

# The New Zealand Radio Record

## —AND— Home Journal

(Incorporating the "Canterbury Radio Journal.")

P.O. BOX, 1032, WELLINGTON.

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WELLINGTON, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1931.

### FAIR PLAY IS BONNY PLAY.

WE are sorry to have to direct attention to the policy of a radio contributor in another journal. Following upon the speech on unemployment by the Right Hon. J. G. Coates, given from 2YA on Tuesday evening last, and rebroadcast by the other stations throughout the Dominion, this particular contributor, "Grid Bias," wrote in the columns of his paper alleging that 2YA's transmission had been so distorted as to make the broadcast almost a complete fiasco. We can perhaps accept the experience as being that of "Grid Bias" on his own set, which he claims to have been specially evolved. There is abundant testimony available, however, from the Company's own experts and disinterested listeners, to the effect that the transmission was perfectly correct and clear. The present writer heard the speech on a modern full-powered set within half a mile of 2YA, and found the reception perfectly clear and distinct, giving the characteristic timbre and forcefulness of Mr. Coates's voice with full accuracy. We reproduce elsewhere the text of statements in the controversy between "Grid Bias" and Mr. A. R. Harris, general manager of the Radio Broadcasting Company, which has appeared in the columns of the paper to which "Grid Bias" contributes. It is to be noted that the paper in question, in contrast to usual journalistic practice, excised material portions of Mr. Harris's last statement. That action will carry its own lesson to listeners.

IN his concluding statement Mr. Harris makes the offer to demonstrate to any reputable gathering of interested listeners, organised or unorganised, at any time, the clarity of transmission from 2YA. The "Radio Record" is prepared to supplement that offer by Mr. Harris by direct challenge to "Grid Bias" to subject his receiving apparatus to test. We are prepared to hire the Concert Chamber of the Wellington Town Hall, or any other hall chosen by "Grid Bias" in Wellington, at any date suitable to him, pay the expenses of "Grid Bias" removing his receiving apparatus to that hall, and subject it to test of 2YA's transmission against commercial receivers of standard type. To give interest to the event, we suggest that three judges of musical experience be appointed, to be screened from the competitors, and an award of first, second and third made for prizes donated by the "Radio Record." This test should once and for all clear up the points of, first, the clarity of transmission from 2YA; secondly, the quality of the receiving set possessed by "Grid Bias"; and, thirdly, his capacity to criticise from a technical point of view the transmission of 2YA. In order that the most absolute fairness shall prevail in con-

nection with this test, we are prepared to entrust the whole of the arrangements to any committee appointed by the Wellington Radio Dealers' Association.

THE "Radio Record" believes strongly in the truth that "fair play is bonny play." The Company has suffered very largely in silence under the criticisms of the writer in question, but the time would seem to have arrived when an exposure should be made and the matter brought to the test. Reasonable criticism is always welcome, but when criticism reaches the stage of being the expression of unreasoning obsession, amounting to an apparent vendetta, it is time to make complaint and to inquire what hidden motive is the inspiration of these continual unwarranted attacks. We also give as a small additional item in the case a contrast in parallel columns of different reports of the speech by the Postmaster-General in reply to Saturday's deputation. That difference is so pointed as to make comment unnecessary.

## Passing of Thomas Alva Edison

### Special Commemorative Service from 2YA

THE overseas programme to be broadcast by 2YA on Wednesday evening next, the 21st inst., will be preceded by a specially arranged introductory programme appropriately commemorative of the passing of Thomas Alva Edison, one of the world's outstanding international personalities. After an appropriate announcement, Liszt's symphonic poem, "Les Preludes," will be played, followed by the message specially recorded by the great inventor for the people of New Zealand. "The Long Day Closes" and Sousa's march, "The Stars and Stripes," will conclude the musical portion of the station's tribute, which later in the evening will be appropriately voiced by Dr. Guy H. Scholefield, who will speak on the international work and worth of the man who is entitled to rank in the memory of the nations as the world's greatest inventor.

## Breakdown at 2YA

### A Speedy Replacement

ON Monday evening last 2YA suffered a breakdown of a major character. The motor generator that supplies the current to the plate supply of the transmitter suffered a short circuit in the armature.

This mishap was of a major character, but the company keeps a spare armature for this particular machine at the station, with the result that its experts were able to get busy at once and install the spare and put the station back on the air again within several hours. If the spare part had not been available a serious and sustained breakdown would have occurred, as it would have been necessary either to get the part rewound or replaced by importation from overseas. This is the first occurrence of this kind that has taken place within the company's operation of its service, and the fact that the breakdown was so quickly repaired justified the company's policy of maintaining spares.

The incident showed how dependent a broadcasting service is on the engineers, the "men behind the guns," who work unheard and unseen to keep the service going, and, when a breakdown occurs, effect repairs with the minimum of delay.

In the case of the mishap at 2YA, frequent announcements were made from the YA stations, while 2ZW, Wellington, also courteously rendered great service in that direction.

## Mary Massey

MISS MARY MASSEY (principal soloist at the Wanganui Garrison Band's concert), who is a pupil of the Stratford Convent, is only 23 years of age and has met with remarkable success in Taranaki. She has been soloist for the Stratford Choral Society for a number of years, leading lady for Stratford Amateur and Dramatic Society, leading soloist for Hawera Male Choir, and soloist for New Plymouth Choral Society. At the recent Hawera Competitions Miss Massey won the sacred solo, open soprano solo, own selection, soprano solo, second in the solo and accompaniment. The adjudicator remarked that the performances of Miss Massey stood out as the festival and her beautiful singing would live long in his memory.

2YA listeners will hear her singing "Lo, Here the Gentle Lark," and "Ritorna Vincitor."

**SORE THROAT?**

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