

The New Zealand Radio Record

—AND—
Home Journal

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WELLINGTON, FRIDAY, JULY 3, 1931.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF BROADCASTING.

AT its annual meeting the Taranaki Radio Society wisely devoted some time to a discussion of the future of broadcasting. Taking the announcement of the Postmaster-General that the Government intended to make itself responsible for the broadcasting service, one speaker tabled a resolution to the effect that the meeting record its emphatic disagreement with the proposal for Government control, and urge that the present company, which had pioneered the service up to date, should be given an extension of its license for a further period, after which the position, if necessary, could be reviewed. The discussion which followed promulgation of this motion showed that the meeting was seized not only with the stringency of the present economic position, but with the undesirability in general of the Government making itself responsible for such a delicate and intricate thing as a broadcasting service. The president of the society, Mr. F. T. Davis, said that, after mature consideration, he felt that the proposal was not in the best interests of listeners, as broadcasting was not the kind of thing in which Government control was likely to be successful. Its activities would tend to become stereotyped and out of touch with public needs. These views were endorsed by Mr. E. J. L. Payne, vice-president of the society, and by a number of other speakers.

THE tribute to the pioneering activities of the Radio Broadcasting Company, and the service it has built up, comes with appropriateness from Taranaki. It will be remembered that, owing to geographical and physical factors, reception in Taranaki of 2YA never has been of the best, and after a period of agitation the local radio enthusiasts were successful in forming a local society to establish and control 2YB, with co-

operation and assistance from the Broadcasting Company. This was an effort to give service in the Taranaki area and conquer the disability referred to. That development has achieved a degree of efficiency which is commendable, and 2YB has established for itself a praiseworthy reputation in the Taranaki area and even further afield.

WE believe that the views so strongly expressed at the annual meeting of the Taranaki Society are generally held by the majority of listeners. Government control is, in our opinion, definitely not wanted, either by the radio trade or by listeners. This is not to say that the existing service gives 100 per cent. satisfaction to everyone affected. That is not so, and never will be so. Owing to its very nature, broadcasting is peculiarly subject to criticism. Tastes differ. Requirements vary, and moods change. Matter which would please one listener one night will not interest him another. Apart, therefore, from the variability of human nature as between individuals, there is the variability of the individual himself. All those factors mean that he who runs a broadcasting service must recognise the impossibility of satisfying all the people all the time. All that can be striven for is the objective of supplying a broad, comprehensive service on definite lines, calculated to give a major degree of satisfaction. That, we believe it is recognised, the company has aimed to do, and in that recognition, and with the company's greater responsiveness to the needs of the service, we think listeners in general would prefer to see arrangements made for the continuance of the service under private control, than for the Government itself to intrude into what is to it a largely unexplored and unknown field. Certain conditions calculated to effect steady improvement may rightly be emphasised by the Government, but in our present circumstances more beneficial results are likely to accrue for listeners by private control than by Government control.

Rotarians to Rotarians Cable Ousted by Radio

An Across-the-World Broadcast

AT 10.30 (New Zealand time) on the night of June 25 the Rotarians of Schenectady (New York) and Melbourne (Australia) were in fraternal and harmonious contact per means of radio. A Rotary breakfast in Schenectady at 7 a.m. corresponded with a Rotary supper in Melbourne at 9 p.m. (Australian time), and the broadcast of the very interesting proceedings was carried out by Station W2XAF, Schenectady, and Station VK3ME, Melbourne, respectively.

President Smythe, of the Schenectady club, opened the proceedings with a cordial address to the Rotarians assembled in Melbourne and those of their fellows who were listening-in throughout the world, after which there came a song of greeting by members of the club, followed by the singing of "Maryland, My Maryland."

Then the announcer at Schenectady informed the Melbourne Rotarians that they would like to hear them sing. New Zealand listeners who were tuned in to 2YA, which carried out a very successful rebroadcast, were unfortunately unable to hear the response to this request, owing to a Morse station crashing over the wavelength of 3ME.

Following the Melbourne song, a speaker at Schenectady expressed in felicitous terms America's sympathy with Australia in the troubles she was experiencing, and their good wishes for a speedy recovery therefrom, concluding with "Good-bye, good luck, and God bless you all."

The Schenectady High School Band, of sixty strong, then played a selection, after which both clubs, though a world apart, joined in singing "There's a

On Indo-European Route

WIRELESS, which is usually given a halo of romance, was actually responsible for the termination of a romantic episode in Empire history, when several months ago the Indo-European cable route was closed. This 6000-mile line, running from London to India, has been rendered unnecessary by the efficiency and cheapness of the beam wireless system. It was opened for service in 1870, and since then many lives have been lost in the perpetual "war" against brigands, rioters and other influences tending to break the chain.

Regular Television Programmes

FROM April 1 regular television programmes, synchronised with sound, were made available through stations WGBS and W2XAR to listeners in New York City. A standard 60-line system with 20 pictures per second, which has been found to give comparatively excellent reproduction, is used, and will in future be adopted by American television stations already in existence.

Long, Long Trail." The speakers on both sides voiced sentiments expressive of a warm desire for world peace. "The Washington Post," played by the Schenectady High School Band, brought the unique proceedings and a most interesting broadcast to a close.

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