

The New Zealand Radio Record

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Home Journal

(Incorporating the "Canterbury Radio Journal.")

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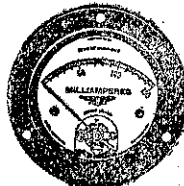
WELLINGTON, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1931.

WHY NOT USE RADIO?

THE daily Press at the present time is full of political speeches and reports. That is a necessary concomitant of a general election. The rush movements of various leaders throughout the country are also recorded. Trains, motors, and even aeroplanes are under toll to provide rapid transport. That activity is creditable as an indication of the desire to make the fullest contact with the electorates. But perusal of the record of this frenzied transport prompts the pertinent query: Why not use radio? We are aware that the license issued to the Radio Broadcasting Company forbids the use of radio for political purposes. On general lines that regulation is sound. All general regulations, however, are subject at times to deserving exceptions. The case of a general election is such an exception. In Britain recently radio played a most important part in the momentous election held there. Without any frenzied travelling, but speaking quietly and calmly from the couch at his own fireside, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Philip Snowden (now Viscount Snowden) was able to overcome his crippling physical disability and speak effectively and powerfully to the vast radio audience of Britain. All party leaders were given the privilege of expounding their case to listeners and electors. Their schedule was arranged fairly and equitably. Fair treatment was accorded all, and the electors benefited by a first-hand exposition of the issues of the policy upon which they were asked to judge.

WE see no reason why New Zealand should not use radio as well.

This election is as momentous to us in many ways as Britain's election was to her. We are confronted with vital issues. The electors must decide essential policies. Many electors, particularly those in backblock areas, have not the opportunity of hearing those policies expounded by their chief exponents, the leaders of the various parties. They would appreciate considered and reasoned addresses over the air as a means of acquiring information upon the issues before them and determining their reactions.



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THE daily Press records that at numerous meetings leaders have been subjected to heckling and disorder to such a degree as almost to prohibit a fair statement of the case being presented. Radio conquers that disability. Radio reaches without interruption an audience immeasurably vaster than can be attained in any hall in the Dominion. In neglecting to use radio we consider our political leaders are overlooking an important social amenity. While seven years ago, when the Company's license was granted, the precaution of restricting political use of the air may have been advisable, that condition does not exist to-day in the light of further experience and appreciation of the power of wise regulations. We sincerely trust that, under the new regime that will be embarked upon on January 1, the necessary elasticity will be available to permit of the radio system being used on occasions of national importance such as allowing the electors of the Dominion to have the benefit of first-hand exposition of their policies from the various party leaders.

A Popular Choir

(By "Call Up.")

THE 1YA Broadcasting Choir is a credit to Auckland. Formed in 1929 at the suggestion of the 1YA Musical and Dramatic Committee, for the sole purpose of broadcasting work, the choir has since become recognised as one of the leading musical combinations in Auckland and their fame has spread further afield than their own city.

The success of the choir must be most pleasing to Mr. Len Barnes, 1YA station director, who formed it, and who has conducted it since the first rehearsal in June, 1929. The choir is indeed fortunate in having such an experienced and popular leader. Mr. Barnes was for eleven years a member of the Christchurch Cathedral Choir, under Dr. J. C. Bradshaw, to whom he acknowledges a wonderful foundation for choir training and musical knowledge. While residing in Wellington he was conductor of the Orpheus Musical Society, the Wellington Amateur Operatic Society, and The Terrace Congregational Choir. The choir originally had thirty-two voices, but this number has since been increased to forty. More than half of the members have also sung as soloists from 1YA.

Among the works performed are "The Messiah" (Handel), "The May Queen" (Sterndale Bennett), "The Banner of Saint George" (Elgar), Choral Songs from the "Bavarian Highlands" (Elgar), "St. John's Eve" (Cowen), "The Rebel Maid" (Montague Phillips), "The Legend of Nerubudda" (Hubert Bath), "Messe Solennelle" (Gounod), and "Hymn of Fraise" (Mendelssohn). They have also broadcast part-songs, anthems, an adaptation of Longfellow's poem "Evangeline," programmes of old-time songs, sea chanties, negro minstrels, community singing, and Christmas carols. In all they have made about thirty appearances in full since their first concert in August, 1929.

Mr. Cyril Towsey is accompanist, and at times the Salon Orchestra plays in conjunction with the choir. The deputy-conductor is Mr. J. L. Heath, many of whose compositions have been sung by the choir.

On December 9 the choir will broadcast, with the Salon Orchestra, Handel's "Messiah," the soloists being Nellie Marriage, Kathleen Mulqueen, Syd. Poffley and Len Barnes. From 11 p.m. on Christmas Eve they will sing carols and on New Year's Eve old-time songs.

An International Programme

MR. T. I. KAWASE, the Japanese student now at Lincoln College, Christchurch, who recently gave a gramophone lecture-recital at 3YA on Japanese folk music, is a keen musician with an international outlook. He has suggested, and has offered to contribute to, an international programme, which will probably be arranged before the end of the year. This will no doubt take place during the season of "goodwill to all men." Mr. Kawase is a tenor singer and is prepared to contribute the Japanese portion of the programme.

4YA Musical and Dramatic Committee

AT a meeting of the 4YA Musical and Dramatic Committee, held on November 7, presided over by Mr. H. P. Desmoulins (representing the Dunedin Choral Society), there were present: Messrs. J. G. Butler (Royal Dunedin Male Choir), H. Renfree (Anderson's Bay Glee Club), D. E. Dall (Dunedin Shakespeare Club), J. F. Himburg (Dunedin Philharmonic Society), A. Cook (Dunedin Burns Club), Lloyd Ross, M.A. (W.E.A.), P. S. Anderson (Returned Soldiers' Association Choir), J. Crossley Clitheroe (Training College Choir), and A. F. O'Donoghue.

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. McFarlane and Russell.

The deputation appointed to interview the Choral Society regarding its request that it should be paid an increase on the flat-rate subsidy allocated by the committee for its concerts, reported having explained the position to the society. The society, however, still considered that it should be paid the increased amount, and that it proposed writing to the company regarding the matter.

The station director outlined programmes proposed, which were discussed at length and suggestions made respecting talks, etc.

Following on a discussion regarding the broadcasting of plays, Messrs. Dall and Lloyd Ross were deputed to look into the question.

On the suggestion of Mr. Butler, the station director undertook to arrange an Irish night.