

## Rugby Broadcasts

### Wellington Union's Decision

CLUB Rugby football matches in Wellington are to be broadcast this season under the same arrangement as last year, according to a decision reached at the weekly meeting of the Management Committee of the Wellington Rugby Union held on May 13.

The chairman, Mr. J. Prendeville, in reporting on the conference held with representatives of the Radio Broadcast-

## Ever Mounting Upward

### Licenses Increase a Thousand During March

THE following return of radio licenses shows the position obtaining when the year expired on March 31, 1931:—

District.	Reers.	Dealers.	Trans.	Exper. and special	Free.
Auckland ....	18,913	312	94	2	101
Canterbury ...	10,486	263	61	2	56
Otago .....	7,095	188	45	2	35
Wellington ...	25,968	516	136	6	54
	62,462	1,279	336	12	246

Total: 64,335.

It is interesting to note that on March 31 last year the total stood at 52,467. This represents 23 per cent. increase in the last twelve months. The fact that during the month of March licenses increased by 1100 odd indicates the growing popularity of radio even in these times.



CONDUCTOR J. M. WATSON, of the Wanganui Garrison Band, which is presenting a concert on relay from 2YA on May 28.

ing Co., said that it had been agreed that the broadcasting should commence the following Saturday, and that the game at Athletic Park each week would be broadcast, unless there were some game of national importance being played, in which case a Saturday would be skipped if the committee agreed. In reply to a question, Mr. Prendeville said that the Broadcasting Co. would not agree to make a contribution to charity, and he did not think it would be possible to come to any better arrangement.

The sub-committee's action was approved, the only dissentient being Mr. J. Moffitt, who continued to hold the opinion he had expressed previously, that the company should be asked to pay for the privilege.

### Announcing Titles

A LISTENER suggests that the titles of musical items should be announced at the conclusion of the item. One often misses this when announced before the item, and then, when something particularly pleasing is played one does not know its name. The suggestion appears sound, but it is easy to find the names of most items by referring to the programmes published in the "Radio Record."

## Relay from Wanganui

### Garrison Band Concert

STATION 2YA will broadcast on relay from Wanganui on Thursday, May 28, a concert to be given by the Wanganui Garrison Band. No name is better known in musical circles, for the band has occupied an honoured place on the prize list of every contest for decades past. At present, under Conductor J. M. Watson, it is in splendid form and an excellent programme has been arranged for its first broadcast concert.

The Wanganui Garrison Band was formed in 1882—nearly 50 years ago—and is therefore one of the oldest contesting bands in the Dominion, with a record that few bands, if any, in the world can boast of. A glance at the band's contesting record shows the reason why the citizens of Wanganui are so proud of their famous Garrison Band. It has to its credit 26 firsts, 9 seconds and 5 third prizes—a truly wonderful record. The prize list includes: First prize at the Christchurch International Exhibition Contest, 1907, were 29 bands competed and the honour of "The International Prize Band"; first prize in selections at Dunedin Exhibition Contest, 1926, and winners of the Australasian Championship (selections and quickstep) at Ballarat in 1910. The Garrison Band is the only New Zealand band that has won the Australasian championship.

### Famous Conductor.

THE band played under Mr. Watson when it won first prize at Dunedin, and recently, after an absence of two years in Australia, this very capable conductor again resumed the baton.

Mr. Watson became well-known in New Zealand through his conductorship of the Garrison Band in the "A" grade tests at the Dunedin Exhibition

Contest in 1926, winning both test selections—"Der Freischütz" and "Faust" (Berlioz)—and receiving the high compliment from the adjudicator—Mr. Ricketts (of "Colonel Bogey" fame)—"that their playing was well-nigh perfect."

Mr. Watson was early associated with bands, for at the age of nine years he was a playing member of the band

which won the "A" grade championship of Australia at South Street, Ballarat in 1906, and at the age of 15 years he rehearsed and conducted a boys' band at public performances in Geelong, Victoria. In 1914, at the age of 17 years, Mr. Watson enlisted for the war. After service in France and Egypt he was selected conductor of the Australian Band that played before the then Princess Mary and other members of the Royal household, when the Princess, on behalf of the women and children, presented a shield and colours to the Australian Imperial Forces. At the conclusion of the war Mr. Watson availed himself of the opportunity of further study of music at the great English Military School of Music—Kneller Hall.

After he returned from the war Mr. Watson was appointed conductor of the Lithgow Band, New South Wales, and at the Sydney Contest in 1923, he swept the boards, winning the "A" grade selections, open quickstep, and "B" grade selection contest. At South Street, Ballarat, this band was again a prize-winner. Mr. Watson has not confined his sole attention to bands, for he has had many notable successes in the choral world as a conductor. At the Bathurst Bistedfodd in 1922-23 he conducted the Lithgow Orpheus Society to success in every choral section, Grand Choral (80 voices), Ladies' Choral (30 voices), Male Choral (30 voices) and defeated, among others, Sydney's leading choirs.

### Organisation.

THE broadcasting of the Band's Honorary Members' Concert will be welcomed by bandmen throughout Australia and New Zealand. The popularity of the band was evidenced when it secured first place at the Dunedin Exhibition Contest, over 100 telegrams of congratulation being received from all parts of Australasia, and even as far afield as the Islands.

The band still retains in its ranks such well-known bandmen as: W. Hichman, W. Francis, J. J. Collins, R. Boyd, J. Farrell, C. Brown, J. McGrath, O. Williams, R. Burt, W. Miller and H. Hall (secretary).

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