

Our Mailbag

Third Grid in Trouble.

IN reply to "Third Grid's" jest about Mr. Drummond, I must rather upset his argument by telling him that he has not caught Mr. Drummond yet with a mistake, as he was not in the North Island at that time. Perhaps his third grid is giving him some trouble.—"Amperite" (Stratford).

"HI, HI! 'Third Grid' (Greymouth). I heartily agree with you that more popular instrumental music should be put over the air by the R.B.C., for the reason that this particular class of music can be produced by very inferior sets; thus it would stop, to a certain extent, the complaints of transmissions from YA stations. Reproducing sets should be able to reproduce an announcer's voice, but Hi Hi 'Third Grid,' you got the wrong announcer in your net. Don't criticise until you are sure of your mark. Try another speaker or set.—'Second Grid' (Masterton)."

The Future of Broadcasting.

THE future of broadcasting seems to occasion great concern among those who think that the monopoly of the existing company should not be disturbed. You have devoted a good deal of space in your leaders since the present company made what they call a full and comprehensive statement of the position up to the present.

The question which puzzles me is whether your articles are written in the interests of the company, or in the interests of the dealers, or in the interests of listeners, who are in the great majority.

As a recent wireless convert and a listener paying 30/- a year that compels me to listen to a mixture of a lot of Yankee trash both musical and spoken, I fail to see that we are going to be any worse off by the proposed change. The business of broadcasting is so closely allied to the telegraph service of this and any other country, that to divorce it and place it in the hands of a company, whose one of a few objects is profit made out of listeners' fees, does not, I am sure, meet with the considered opinion of the sensible majority of listeners in this Dominion.

In support of the contention that Government control has ruined programmes you publish the views of the wireless operator on the Tainui.

I can quote an authority who happens to be the author of over a dozen editions devoted to wireless. (Could your Tainui operator write such a dozen?)

My authority states that the B.B.C. is easily the most efficient organisation of the kind in the world, that it is taken as a standard by every foreign country, including America.—"Observer."

[This correspondent quoted in conclusion a lengthy extract from the editorial columns of another paper on a subject with which we dealt extensively earlier, quoting from many editorials, and we have not space for further extracts.—Ed.]

An Abrupt Ending.

ALTHOUGH a keen supporter of the Radio Broadcasting Company, I very much disapprove of their policy of changing over from the children's session to the dinner music session so

OLD-TIME DANCES

PROGRAMMES of old-time dances are soon to be a regular feature of the YA stations. Of late there has been a great revival of popular interest in the old dances, and the gramophone record makers have produced some very fine recordings of waltzes, polkas, valetas, mazurkas, lancers, Boston two-steps, schottisches and maxims. All these once popular dances will be included in the hour and a-half programmes which are being prepared for presentation at intervals from the YA stations.



abruptly. On Monday, September 21, I was listening to the children's session from 3YA. It was getting very near the conclusion when a very popular artist on 3YA's children's programme commenced to sing the good-night song—accompanied by a harp—when suddenly the chimes broke in on the music. That would not have been so bad, but as soon as the clock had finished striking, instead of allowing the young lady to finish her song, she was abruptly switched off, and, without any announcement, the dinner music started. Surely, in a case like this, a little latitude could be allowed and the dinner music session delayed a minute or two to allow the children's session to be formally concluded.—DX9NW.

Two Amusing Incidents

Concerning Head of B.B.C.

TWO of the best anecdotes arising from the broadcasting industry strangely concern Sir John C. W. Reith, head of the B.B.C. The first occurred on the occasion of his formal address recently before the National Council for Education by Radio at the Institute for Social Service in New York, while he was on a visit to U.S.A.

Sir John had followed Secretary Wilbur on the list of speakers, which was to conclude with President Hoover's introduction of Prof. Millikan, new president of the council. The director-general, as is his wont, had

referred in positive terms to some of the difficult aspects of the United States method of sponsored programmes. He concluded his talk a minute before President Hoover was to go on from Washington.

The operator back of the stage immediately threw the switch and tuned to WJZ, which was to broadcast the Chief Executive's address. To the astonishment of the members in the auditorium, a voice issued from the loudspeaker on the stage: "You have just listened to a programme presented under the auspices of . . . company, makers of thin sliced ham and bacon. When you go to your dealer, ask for . . . etc." Sir John indicated that the English are not always slow to appreciate a humorous situation.

The second incident was related by Sir John himself as representing the most amusing broadcast "accident" which has come to his attention.

A bishop was completing his radio service from one of the B.B.C. studios. Listeners followed him to his last words, which ended: "I hope I meet all my listeners in heaven," but then to the horror of the British came the American slang phrase in the unmistakable voice of the same bishop: "I don't think!"

Investigation showed that the bishop was the victim of slow work on the part of the station operator. As he concluded his address he turned to the announcer and remarked: "I don't think I've exceeded my time, have I?" but the control operator had failed to "kill" the mike until the first three words had caused thousands of English listeners to gasp in amazement.

Television Near at Hand

Authoritative Prophecy

WITHIN a few years it will be possible to see by wireless the Cup Tie final at Wembley, the performance of opera at Covent Garden, athletic events and pageants from the comfort and seclusion of one's own sitting-room. Television in the home is near at hand.

This was a forecast made recently by Mr. E. T. Fisk, of A.W.A. Ltd., in an address on the wonders of wireless to members of the Arts Club in Sydney.

Every Sunday for the last five or six weeks, Mr. Fisk added, people in Alaska, England, South Africa, New York, Japan, and other parts of the world had listened to the call of the kookaburra, broadcast from Sydney. Three weeks ago, lying in his bed at Lindfield, he had had a conversation with the commander of the White Star liner Homeric, in mid-Atlantic. Every day throughout the year commercial letters were flashed across the world at the rate of 12,000,000 or 15,000,000 words a year. Each word travelled from Australia to England in a twentieth of a second.

"The time is coming," Mr. Fisk added, "when pictures will be transmitted across the world by wireless. Another phase of picture transmission has also been developed—that is the transmission of living, or moving, pictures. Indeed, this is already being done in a laboratory sense. The day is coming when events on the other side of the world will be witnessed here. I do not predict that it will be at an early date, but after some years."

RESULTS OF LUCKY BIRD ART UNION.

Drawn Town Hall, Wellington, September 19, 1931.

1st PRIZE, £2000 No. E95779
2nd PRIZE, £500 No. D41136
3rd PRIZE, £250 No. D98627

4 PRIZES OF £100 EACH:
A71677 B79751 D88533 E92428

4 PRIZES OF £50 EACH:
A20310 B61276 C55408 C62149

4 PRIZES OF £25 EACH:
A32417 A54253 A79094 B96307

20 PRIZES OF £10 EACH:
A63599 64708 73670
B22905 81667 82855
C22761 22879 35109 64624 81141
D22573 40728 47454 67794
E37020 38050 60933 67900 93001

70 PRIZES OF £5 EACH:
A24040 24138 31289 32825 37059
38890 40361 40625 41502 46399
69695 70980 81608 82445 83608
87181 89209 92147 96604 99659
B33136 33674 40451 41127 46206
74494 75133 78582 80670 81667
81704 81756 86026 91770 93771
C25178 30093 31189 34825 48588
47930 50817 62882 68769 64531
66851 81355 91771
D22001 35510 38527 43307 44080
44397 47011 55906 57111 85416
93109
E23082 35187 38090 38208 42627
60510 68164 69184 91790 94506
98527

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