

# The New Zealand Radio Record

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## Home Journal

(Incorporating the "Canterbury Radio Journal.")

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WELLINGTON, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1931.

### EMPIRE BROADCASTING.

THE most pleasing announcement in the radio world of recent times is the intimation given by the British Broadcasting Corporation that it is about to build a new and powerful short-wave broadcasting station at Daventry, with the object of providing a programme service of practically a continuous character for all parts of the Empire. This conception is not new. It has been mooted, and subjected to severe investigation and discussion, for several years past. The desirability of such a service for linking the Empire together has been admitted. The difficulty has been to determine the allocation of financial responsibility for the maintenance of that service. The point of view of the British Broadcasting Corporation has been that its funds are supplied by listeners throughout Britain for the service that they get. Accordingly the Corporation has not felt itself called upon to undertake out of its funds the provision of a service calculated to serve listeners in distant parts of the Empire. Equally the broadcasting authorities in other parts of the Empire have been mainly concerned with providing their listeners, who provide their funds, with the service that they desire in the matter of local reception. Accordingly no unanimity has been possible in reaching a determination as to the division of costs.

NOW, however, the British Broadcasting Corporation, inspired by the ideal of Empire service, has determined to proceed with its developmental plans and leave the allocation of individual cost to the future. Meantime it will foot the bill, and, as the service is established and its benefits secured to the overseas Dominions, the question of financial responsibility will be reopened and determined.

PLANS as announced provide for the construction of a station estimated to cost £40,000. Building will be proceeded with at once, and provision made for the plant. Several wavelengths will be used in line with experimental data secured, showing which give the best reception under varying conditions in different parts of the Empire.

THE announcement made by the Corporation states that the object of the service will be to give as many listeners as possible in all parts of the Empire a programme from the Home country at hours when it is most convenient for them to listen. The details of the times of operation will depend upon the results of experiments and upon the demand.

THIS is important news for New Zealand in that it presages a future full of pregnant possibilities. On the evening of Armistice Day

listeners to 2YA were given the treat of listening to the most important Armistice Day celebration in London. As that service was broadcast on short wave it was picked up in Wellington by an enthusiast short-wave listener, Mr. F. W. Seilens, and relayed to 2YA, there again to be put on the air for New Zealand listeners. This rebroadcast was of a distinctly successful character, marking an extraordinary advance in efficiency over efforts made in previous years to achieve the same result. The technical advance made yearly has been notable, with the result that the time is at hand when a high degree of reliability can be achieved for broadcasts of the character outlined by the B.B.C. When the time comes for the inauguration of the new service announced from Britain, a notable new era will have dawned for broadcasting in the Dominion, and one which will in itself materially solve the programme problem as it is presented in the Dominion.

### Unusual Broadcasts

#### 3ZC Relays Commentary of Christchurch Trots

AN unusual feature of last week's radio was the running description given by 3ZC, Christchurch, of the Metropolitan Trotting Club's meeting at Addington.

3ZC ran a special schedule during the week commencing each day at 8 a.m. At 9 a.m. each morning a review and summary of the day's racing was given by the sporting announcer, Mr. A. R. Allardyce.

On the days the trots were run, the station remained on the air continuously until the fixtures were completed. The running description was carried out by Mr. Allardyce, and was clearly heard in Wellington and all parts of the South Island, the more southern portions being additionally served by a rebroadcast carried out by 4ZM, Dunedin, so that in the latter city even crystal set users were able to hear the descriptions.

The arrangements worked without a hitch, and 3ZC and Mr. Allardyce were the recipients of shoals of congratulatory telegrams and messages.

It is to be hoped that the new board will make an effort to get back the running descriptions for the YA's.

### Women's Institute

#### Organiser Broadcasts

MISS AGNES M. STOPS, who has been organising Women's Institutes in New Zealand throughout the past two years, and will be leaving for England about the end of December, will give an account of her work, and at the same time bid farewell to institute members throughout the Dominion, by speaking on two occasions over the air.

On Saturday, December 5, at 7.30 p.m., she will speak from station 2ZW, and on Monday afternoon, December 7, at 3.30 p.m., from station 2YA. When Miss Stops first arrived in New Zealand there were about 90 institutes in the Dominion; now there are nearly 320. This work is of distinct benefit to rural interests, and its development has met with an appreciative response wherever it has been introduced.

### Notes and News from the North

(By "Call Up.")

THE historical play "The Doge of Venice," which was presented from station 1YA on November 4, was most successful, and listeners will now be pleased to hear that another chronicle play from the same pen, that of Dr. George de Clive Lowe, will shortly be heard from the Auckland station. This is to be a three-act chronicle play entitled "Kirk o' Field," which is based on actual historical fact and which concerns Mary Queen of Scots, who is the leading character. "Kirk o' Field" will be presented by Mr. J. M. Clark and his company, who played the "Doge of Venice" and many other plays which have been given from 1YA.

IT is interesting to note that a number of artists who are now performing from station 1YA were among those who used to sing and play from the old 1YA in Scots Hall, Symonds Street. These include Alan McElwain, the Lyric Four, Bert Kingsland, Cyril Towsey, Madame Towsey, Eric Waters, Myra Monk, Beryl Smith, and J. F. Montague. In those days artists performed for "love," there being no pay-roll, and, incidentally, no license money for the station to work on.

### Empire Broadcasting Station to be Erected

THE British Broadcasting Corporation has decided to immediately carry out its plans for the erection of an Empire broadcasting station as discussed at the last Imperial Conference. Though the finance problem has hitherto held up the progress of the proposal, the corporation has decided to proceed with the project owing to strong requests from different parts of the Empire.

In reply to an inquiry as to how far it has succeeded in overcoming fading and atmospherics, the B.B.C. states that it will utilise probably five short-wave lengths during different periods of the day in the hope of reaching New Zealand and Australia in relayable strength.

In this connection it may be mentioned that experiments with short waves have not solved fading in the Australian beam system, which at present cannot be operated for long stretches at night.

The B.B.C. will not be ready for the next transmission to Australia for at least a year.