

Radio Helps

Unostentatious Service by 2ZW

A QUIET but efficient service to the cause of charity has been given by radio over recent weeks. Shortly after its inception station 2ZW brought under the notice of Wellington listeners the necessity for according support to the Mayor's Relief Fund. Definite service was given in this direction. Immediately thereafter attention was devoted to bringing under the notice of listeners the needs of the Wellington City Mission, conducted by Canon Fielden Taylor. That work is still being pursued with markedly beneficial results.

Suitable attention has also been given to cases brought under the notice of the Society for the Protection of Women and Children. That society informed the station of specific cases of need that were not being handled by any other organisation. Generally speaking, the sufferers were people who preferred to suffer in poverty rather than ask for assistance. As a result of publicity given to these cases a great deal of help was forthcoming, with the result that, for the time being, the needs of the society are fulfilled, although, of course, more will be wanted later on.

In the case of the Wellington City Mission the volume of support secured to that institution by mention of its needs over the air has been surprising. Up to date, approximately 50 tons of foodstuffs, apart from a large total of small parcels, have been made available by various generous donors. Cash to a total exceeding £500 has been received from listeners all over New Zealand and handed over to the mission. The largest sum was a cheque for £50, but, in general, the donations have been small and have come from the furthest point in the south to the extreme north. Innumerable bundles of clothing have also been provided for the mission, and no attempt has been made to compute the volume thereof.

Many pathetic cases have been cited over the air and the response of listeners to the call for assistance has never failed. A recent case was the citation of the need of an old woman for the sum of £10, to avoid being evicted for non-payment of her rent. Within 24 hours the sum of £12/7/8 was made available by listeners and sums since received have lifted the total to £15.

This work in the cause of charity is not altogether new to New Zealand, as the announcer of 2ZW instituted a somewhat similar service in Christchurch some three years ago, when operating an experimental station there. At various times Mr. Strachan has rendered assistance in the way of bringing humanity into the world, in feeding and clothing humanity, in furnishing homes, and, as a final service, providing funds for burial.

Mr. Harris Interviewed

Alternative Schemes Discussed

INDEPENDENT SERVICE APPROVED

IN the course of an interview Mr. A. R. Harris, general manager of the Radio Broadcasting Company, Ltd., made a few additional comments upon the company's statements published elsewhere.

"I might, perhaps," he said, "emphasise the fact that Mr. Goodfellow did not seek the responsibility of inaugurating and operating a national broadcasting service, and that he only accepted the responsibility at the request of the then Government. At the invitation of the Prime Minister, for the company's views, Mr. Goodfellow had now formulated a comprehensive

sides were interdependent and inseparable: the finest technical administration could be marred by inefficient studio work, and vice versa.

As to Government control of both the technical and programme sides, it would be invidious for the company to make comparisons so far as the technical side was concerned; but in respect to programmes it was open to serious doubt as to whether such a service could be handled as well by any State department as by a private company free from all political entanglements.

As to entrusting the control of broadcasting in New Zealand to an ostensibly non-political board, such as existed in the case of the British Broadcasting Company, Mr. Harris stated that the conditions in this Dominion were widely different to those in England. The conditions under which the B.B.C. operated were such as to exclude any anxiety as to finance, the revenue available being virtually unlimited and greatly in excess of the highest possible requirements for the maintenance of an efficient service. Under such a system the members of the board had no personal monetary responsibility, which was essential to the exercise of that prudent economy demanded by New Zealand conditions. In the United Kingdom they had something like twenty-two stations for about forty-six millions of a population, while in New Zealand it had been necessary to maintain four for a population of one and a half million. Further, the area to be covered in this Dominion was greater than that of the Old Country, and the company's experience had demonstrated that it would be necessary to establish at least eleven relay stations in order to give a radio coverage anywhere near comparable to that of England—a total of fifteen stations for a million and a half people, or one station per every 100,000 population, as against one station for every two million population in England. It had to be remembered, too, that the English listener was not confined to the service provided by the B.B.C., but that he also obtained the benefit of numerous European stations, many of them within less distance than that which separated the four main stations of New Zealand. Apart from these facts, it was impracticable to disassociate Government ownership from direct or indirect Government control, without seriously jeopardising the public interests. All these factors had been considered by the company in formulating the scheme that had been submitted to the Government. In effect, the scheme provided for a public company operating under Government regulations and controlled by a board of directors consisting partly of a management having substantial monetary interests and responsibilities, and partly of shareholders representing licensees elected on the basis of district representation. The licensees' represen-

Praise from Honolulu

"When in Honolulu I was interested to hear so many favourable opinions concerning the New Zealand broadcasting stations, particularly 2YA," remarked Mr. V. Riddiford, of Lower Hutt, on his return by the Niagara. "Even the shop assistants in Honolulu talk about the wonderful New Zealand radio programmes and the marvellous orchestral playing. I was rather surprised about the orchestral playing until I realised that they mistook occasional gramophone records for the playing of local symphony orchestras."

scheme which, as the result of experience, it was believed would constitute the best possible means of providing for the development of the broadcasting service in the best interests of the community."

In respect to the various alternative methods of control to which public reference had been made, Mr. Harris stated that so far as State ownership or control was concerned, as an alternative to private enterprise, that was, of course, a matter of Government policy. In respect to the company's views, however, he had the following comments to make:—

As to dual control, which he understood had at one time been seriously contemplated by the authorities, with the idea of operating the technical side through their own department and assigning the programmes to private enterprise, the company's inquiries had revealed that where this system was in force it had not worked satisfactorily. It was believed that maximum efficiency was impracticable under such a system, experience having proved that the technical and programme

Puccini Society

Concert to be Broadcast by 1YA

NEXT Sunday evening, August 23, after the relay of the service in the Baptist Tabernacle, 1YA will broadcast a sacred concert which is to be given in St. Benedict's Church by the Puccini Society, under the direction of Signor A. T. Constantini. This choir has a fine reputation as a musical organisation in Auckland.

Signor Constantini was for many years a member of the Sistine Chapel Choir which toured New Zealand some years ago. He was persuaded to stay in this country in order to give New Zealand the benefit of his experience in church and operatic music in Italy.

The choir will sing several numbers which are not known outside the Roman Catholic Church, and will conclude the programme with a very fine Pontifical Mass, written by Monsignor Lawrence Perosi, conductor of the Sistine Chapel Choir. This is a choral number for three mixed voices with violin obbligato.

tatives on the board of directors would be ex officio members of the advisory committees of the respective stations, and would come to the board meetings with a full knowledge of the requirements of their particular districts. These directors would be jointly responsible with the management directors for the efficient control and development of the service. As a public company details of its operations would be regularly made public, and so all grounds for suspicion and misrepresentation would be removed. The system proposed safeguarded the interests of the listening public and assured efficient management, all without cost or liability to the State.

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