

future of "B" class stations, and suggests that the sum of £10,000 be set aside from the revenue derived from listeners for the purpose of subsidising these stations. A better way, I consider, would be to increase the annual license fee by, say, 3/-, and have listeners understand that this amount is added to their 30/- for the express purpose of maintaining efficiently-operated "B" stations. These are fulfilling a very useful service throughout the country, and cannot be allowed to go out of existence through lack of revenue, or through any Mussolini tactics. Nor can advertising over the air as a source of revenue for these stations, be tolerated any degree whatsoever. Weak-powered "B" stations, however, should either be made to increase their aerial output power, or be forced to close down. The ether is cramped enough already; in fact, the heterodyning position is becoming decidedly serious, and still the number of new broadcasting stations continue to increase. It is strange that no station takes a wavelength between 2YA and 2FC. There is room for three or four stations between 680 and 720 kilocycles.

Regarding the future of broadcasting in New Zealand, I think that the present license of the R.B.C. should be extended in preference to Government control. I cannot agree with the proposed system of relay stations. Land lines always seem to be most unsatisfactory. Only this afternoon I was listening-in to a relay from 2YA to 3YA, rebroadcast through 3YA to 4ZP, Invercargill, of the Ranfurly Shield match between Wellington and Southland, and the noise from the land line, combined with interruptions, was sufficiently bad to make one grind one's teeth. I was properly fed up with the transmission by the time the final whistle sounded. If this is a sample (and former relays have been as bad) of what listeners have in store with the system of inter-connected relay stations, then Heaven help the future of the radio trade in this Dominion. No, this is intolerable. The correct thing to do, as I pointed out in a letter several weeks ago, is to increase the power of 1YA, 3YA, and 4YA to 2000 watts, so that they can be heard well anywhere in New Zealand. This extra power will tend also to cut down noises caused by atmospherics. Subsidiary "B" class stations in selected situations sufficiently far from a YA station, must then be reconstructed so that each has a power of 1000 watts, which will give them a wide range even on nights when fading and static are bad. This I consider to be the ideal system, much to be preferred to relay stations, with land-line noises, etc., which are sufficient to kill the enthusiasm of any prospective listener.—Electrad (In'gill).

Do Not Weaken YA Service.

WITH regard to Mr. Nimmo's suggestion to subsidise "B" grade stations in the four main centres and other selected country places. This appears to me quite unnecessary, and in my opinion serves no purpose. It is to be sincerely hoped that should this approach any more that a suggestion that listeners-in will rigorously oppose it, as fees diverted to other channels must of necessity affect the quality of YA programmes, which even now at times could stand much improvement.

It has frequently occurred to me that the Broadcasting Company could with advantage bring the power of 1YA, 3YA and 4YA up to something approaching 2YA, and thus do away with either relay stations suggested or any possible claim that "B" grade stations are rendering the listening public a service. Primarily these stations are put into operation to advertise radio gramophone businesses, etc. On the whole they are not listened to to any great extent, and during the past four or five years I have not listened to more than three or four complete programmes. This is the case with most listeners.

It is pleasing to note that immediately there does not appear to be any danger of Government control, and that private enterprise will continue, which is, it must

be admitted, the only efficient way of conducting such a service.

I am sorry to take up so much space, but I could really say quite a lot more about the matter of "B" grade stations. One has only to go down to lower wave lengths on a powerful machine, and verily I believe the Tower of Babel has been, and is being, reproduced in our days.—"B Flat."

More Pep for Dinner.

AS a listener-in to 2YA principally, I would like to make a suggestion—one that has been voiced by many people in my hearing. Why not give us a brighter dinner hour programme? That is not the time to concentrate on 1st and 2nd movements. The dance programme commences at 10.30. How many of the country "listeners-in" sit up for that. 2YA could very well take a lesson from the smaller stations, who give us excellent programmes when they are on the air—bright, snappy, and short items.—"Patient Listener-in."

Too Many Stations.

