

Two-piano Numbers

WHEN listeners hear two-piano items broadcast from 3YA on June 10, they will probably imagine two pianos standing side by side in a 3YA studio with Miss Maisie Ottey at one keyboard and Miss Merle Miller at the other.

That is the usual way that two-piano items are played, but it is not the way to be followed at 3YA. Instead, Miss Miller and her piano will be in one studio and at the other end of the building, in a different studio, will be Miss Ottey, her fingers "chasing the ivories" on a studio grand.

How is it that, out of sight of each other, they work in unison? The explanation is that by the use of headphones, each knows exactly what the other is doing.

The two artistes have been rehearsing assiduously and the method of inter-communication has proved very satisfactory. A microphone stands beside each piano so that the playing of each performer and any comments she cares to make are conveyed instantly to the other performer in the distant room.

This system of communication was devised to avoid the necessity of having both pianos in one studio for the playing of the items. As both studios are required for the presentation of a programme, the moving of a piano from one studio into another would be an operation which would not only be impracticable, but would probably upset the tuning of the instrument.

German-Polish Radio Pact

To Settle Dispute

A PACT of non-aggression and international co-operation on the ether has recently been concluded by the Polish and German wireless authorities.

Negotiations to this effect were begun as a result of friction arising out of the celebration by the Germans of the anniversary of the Upper Silesian plebiscite. On that occasion a great deal of matter was broadcast from German stations which the Poles regarded as anti-Polish propaganda.

The two parties now declare that they are in full conformity with the principles laid down in 1926 by the International Wireless Council, which read as follows:—

"The Council of the Union expresses the desire that the wireless undertakings should take all possible steps that their programmes dealing with political, religious, economic, intellectual, and artistic matters should in no way violate the spirit of international co-operation which is absolutely essential in order to enable the wireless to fulfil its honourable mission and bring about an international rapprochement."

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Radio Licenses Renewals

Drop Representing 25 Per Cent.

THE license figures for the end of April are to hand and reveal the fact that the total number renewed was 46,875, of which 595 are dealers'. This represents drops of 17,460 and 684 respectively on the figures for March 31; the percentages are just over 25 in the case of the grand totals and just over 50 in the case of dealers'. It is interesting to look back at previous returns and see how the figures compare with this year. In 1930, before the licenses fell due, there was a total of 54,800 odd, but only 40,000 renewed, representing a percentage decrease of 25 per cent. The dealers' figures fell from nearly 1200 to 740, a percentage of 35. The year previous there had been approximately 45,000 at the end of the year and 36,500 odd renewed—18 per cent. not renewing.

These figures are interesting and illuminating, particularly in view of the severe economic depression and taking into account the fact that of the number who have not renewed very many intend to and will do so within the next few weeks. This has been the practice of large numbers in previous years, and will undoubtedly prove to be the case this year. The fact that the same percentage renewed this year as last shows that the depression is having little or no effect on the radio listener, and it may be confidently expected that within a short time the previous total of 60,000 odd will be attained and passed. Times, however, are hard with many of the dealers, particularly with the smaller ones and those who run a radio in conjunction with another business. The drop of 50 per cent. is a big one and has been equalled only when the increased fees came into force a couple of years back. The disappearance of the smaller dealer is to a large extent due to the falling-off of the sales of batteries and parts and the growth of the mail-order systems. Following are the detailed figures for April 30, while underneath are the figures for March 31:—

District.	Recrs.	Dealers.	Trns.	Exper. and special.	Free.
Auckland	14,776	192	71	—	84
Canterbury	7,238	118	60	—	36
Otago	5,498	85	27	—	24
Wellington	18,330	200	94	3	39
	45,842	595	252	3	183

Total: 46,875.

District.	Recrs.	Dealers	Trns.	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.

Broadcasting From Aeroplane

Aerial Description of Auckland

ON Saturday afternoon, May 23, an attempt was made to broadcast a description of Auckland as seen by an aeroplane passenger. The experiment was carried out through the collaboration of Falcon Airways, Limited, and Johns, Limited, through the courtesy of the Post and Telegraph Department.

During the week, two members of Messrs. Johns, Limited, staff, Messrs. Marett and White, at a very short notice, assembled a small shortwave transmitting set for the 'plane, and a test was arranged for Saturday between 2 and 3 p.m. Notice was given from 1YA and 1ZR, but only meagre details were announced in the hope that shortwave amateurs would keep off the air during the test. Unfortunately it was spoiled to a large extent by inconsiderate short-wave tuning in before the 'plane rose. Afterwards, however, interference was practically nil.

The 'plane was piloted by Captain Hewitt, with Mr. Marett at the microphone. Mr. R. B. Hardy, of Mt. Eden, the well-known president of the Auckland Lawn Tennis Association, had placed at the disposal of the experimenters his aerial and telephone line, and a relay was carried out from here to 1ZJ. Some difficulty was experienced at first in getting the relay through, chiefly because the 'plane was on the ground, and apparently screened from Mount Albert.

At 3 p.m., however, when the 'plane took the air, and climbed to 6000ft., the signals increased, and steadied, and during the trial flight the signals were very clear and easy to hold at Mount Albert. Every word was heard by the operator, and from reports received as far away as Pukekohe, the experiment was a great success. However, 1ZJ would be very glad to receive any reports from listeners, for, now that a start has been made, it is hoped that further tests will follow.

The test lasted for about half an hour, and reception experienced little difficulty whether the plane was over Mt. Albert or much further away.

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