

The New Zealand Radio Record

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Home Journal

(Incorporating the "Canterbury Radio Journal.")

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WELLINGTON, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1931.

THE POWER LEAKAGE PROBLEM.

A FEW weeks ago we had occasion to refer to the problem presented by power leakages and other forms of electrical disturbances, and quoted as an example a certain city suburb where listening was impossible when trams were anywhere near. Since that time we have received many letters from listeners far and near, reporting power interference of some form or other. Some appear to be worse than the case cited, others equally bad. One particular case may be referred to as more or less typical. In Rotorua there are operated many forms of electrical medical apparatus and these, when going, blot out completely all forms of wireless reception. Even at night this bugbear is present to a disagreeable degree. A petition was sent to the Minister requesting that steps be taken to remedy the trouble, and it was promised that a Radio Inspector should visit the district. This never eventuated, though time far longer than necessary has elapsed since the Minister made his promise. And so there is no relief for the Rotorua listeners.

Another case in Hawke's Bay is reported elsewhere in this issue. A petition signed by wireless-set owners protested against the faulty switches and wiring in the district. In discussing this petition the chairman remarked that a great amount of interference was due to the owners of the wireless sets being unacquainted with wireless, and that faults lay more with the radio owners than with leaky power lines. He stated that it was mainly a question of the class of installation and the knowledge of the radio-set owners, for very few radio enthusiasts knew how to manipulate their wireless sets and were continually cutting the waves. After considerable discussion it was decided that the engineer should meet the petitioners and see what could be done, but generally it was thought that the Board could not go to the expense of remedying the trouble properly.

We cannot conceive anyone "cutting the waves because he did not know how to tune his wireless and so cause interference." Such a state simply cannot exist. Anyone accustomed to listening would certainly be able to differentiate between interference arising from

electrical apparatus and that arising from poorly-manipulated sets. Might we, in passing, draw the chairman's attention to the fact that a "leaky transformer" is almost a nonentity? Transformers are the most innocent of all electrical apparatus.

THE above are not isolated cases; they are almost commonplace, and what is more significant is the fact that little or no improvement is being brought about except where the active co-operation of the owners of interfering apparatus is secured. This is rarely the case, and with the exception of a few public bodies, little real progress is being made in clearing up the interference.

That legislation to meet this unsatisfactory position is long overdue is evident. But there was the Minister's promise recently made to a deputation representing a Wellington body that legislation was forthcoming when the broadcasting situation was looked into. The Bill has come before the House, but not a word is there about interference problems. That, it can come latter is, of course, possible, but listeners were very disappointed that it was omitted from the Bill now before the House.

Much has been said and written about the future of New Zealand broadcasting. Deputations and bodies allegedly representing New Zealand listeners have put forth their views for the betterment of the service, yet with the singular exception of the deputation previously referred to, this subject has been forgotten. Nevertheless, we are positive that by far the greater number of listeners wish to see this problem settled for all time before other changes in the administration of New Zealand broadcasting are made.

All the important Old World and American countries have legislation preventing the use of apparatus likely to cause interference to wireless reception, and the penalties fixed by the law are by no means small. New Zealand is a young country, and the number of electrical devices being installed is rapidly increasing. Unless strong legislation is soon introduced to protect the listener, long-distance reception and in some districts local reception will be impossible. It is a case of two opposing forces, and one must overcome the other. Listeners are looking to the Government to intervene on their behalf.

State Control

Listeners' Queries

A QUESTIONNAIRE has been drawn up by the North Taranaki Radio Society as suggested by the Minister of Labour, Hon. S. G. Smith, during a conference held recently at New Plymouth, in which Mr. Smith defended, without details, the Government's policy of the change-over.

The Minister said he would endeavour to secure the answers to the points raised by the Taranaki society, which indicated reluctance to support the vesting of control in foreign or outside parties, and sought protection for B stations serving listeners outside the main centres.

Provided the Bill is not disposed of in the meantime, the society proposed to call a public meeting and place before it replies to the questionnaire and gain an expression of opinion from the general body of listeners. The questions are:

(1) In view of the fact that the Government has decided that a change of control is necessary, would it indicate the reasons that have led to that conclusion, and in what way the policy of providing service to listeners will be changed and improved?

(2) Will the capital necessary to provide the relay lines between the main stations and relay stations be drawn from the board's revenue, or, if provided by the Government, will these lines be a charge against the board?

(3) Does the scope of the board allow for investigation of interference and

provision of equipment for carrying out these investigations?

(4) Is it proposed that the board immediately proceed with extension of the existing service?

(5) Is it proposed that the board enter upon a progressive construction period in providing relay stations, and over what period of time will this construction take place?

(6) Will the capital necessary to carry out the construction and equipment of relay stations be taken out of revenue or advanced by the Government?

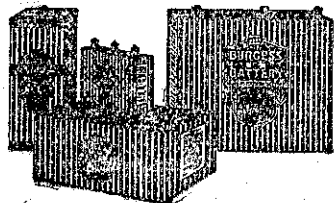
(7) Is it proposed to limit the amount to be placed to the reserves mentioned in section 20 (2) of the Bill?

(8) Is continuity of the broadcasts assured when the board takes over on January 1?

(9) What proportion of each license fee is it proposed to pay to the board, and will the proportion be paid irrespective of the number of licenses issued?

(10) Is it proposed that four A stations shall be the main stations, and B stations purely relay stations; and in the event of the latter desiring to put on their own programmes will they be paid for their services?

(11) Is it proposed that QYP be classed as an A station and subject to payment as to staff and artists for services rendered?



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