

The New Zealand Radio Record

—AND—
Home Journal

(Incorporating the "Canterbury Radio Journal.")

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RADIO PUBLISHING COMPANY OF NEW ZEALAND, LTD.,
P.O. Box 1032, WELLINGTON.

WELLINGTON, FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 1931.

BROADCASTING AND POLITICS.

THE dramatic developments in the political field which took place on Friday afternoon and the revelation thereby made of the serious state of the country's finances, make it more imperative than ever that the future of broadcasting shall be definitely divorced from State control or interference. It is plain that in the present circumstances the State will not be justified in intruding into a service which is achieving a high degree of efficiency under the direction of private enterprise. The editorial opinions from the leading journals of the Dominion, which are quoted in another column, show very clearly that the whole sentiment of the Press and people is against any additional load being placed upon the public finances. From the point of view of practical politics and expediency the idea originally mooted by the present Postmaster-General of State Control of the service may be regarded as dead.

EFFORTS are now being made in some quarters to foster the idea of a public corporation on the lines of the British Broadcasting Corporation. The driving force behind those furthering this plan seems to be antipathy to personalities rather than adherence to principles. In England the B.B.C. scheme is achieving a definite measure of success, largely because of unlimited financial resources and a splendid type of directional ability. Our financial resources are limited and we have not the supply of talent of all kinds comparable to that at the call of the B.B.C. A State corporation here would necessitate State backing and guarantee involving financial liability and commitment sooner or later. In our circumstances we can see no good

purpose to be served by creating a more cumbersome machine, to perform functions already being adequately discharged.

THE proposals advanced last week by the Radio Broadcasting Company are to be considered by a full conference of the radio trade on Tuesday. Since this conference was convened the political circumstances of the country have changed. In our opinion the trade would be showing a breadth of view and a regard for the best interests, not only of themselves but of licensees and the country in general if it were to give full and favourable consideration to the new proposals of the company with a view to co-operation and harmonious development. Lessons have been learned from past experience which are valuable to all concerned. That experience, we believe, can be capitalised for the future and an efficient machine made out of the proposed board of directors representative of the management, listeners and the trade. The times are difficult. Radio broadcasting in the scheme of the country's development is important but also is a relatively minor matter. It would be a happy solution of the future if representations could be made to Parliament that the radio interests were united on a scheme for the harmonious development of the future on a basis independent of political aspects. Negotiations to that end on the skeleton of the scheme already published might, we believe, achieve a satisfactory result; that is, if modifications are desirable on the one hand and possible on the other. The proposals appeal to us as fair and protective of all interests. Listeners are assured of representation in line with interest; they have the guarantee of progressive development of new stations and a measure of protection from interference of man-made character. On that platform only adequate management is required to meet all reasonable needs.

Educational Lectures by Radio

Proposed W.E.A. Scheme

THE use of radio as a medium for bringing education to people is soon to be utilised to the greatest advantage by the Workers' Educational Association.

The use of radio in this way is not new, although it has not made as much progress in this direction as might have been expected. The possibilities are very great once a definite plan of campaign, working on a satisfactory schedule, has been drawn up.

The Broadcasting Company has always shown its willingness to co-operate with the educational authorities in this matter. It has placed its broadcasting facilities at the disposal of the Department of Education for one hour a day on the five school days of the week, but the department has so far been able to avail itself of only one hour a week, from station 2YA, Wellington. Further developments in this direction can be expected.

Workers' Educational Association lectures have been broadcast regularly, but at the annual conference of that organisation a sub-committee, consisting of Messrs. W. H. Cocker, H. M. Richmond, and E. Blair, was set up to investigate the question of broadcasting. The committee's report has now been forwarded to the Broadcasting Company, which has replied expressing its willingness to co-operate, not only by placing the broadcasting stations at the disposal of the W.E.A. for a definite period one night a week, but by offering financial aid in addition.

In accordance with the suggestion of the W.E.A., the organising of this educational session will be the responsibility of a special committee. The time proposed for allocation is 7.30 to 7.55 p.m.

on one evening of the week from each station.

The W.E.A. hopes steadily to develop this branch of its work. On this point, the sub-committee's report remarks:

"When fully developed the scheme should, we feel, result in the appointment of an educational director who will supervise the educational work, organise listening groups, attend to correspondence with groups, and prepare or arrange for the preparation of 'Aids to Study' of the kind used in England for the use of groups. We feel that the work is so important as ultimately to justify the appointment of a full-time official for this purpose."

When one considers the possibilities which exist in bringing lectures by specialists to the people, particularly to those living in the country districts, it will be realised that radio can be of tremendous benefit.

**JOHNSON'S WIRELESS
AND RADIO SCHOOL**

There is remunerative employment for qualified radio men on shore and ship. The up-to-date methods of instruction and modern equipment provided at the school enable the student to obtain a most thorough and practical course. All papers connected with the Correspondence Course are promptly corrected in New Zealand.

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