

The New Zealand Radio Record

—AND—

Home Journal

(Incorporating the "Canterbury Radio Journal.")

P.O. BOX. 1032, WELLINGTON.

Literary communications should be addressed: "The Editor"; business communications to "The Manager"; technical communications to "The Technical Editor."

Advertisers are asked to note that alterations of advertisements should be in hand Friday of each week for insertion in the succeeding issue, printed Tuesday, bearing Friday's date. No responsibility is accepted for blocks remaining unclaimed three months after last insertion.

Published Weekly. Price 3d. Subscription Post Free in advance, 12s. 6d. per annum.

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

WELLINGTON, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1931.

DEMOCRACY AND RADIO.

THE fact that the British Cabinet can decide to prorogue Parliament and appeal to the people for a verdict upon national problems in so short a space as some three weeks is, in itself, a wonderful tribute to the efficiency of modern means of communication as represented by the daily Press and Radio. Such an appeal could not have been made fifty years ago, or even twenty-five years ago. The time factor would have prohibited it. It would not have been possible for the nation's leaders to propound their policy and secure a distribution and knowledge of that policy by any means in so short a space of time. Laborious coverage by personal travelling of great distances, numerous speeches to relatively limited audiences, and reporting in local papers of limited circulation, would have been necessary to acquaint the electorate with any degree of efficiency with the facts of the situation. To-day the local Press of the past is replaced by mediums possessed of circulations totalling millions. The telegraph enables an ably directed provincial Press to supplement the national media. Apart from the Press there is Radio. This as a single medium is the most marvellous of all. By it Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, in the past week, has been able to speak directly into upwards of 3,000,000 homes, and in view of the importance of his utterance, it may be estimated that he has spoken directly to possibly 80 per cent. of the total electors of Britain. By the ability thus to place the issues directly before the democracy, radio becomes a striking servant of civilisation. If the voice of the people be indeed the voice of God, then that voice, before the utterance of its judgment, must be acquainted with essential facts. Radio, in providing that medium, brings the individual voter into a position of greater importance than ever before. It will be interesting to see how the voter responds to the responsibility.

THIS instance is of outstanding importance in the political field as a test of the efficacy of radio. In the educative field radio, as administered by the British Broadcasting Corporation and its large staff of programme organisers, has been developing an extensive circle of listeners, who derive much food for intellectual thought directly from radio. Last week we announced a further stage in the development of

the same scheme here in New Zealand. To serve the desire for mental thought, important series of talks upon literary and intellectual problems are given in Britain. The Workers' Educational Association in New Zealand, with its capable staff of tutors, throughout the past four years has been co-operating with the Radio Broadcasting Company in laying the foundation for similar developments here. To build the direct contact between the listener and the tutor, Britain evolved the system of study circles, where groups of listeners could meet, hear the address from the radio, and discuss the matter amongst themselves. Study circles on similar lines are to be formed in New Zealand. Two were in existence throughout last year, and according to the testimony of Mr. N. M. Richmond, of the W.E.A. Association, submitted questions and discussion of a highly informative character. On that experience listeners elsewhere are invited to form study circles in particular relation to the series of talks upon George Bernard Shaw.

THE formation of study circles on a large scale throughout Britain establishes in effect an everyman's university through which cultural progress can be sought and maintained. Possibilities of such work in building an educated democracy, capable of giving decisions upon the momentous questions now awaiting determination in relation to international affairs, are immense, and show that radio is predestined to be the greatest single factor influencing the future of humanity in relation to national development and international reactions.

Ship Orchestra Broadcast from 3YA

THE orchestra of the R.M.S. Rangitiki will provide the instrumental programme at 3YA on Friday, October 16. This is a combination of five excellent players under the conductorship of Mr. G. W. McDermott. In the previous trip of the Rangitiki the ship's trio (as it was then) played most acceptably for 3YA, submitting a programme of bright, forceful music. On this occasion the quintet will include among its items the march "Rangitiki" composed by Mr. McDermott. Some of the latest London hits will also be played.

Is Television Here?

An Authoritative Prediction

ARRANGEMENTS have just been completed whereby the National Broadcasting Company of America will convert the eastern half of the 85th floor of the Empire State Building in New York into the world's highest television laboratory. The height is approximately 1000 feet above street level.

The new sight and sound studios atop of the Empire State Building will feed directly into aerials supported by the airship mooring mast, the top of which is 1250 feet high. There are no very tall buildings in the vicinity, so the location should be ideal.

M. H. Aylesworth, president of the N.B.C., in making the announcement, said that the reason for the acquisition of the new site was for the purpose of bringing television out of the laboratory and beginning experimental sight and sound broadcasts. He predicted that after about a year of intensive experimental tests under actual working conditions, television would be developed for public use.

"This does not mean that it will be a hundred per cent. perfect," he said, "but television will at least have reached that stage where refinements of

"Wizard" Smith to Attempt Speed Record

Possibilities of Broadcast

"WIZARD" SMITH, the famous Australian racing motorist, will arrive in New Zealand on November 20 for the purpose of attempting the world's motor speed record. The scene of the exploit will be Ninety Mile Beach, near the North Cape. The date and time of the race cannot, of course, be fixed yet, being dependent on the completion of arrangements and the weather conditions. The Broadcasting Company is investigating the possibilities of broadcasting a description of the event.

Programme Jottings

AN interesting renewal of an old acquaintanceship happened in 3YA studio on the occasion of Mr. McDermott's previous visit. He then met Mr. Harry Glaysher, with whom he had studied at Kneller Hall, the famous Army Music School, over a score of years before.

Mr. Ronald Chamberlain, Examiner for Trinity College, London, will be speaking from 4YA, Dunedin, at 9 o'clock on Wednesday, October 21.

On October 29 a concert by the Wanganui Garrison Band will be relayed from Wanganui and broadcast by 2YA.

technique will be required rather than the development of new basic principles."

This, together with other public statements which have been made recently by R.C.A. officials, is taken to mean that, after several years of work in secret, the R.C.A. expect to have, in about a year's time a system of television which will be acceptable to the public. No details of this system are at present known, except that it is a cathode-ray system, for the development of which Vladimir K. Zworykin has been largely responsible.

WHY?

Kingsford Smith uses Burgess Batteries. Commander Byrd uses Burgess. More Burgess Batteries are sold in New Zealand than any other make. Why?

BURGESS RADIO BATTERIES