

The Case for B Stations

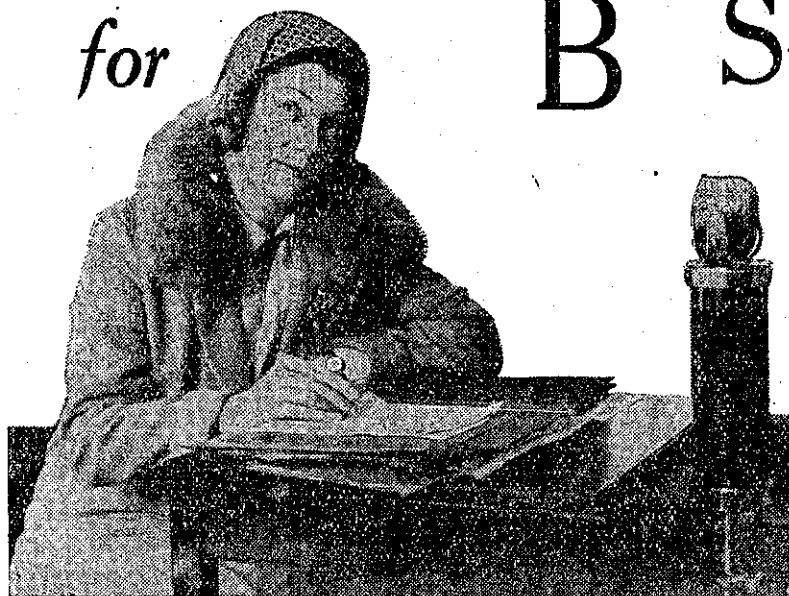
Problems for the Radio Board

AN esteemed country correspondent, who is keenly interested in the development of the radio service, writes as follows: I trust that you will afford me the hospitality of your columns to express a country man's viewpoint on the problem that will confront the Radio Board when it sets itself seriously to develop the radio service in New Zealand. I am concerned—as we all are—that the development in the future shall be on the most economical and most efficient lines. As a country listener, I have benefited considerably by the enterprise and service of the various "B" class stations throughout the country—following, of course, upon that of the YA service, which I have fully enjoyed.

A considerable amount of capital has been put into the "B" class plants by the owners of these stations, and it seems to me that, facing the times of stringency with which we are now confronted, it would be desirable for the Board, as far as may prove possible, to co-operate with these stations rather than embark upon the erection of new stations. If a large part of the Board's revenue is to be directed to capital expenditure, that must inevitably be reflected in a restriction of programme expenditure. Hence a definite benefit would be conferred upon listeners by any scheme which could effect economy, while still achieving efficiency, by co-operation with existing stations.

IN the "Radio Log" for November—upon which useful little monthly may I congratulate your organisation?—there is a map of New Zealand showing the location of all the "B" class stations in New Zealand. Taking that map and working downward from Auckland, we get the following results:—

Auckland 5
 "B" class stations (including 1 at Manurewa, a dozen miles out).
 Hamilton 1



"Heigh ho, everybody! Heigh, ho! This is station 2ZW, Wellington, N.Z."—Mrs. Minnis, lady announcer of 2ZW, who conducts the morning sessions, snapped beside the microphone in the small studio.

Views of a Correspondent

New Plymouth ... 1
 (Already working in conjunction with the YA services.)
 Wanganui 1
 Palmerston North . 2
 Hastings 2
 Napier 2
 Wairoa 1
 Gisborne 2
 Dannevirke 1
 Eketahuna 1
 Masterton 1
 Wellington 2
 Christchurch 1
 Dunedin 6
 Inchlutha 1
 Invercargill 2

and
 Greymouth 1

SO far as the coverage of the country is concerned, that list is fairly comprehensive. Certain deficiencies, however, exist, in that strategic points are not covered. The most notable of these are Whangarei, to serve North Auckland; Rotorua, to serve the Bay of Plenty, and incidentally draw upon the very fine array of Native talent available in the Hot Lakes district; Nelson, which suffers more severely perhaps than any other part of New Zealand from static; and Timaru. Dunedin is obviously overloaded with six "B" class stations in addition to the local YA station. Invercargill has two stations, as also has Palmerston North, Hastings, Napier and Gisborne, and, of course, Wellington.

The suggestion has been made that the Board should co-operate where possible with "B" class stations, provided they attain a certain standard of transmission and quality of programme service. Of that policy I think the majority of listeners would approve.

The Radio Broadcasting Company's proposal was that the relay stations to be provided in provincial towns should in large part be linked up by land line with the main stations. I am given to understand, however, by

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