

Radio's Future Chamber of Commerce Resolution

THE Council of the Wellington Chamber of Commerce last week adopted a recommendation from its legislative committee on the subject of broadcasting control. The committee submitted a long report upon the subject in the course of which it stated that at the last meeting of the council a resolution had been proposed involving recommendations to the Government in regard of the control of broadcasting. Two very vital principles were involved in this resolution—namely: (1) The encroachment by the Government further into the field of private enterprise; (2) the granting of a monopoly in a public utility to private interests. Assurances had been given that there was no intention or desire on the part of the Government or on the part of any Government department to take the place of the Broadcasting Company, or to exercise any further control, which it must be recognised was necessary, than they did at present. The committee submitted the following resolution for the consideration of the council, with a recommendation that it be passed:—

That it be a recommendation from the chamber to the Government that in considering the question of the control of radio broadcasting in New Zealand, any system of control decided on shall not involve any further encroachment by the Government into the field of private enterprise; and that in the event of the British or Canadian system of control being adopted, proper safeguards be provided against the possibility of any political control; and that in the event of a monopoly being granted to private interests, more adequate safeguards be imposed with regard to the restriction of profits and the application of the income from license fees than are contained in the present agreement with the Broadcasting Company.

The recommendation was adopted.

Nelson's Viewpoint

THE Nelson Radio Club at a recent meeting passed the following motion expressive of its views upon the future of broadcasting:—

"That this meeting approves of the principle of private enterprise in the control of broadcasting in New Zealand, and that the Government be asked to renew the license of the Radio Broadcasting Company for a further period, subject to the provision that relay stations are established within a certain time in the various provincial centres, including Nelson, and that in view of the expressions of opinion of experts that Nelson is the most unfortunately placed for reception, this city should have first consideration when the establishment of relay stations is being decided."

In a letter forwarded to the Postmaster-General covering the above

"Fire" Broadcast Appreciated 2YA's Enterprise Evokes Commendation

JUDGING from the amount of correspondence received by the Broadcasting Company, 2YA's enterprise in broadcasting a commentary on the big fire on Saturday, July 18, was greatly appreciated. Letters have come from all parts of New Zealand. Many a countryman sat up late that night listening-in to a description of a city fire and "saw" more than if he had been an actual eye-witness.

One of the most interesting tributes comes from the staff of the Hamilton Fire Brigade, 240 miles away. One can imagine these fire-fighters, like war horses scenting battle afar off, sitting round the loudspeaker in their station listening to a vivid description, in the background of which was the shrieking of fire-engine sirens, the orders given to the firemen, the roar of motor-cars bringing thousands of spectators, the hiss of fire hoses in action and the many intermittent explosions. The letter from Hamilton reads:—

"The members of the staff of the Hamilton Fire Brigade desire to convey to you their appreciation of the excellent description of the fire of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Company's premises, which was broadcast from station 2YA.

"Reception was very good, and we could follow the progress of events almost as well as if we were actually present as eye-witnesses.

"Please convey our congratulations to the announcer of station 2YA for the excellent manner in which he dealt with a most unusual and difficult subject."

THE broadcast was certainly one of the most thrilling ever listened

to. Commenting on it the "Christchurch Times" said:—

"Probably for the first time in New Zealand the scenes at a destructive fire were broadcast on Saturday night. A few minutes before eleven o'clock station 2YA, Wellington, announced that the large building of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Company in Customhouse Quay was on fire. At 11 p.m. the announcer took a microphone on to the parapet of the studio building, and, for nearly two hours, described the progress of the fire as it swept through to Featherston Street. The shrieking of the sirens of the fire-engine could be heard as additional machines arrived, the size of the outbreak requiring practically the whole of the fire-fighting equipment in Wellington. An engine was even brought from the Miramar station, seven miles away. According to the announcer, the flames were leaping fifty feet into the air above the building, and the whole of that portion of the city was illuminated by the fire.

"A strong north-west wind was blowing in gusts and was carrying the smoke right across the harbour. The screaming of the wind amid the tops of the nearby buildings could be heard, while from the street below the studio there was a continual roar of motor-cars arriving with spectators. Orders given to the firemen could be heard above the noise of the traffic, and all the time a vivid word picture of the ever-changing scene was being given by the announcer. This unexpected addition to the broadcast programme was exceptionally interesting."

