

The New Zealand Radio Record

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Home Journal

(Incorporating the "Canterbury Radio Journal.")

P.O. BOX. 1032, WELLINGTON.

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WELLINGTON, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1931.

THE RADIO BOARD.

UNDER the pressure of more urgent national affairs, Cabinet up to the time of writing has not been able to reach a determination as to the personnel of the Radio Board. It is hoped, however, that probably by the time these words are in general circulation an announcement may be made. The former Postmaster-General indicated that no lack of talent had offered itself to him immediately the suggestion of a Board appeared. That position has continued up to the present. There has been, it is understood, a mild rush of applicants for the three positions to be filled, so that the task of arriving at a choice has been difficult. Apart from the applicants, Cabinet, it is understood, has reserved to itself the right to go further afield in search of the best appointments, so that when the appointments are finally made, it may be found that the actual appointees have been chosen by Cabinet without them having sought the position themselves.

WHILE the delay is certainly inconvenient and disappointing to the general body of listeners, who had hoped that prompt and effective steps would have been taken by the Board to assume control of the service, Cabinet must be commended for a decision not to unduly rush the appointment at the expense of efficiency. It is recognised that the Board will have important duties to discharge, that those duties will call for sound judgment and administrative capacity. Accordingly Cabinet has been concerned to search carefully for the right personnel rather than err by undue haste.

THE strictest secrecy is being preserved as to the personnel of the Board, and will, we believe, be maintained up to the time of the actual appointment. Many names have been in circulation, not all of whom would be suitable. It will probably be found in the upshot that the chairman will be resident in Wellington, but it would not be surprising to find that geographical considerations influence the choice of other members of the Board. One will probably come from Auckland, and one from the South Island. By this means actual contact with listeners in distant points is hoped to be assured.

IN view of the time that has elapsed since the passage of the Bill, and in view also of the short interval before the Board will be required to function, it will be impossible for any dramatic or unusual reorganisation to be effected in the near future. The Board, after appointment, will require to undertake close investigation of the existing service prior to embarking upon radical changes. No matter how closely the Board members may have interested themselves in broadcasting from the outside, they will find on entering upon the seats of office, and becoming acquainted with the necessary financial, technical and geographical data that rule the situation, that they will require an open mind to reach the best decision. Listeners have already shown themselves patient in awaiting the appointment of the Board. More patience will be required before the Board can be expected to function at its fullest efficiency. The task before it is such as will tax the best capacity of the Board and listeners, we take it, will be prepared to await developments with reasonable patience.

Humorous Speech Wanted

A Striking Offer

IT happened only the other day. One of New Zealand's most prominent teachers and performers (often heard on the air) received a striking offer from a lady from up country. The lady belongs to a literary or social institute, and for the breaking-up function she needed a short speech (everyone had to make one), and so she wrote to the elocutionist (a perfect stranger to her) a very nice letter asking him to furnish her by return with a bright, snappy speech—must be very humorous—and she enclosed 2/6 by way of a fee!

The gentleman says he knew that the cost of living, etc., was down, but he had not realised before how far it had really come down till now. When he recovered from the first shock of the thing he reached for a pen and wrote the lady a nice letter explaining that "pressure of work" prevented his acceptance of her flattering offer, and

A Quaint Letter

THE laughing of the kookaburra, with which the weekly world-wide broadcasts from short-wave station 2ME, Sydney, are commenced and finished, has evidently greatly interested a Japanese radio experimenter at Yokohama.

Masji Hirai, Esq., as this enthusiast signs himself in a letter to the station, refers to the song of the kookaburra as the "ludicrous quacks of water-fauls." He explains that he heard the station in September, but on October 4 "that old quack of odd water-fauls which I have heard just a month ago came in. Yes, sir, the station I have tuned was your station, VK2ME, operating on 31.28 metres. I could hardly believe that the programmes were being carried from the land of Kangaroo, because they were so stable, and especially volume level was so high for the distance."

Mr. Masji Hirai forwarded details of the programme which he heard, referring always to the laugh of the kookaburra as "quacks!"

enclosed the 2/6. The twopence postage was dead loss, but the joke was worth it, he says.

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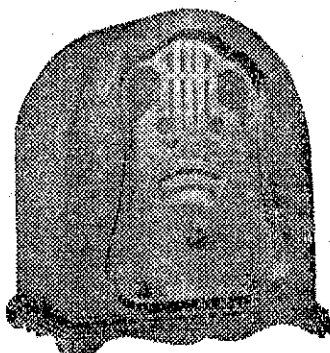
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