HAVING read several "Mailbag" letters on programmes and advertising, I would like to add a further grievance, and that is there are far too many stations being granted license to operate between 1350 kilocycles, 222m., and 1050 kilocycles, 295 metres. It is practically impossible to listen to a station between these frequencies without the accompanying howl caused by another station. I think the time has arrived when the authorities in New Zealand and Australia took up the reins and allotted wavelengths, hours of transmission, etc.; and saw to it that there was no deviation, such as under the camouflage of "testing." Do those who are saying they have no objection to advertising realise that once advertising is allowed it won't be long before they will be squealing for it to be stopped? You can depend on it that once the "B" stations take it up the YA's will soon follow suit. I don't want to listen to anyone's adverts, and won't listen either. I bought my radio so I could enjoy music and talent. If advertising is granted I will go back to the gramophone.

Re programmes, I am sure the R.B.C. are trying to cater as much for listeners, and themselves, as possible. I would like to hear more dance bands, and would suggest that such a combination be engaged at each YA station so we could have a real dance night once a week. Then what about community singing? Surely each station could devote one night a month to a programme of this nature.—"Anti-Advertise."

Duplications Condemned.

I WISH to join in the conflict between the B station enthusiasts and their opponents. I have not heard any objectionable matter in the way of advertising from any B station as yet, but am in the habit of listening more to our local stations, of which we have a goodly number, than to the A stations, which, although they provide a good service, have many shortcomings. There is one thing that particularly puzzles me, and that is—why are all the four YA stations broadcasting the same class of matter at the same time? Would it not be far more acceptable for, say, Auckland and Christchurch to have dinner music 6-7 p.m., and Wellington and Dunedin news and reports during that time, following on with music from 7-8 p.m.? This could be alternative among the various stations so that at least one station in each island could be giving music between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. At present there is a gap of an hour or more if 2YA shuts down the dinner music at 6.50, as they have been doing often lately, before one can tune-in in a musical programme from any A station. In my own experience, and doubtless my view is shared by others, we could quite easily dispense with most of the news given in the news and reports sessions, as there are not many country districts nowadays which do not get a newspaper the same day as it is published. Any-

way, how about the A stations making an effort to give us some variety between 6 and 8 p.m.?—"Ricky."

"B" Stations Received.

ALL criticism regarding radio in general is perhaps helpful. Being one of the first broadcast listeners in New Zealand, a little more would not be amiss.

The main topic just now seems to be the "B" class stations. In your leading article in this week's "Radio Record" it is stated that there are approximately 30 "B" class stations in operation in New Zealand. In my opinion this is far too many for a small country like New Zealand. These stations could be graded into two classes (the good and the bad); this comes from the fact of a check up of all "B" stations of late, and 40 per cent. of the above stations could be classed as really good stations—that is as

regards modulation, programmes, etc. As we all know, all stations are allotted a given frequency. There are "B" class stations which do not stay on the frequency allotted to them. This means the offending station is perhaps parked on the wave of another station. The outcome is a jumble up of speech and music; every station has a wave meter, or should have, to hold his wave in check. The offending station is not doing justice to himself or the other fellow.

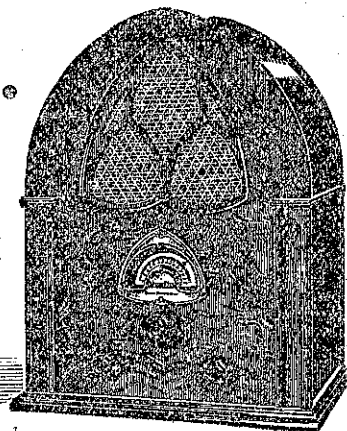
Each station is allotted certain hours for broadcasting, and certain "B" class stations always seem to be on a test programme; records which are played are on the downward grade in many cases. To play a well-worn record on test does not give the official listener a 100 per cent. test for modulation, because distortion is bound to creep in.

A few of the "B" class stations are operated on two wavelengths, a frequency (Concluded on page 28.)

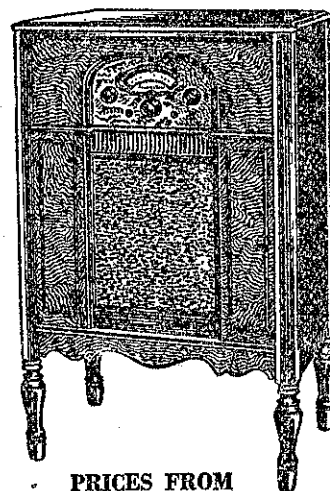
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