Napier Relay Station

AS stated last week, the Broadcasting Company received a request that a 2YA programme should be relayed weekly to Napier and broadcast by Mr. T. B. Hansen's station in that town. The Broadcasting Company has, however, now been informed by the Post and Telegraph Department that the necessary line is not available, the present telephonic connection being unsuitable for the transmission of musical frequencies.

resolution, it was stated that many speakers commented on the distortion and fading experienced in relation to 2YA at Nelson on account of that city being situated in the worst fading area of the Wellington station. It was also stated that the opinion had often been expressed that static was worse in Nelson than in any other district in New Zealand, inasmuch as it was sometimes experienced during daylight as well as night. The claim that Nelson, on account of its special disabilities, should be included in any system of relay stations was strongly supported.

Programme Notes

IN future relays of the speeches given at Rotary Club dinners will be a regular feature on 2YA programmes. Practically every notability who visits Wellington is a guest at a Rotary luncheon.

MR. JOHANNES ANDERSEN, librarian at Turnbull Library, has been engaged by 2YA to broadcast a series of talks on folk lore of the Maoris.

DETAILS of the concert to be broadcast by 3YA on relay from Kaipoi on Monday, August 24, have now been finalised. The Kaipoi Orchestra and the Kaipoi Male Choir (under Mr. Geo. March) will contribute. The Mayor of Kaipoi, the Rev. W. H. A. Vickery, will speak.

ON the Monday following the Kaipoi concert a concert will be relayed from Rangiora.

MR. GEORGE ARMSTRONG, born in Akaroa 78 years ago, and for the past 28 years Mayor of the town, is to give a talk from 3YA concerning this very historic little place.

Grammar School Concert A Varied Programme

ON August 5 the Auckland Boys' Grammar School annual concert will be relayed by Station 1YA. This is the first occasion this school's concert has been relayed for some years, and listeners are assured of a varied programme to suit all tastes.

The Auckland Boys' Grammar School has a roll number of over 900 boys, and probably possesses more activities of a musical and social nature than any other secondary school in the Dominion. Many of these activities will be represented at the forthcoming concert, as the programme printed elsewhere in this issue will testify. The boys taking part range from 13 years to 18 or 19 years of age, and the programme is arranged to give scope both to the juniors and to the older boys.

The school choir of some 60 voices provides many attractive items. This choir, which consists of four parts—soprano, alto, tenor, and bass—is trained and conducted by Mr. K. J. Dellow, M.A. As well as the combined items, there are vocal solos, trios, and sextets.

The school orchestra will play four numbers. This orchestra is probably the biggest school orchestra in New Zealand, consisting of some 48 players, some of whom are quite finished musicians. All orchestral sections are well represented, there being 30 violins, 1 cello, 2 flutes, 3 clarinets, 2 horns, 4 cornets, 2 trombones, 1 euphonium, 1 Eb bass, and a piano—and, of course, the drums and effects! The orchestra is in the hands of Mr. F. M. Price, M.A., B.Com. Instrumental solo items this year will be violin, piano, and horns.

The school band, a recent institution, has made rapid progress under the guidance of Mr. N. Nicholls, M.A., and Mr. Bowes. Consisting of some 24 players, it assists at many indoor and outdoor functions throughout the year.

The dramatic club, trained by Mr. Harris, a well-known Auckland elocutionist, will present a Shakespearean item by the senior boys, and a humorous sketch or burlesque by the junior members.

The gymnasium items are always of interest to audiences, but although horizontal bar work and tumbling will not "go over the air" very successfully, the school jazz band will give entertainment to listeners at these periods. This combination consists of the usual jazz instruments, including saxophones, of course!

On the whole, this unique concert promises to provide an excellent evening's entertainment.

Australian Radio Licenses

THE following shows in detail Australian wireless statistics as at June 30, 1931:—

	Receiving Licenses.	Ratio to 100 population.
N.S.W.	122,748	4.91
Vic.	137,265	7.66
Qsind.	24,216	2.55
S. Aust.	30,333	5.21
W. Aust. ..	9,144	2.17
Tas.	8,263	3.74
	331,969	4.19