

# Empire Broadcasts on Shortwave from London

*Special hours for New Zealand  
provided for in projected scheme  
for new service to commence in  
year's time*

by Ivan M. Levy

THE cabled news that the British Broadcasting Corporation intends to proceed with the erection of an Empire high-power short-wave broadcast station will be welcomed by all listeners in this Dominion. It will furnish a new source of interest and entertainment which, if the present proposals are carried out, will be permanent.

It will be another year before transmissions will begin. A daily session of one hour will be available for rebroadcasting by the New Zealand stations, and in addition an opportunity for early morning risers to listen in to England with their short-wave sets will be given.

Credit is due to the British Broadcasting Corporation for initiating the three Empire broadcasting schemes which have been drawn up and which were submitted to the last Imperial Conference. As the result of a resolution passed by the Conference, the British Government asked the British Broadcasting Corporation to forward particulars of the Empire broadcasting schemes, as submitted to the Conference, to the broadcasting organisations throughout the Empire and to invite them to furnish the Corporation with their views as to the value to them of an Empire broadcasting service and as to their readiness to make a contribution toward its cost in return for the right to relay any part of the service which they may require.

A statement issued by the British Broadcasting Corporation reads: Common to all three schemes is the provision of a twin transmitter, using two wavelengths, and costing £40,000, and £7000 per annum (or, alternatively, £16,500 per annum), with an estimated life of five years.

Otherwise the schemes differ among themselves only in the programme facilities offered and the consequent financial provisions.

The first scheme provides for district services for the neutrally-situated and eastward Dominions and colonies, for those in American longitudes, and for Australasia, and assumes that the Empire station would bear a proportionate share in the cost of all programme matter taken from the Home programmes, as well as the whole cost of matter special to its own services.

The second scheme, drawn up after a conference in which the Colonial Office, India Office, Dominions Office, and the Lord Privy Seal's Office were represented as well as the Post Office, aims at covering the longitude between 2 hours west and 8 hours east of Greenwich (representing 93 per cent. of the white inhabitants of the Crown colonies and India) with a cheaper service, taken in the main from the Home programmes, without the Empire service being called upon to share the expense of the latter. This scheme was discussed by the Colonial Conference in June, 1930, and resolutions were passed in favour of it, the Governors undertaking to provide (or to recommend their Legislatures to provide) financial support to the extent of 5/- per listener's license.

As, however, it would take time to develop this income, the Colonial



*The masts of short-wave station G5SW at Chelmsford, England, stand in an unusually beautiful setting.*

Office undertook to approach the Treasury for a grant from the British Exchequer, and it appears that the Treasury wished to obtain the view of the then pending Imperial Conference before coming to a decision.

Accordingly, the third scheme was prepared at short notice for submission to the Imperial Conference. It differs from scheme 2 in that special programmes at hours suited to American and Australasian longitudes are added, and from scheme 1 in that the Empire service is not asked to bear a share in the cost of Home programme material utilised.

THE reservation must, however, be introduced that, while the figure for news bulletins in scheme 2 is one agreed by Reuters on the basis of a colonial service, the same figure as applied to scheme 3 is still subject to negotiation. A further reservation (the necessity for which is obvious) is that the phrase used by the Imperial Conference regarding an unconditional right to relay, would have to be interpreted as referring only to such rights as broadcasters themselves possess, and could not be held to involve the originating broadcaster in any contingent liabilities in respect of performing right, artists' contracts, news, etc., that might arise out of relay.

The requirements of an Empire broadcasting service may, from the programme standpoint, be conveniently expressed in terms of

(a) "Colonial" (afternoon) programme, partly composed of material shared with the Home listener.

(b) An "African" programme coinciding in time with the Home evening programme and containing little special matter.

(c) An "Australian and New Zealand" (morning) programme performed specially in the daytime but outside United Kingdom programme hours.

*(Concluded on page 29.)*