

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