

would involve the expenditure of money. It was all very well to say that the listeners were paying, but the moment the change-over was made, an immediate improvement in the system would be demanded, and there would be widespread disappointment if the changes were not made.

This would involve more expenditure, and Mr. Coates said he was inclined to think that the question was one warranting very careful consideration at a time when the country was trying to conserve every available penny. Everyone was anxious that the listeners should have the most up-to-date programmes possible, but that meant money, and he doubted whether the present facilities offered by the company were very materially different from those that would be provided in the future.

Mr. Waite said the House should consider very carefully whether the Government should be given the control of yet another of the public's entertainments. One felt impelled to ask when the Government was going to stop taking over the control of social activities.

#### Reference to B Class Stations.

Mr. D. G. Sullivan (Labour, Avon) asked whether the Government had any policy with regard to the B class stations.

Mr. J. A. Nash (Reform, Palmerston) said he would support the plea for the listeners-in to have a voice in setting up the board.

Complimenting Mr. Nash on his democratic spirit, Mr. W. E. Barnard (Labour, Napier) said that Mr. Howard's case was unanswerable.

"I am going to vote against the Bill altogether," declared Mr. D. Jones (Reform, Mid-Canterbury). "It is wholly wrong to bring this matter under the Government at all." It would be paraded continuously in the House, he said, and there would be bitter debates about the quality of the material being sent over the air. The board would be looked upon as a political board.

The Postmaster-General, replying to the discussion, said that the B class stations would be controlled by the board. Although times were bad, the number of licenses was increasing, and that showed there need be no fear about the revenue. He was satisfied there would be sufficient funds to provide the service required. If he was in office when the board was appointed the listeners-in would have their say so far as administration was concerned.

Mr. Howard: What do you mean?

Mr. Donald: They will be appointed to the board.

A Voice: What! All of them?

At present, the Minister said, no names whatever had been considered. He resented the suggestion that two men had already been nominated. Personally he had a perfectly open mind in the matter. "I can assure members there will be no political appointments," he concluded.

Mr. M. J. Savage (Labour, Auckland West) said the Government should take complete control of the broadcasting service, which should be part and parcel of the Post and Telegraph service.

The opinion that the Government would be well advised to keep out of the service was expressed by Mr. R. A. Wright (Reform, Wellington Suburbs).

The Bill was read a first time.



While we welcome the expressed views of listeners on topics pertaining to radio, we ask that these communications be kept to minimum length, as heavy demands are made upon space. Mere reiteration of arguments cannot be accepted for publication, and we cannot take responsibility for views expressed. Address communications to the Editor, and sign all correspondence, though a nom-de-plume may be used for publication.

#### Private Enterprise in Broadcasting.

I HAVE read with interest the views of various correspondents re YA broadcasting, and cannot believe it is so bad as some state, nor yet so good as the enthusiasts assert. It might have been worse; it could be better. The quality of available local talent has a strong bearing, which is possibly why many B station programmes are so appreciated. Still many listeners must be doubtful if the best use has been made of the talent available. If one may criticise, the principal fault would appear to be lack of enterprise, due to which the same type of purely concert programme, with little relief, comes to us night after night. There seems to be a tendency to fill the evenings with the most easily-obtained material, and of this perhaps the "Octet" at IYA is an outstanding example. Recently an effort has apparently been made to provide interesting lecturettes on a variety of subjects, and I know this is being appreciated by many.

There has been much talk of B stations advertising, but YA stations are big offenders. A recent talk upon the doings of the IYA Musical and Dramatic Committee was, in present circumstances, nothing but cleverly camouflaged advertising, not so blatant, I must admit, as many of the talks on N.Z. manufactures. Advertising, like speculation, evidently must be done on a large scale to be successful—small stations cannot get away with it.

Regarding the future of N.Z. broadcasting, many listeners will agree that this should not be in the hands of a private company, when the spur of competition is removed by the granting of a monopoly. The necessity for a profit is obviously opposed to the expenditure of the greatest possible amount in equipment and programmes. In this connection the figures published by the R.B.C. would appear incomplete and unconvincing. It is possible that if the stations should be taken over at valuation, by another authority, the company's shareholders would find themselves well paid for their pioneering efforts.

It would seem only fair that some consideration should be given to B stations. It is admitted they are on the air for their own purposes, as certain advertising advantages accrue which they must consider of value. Still many of us, whose fee of 30/-, less Government deduction, goes wholly to YA stations, are drawing the major portion of our entertainment from B stations, who certainly appear to deserve something more than thanks for their very successful efforts to entertain and

amuse. It seems reasonably probable, too, that some of the high class B stations would be inclined to allocate a large portion of any receipts to still further improvements, especially if some minor and well-controlled advertising concession were granted. If it be considered that private company control is most advantageous, we should then have it, minus monopoly and plus competition, and judging by some of the B station programmes at present on the air, should be exceedingly well served.—Tikirawa (Auckland.)

#### Private Enterprise Favoured.

IT is very interesting to read Press accounts of the proposed company for broadcasting, also the counter opinions of the New Zealand Radio Listeners' League. I specially note listeners, not license holder. In this house there is one license holder and an unlimited number of listeners.

I vote against State control absolutely—not one State-controlled business being satisfactory. The broadcasting should remain in the hands of trained successful business men, whose methods have brought the company to the position it now holds.

Six years ago not a member of the new B class stations or any other organisation was prepared to stake any capital whatsoever on the venture. Yet as soon as the huge profits (like farming, purely mythical) are being made, communistic plans for sharing the profits are being brought out. Pity the balance-sheet, covering five years' working, dispels the ideas of gain.—License Holder (Waitomo.)

## W.E.A. Lectures

### 2YA Schedule

W.E.A. LECTURES from 2YA are arranged as follow:—

Saturday, September 19: Dr. R. M. Campbell, recently returned to New Zealand after four years' study and travel abroad. A W.E.A. lecturette, "Denmark and New Zealand."

Saturday, October 3: Mr. W. E. Leicester, LL.B. A W.E.A. lecturette, "The English Comic Spirit."

Saturday, October 17: Mr. F. L. Combs, M.A. A W.E.A. lecturette, "Logic and Emotion in Human Life."

Saturday, October 31: Professor F. W. Robertson, author of "A Son's Progress" and "Life and Beauty." A W.E.A. lecturette, "The Meaning of Beauty."

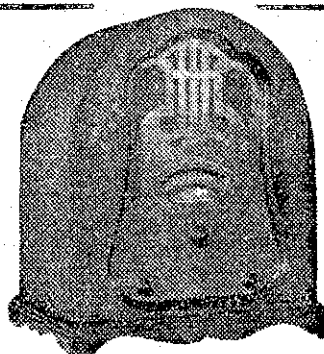
Saturday, November 14: Dr. I. L. G. Sutherland, Lecturer in Psychology, Victoria University College. A W.E.A. lecturette, "Acquisitive Society."

## Notes and News from the North

(By "Call Up.")

BEFORE the end of the year Mr. Len Barnes and the IYA Station Choir hope to present to listeners "The Country Girl" and "The Messiah," which, though entertainments of markedly different types, should appeal to the large body of listeners who appreciate this very fine choir.

MR. GORDON HUTTER'S well-known voice is being kept busy telling IYA listeners what is happening in various fields of sport. With wrestling every Monday, a sports talk from the studio every Friday evening, and the football relays on Saturdays, the sporting side of the Auckland station's programmes is being well cared for. Incidentally, Mr. Hutter must be one of the fastest talkers in Auckland, particularly when he gets going during an exciting wrestling bout, and most short-hand writers would die of heart failure in their attempts to take verbatim reports of his commentaries. However, he is always distinct, and his speedy delivery is often necessary to keep pace with happenings in the ring.



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