

Short-wave Notes

El Prado, Ecuador.

EL PRADO Riobamba, Ecuador, on 39.5 metres, transmits a programme every Sunday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., N.Z. summer time.

HKA, Colombia.

A **LETTER** was received from Senor Jesus Amortegui P., the owner-operator of shortwave station HKA, a few days ago, in reply to a report on reception of this station of a special transmission on September 27.

The letter was in Spanish, which reads as follows:—

"Very esteemed Senor.—For the present I give you my many thanks for your very kind letter of September 27, giving your impressions of this station on that morning. It would be a great favour if you will try to hear HKA on Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, from 12.30 p.m. to 1.30 p.m., N.Z. time, on 21 metres, and from 1.30 p.m. to 2.30 p.m., N.Z. time, on 41.5 metres, and send me the result.—Thanking you, anticipation, for your favour,

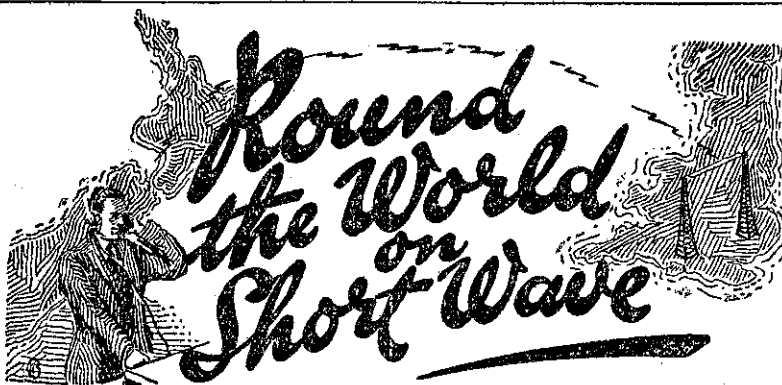
"J. AMORTEGUI P."

The above schedule apparently cancels the previous one, as this was given as the same days, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., on 49 metres.

Mr. Page Taylor, of Detroit, gave me some particulars of the special test put over by HKA on September 27. He says: "HKA is a small station, like NRH, seven and a half watts (if he sends you a photo—which he did) you will notice a 50 watt tube on top, but he uses that for a modulator. I don't know why, but he does. He uses a 210 as R.F. amplifier, and previous to September 27 he had only been reported in three different countries.

"A gentleman in Chicago, Mr. W. H. Reeks, and myself, determined that he should add many new countries to his log, so, between the two of us, we notified listeners in nearly every civilised country in the world. We took the names and addresses of everyone mentioned by Senor Oespedes in his book, 'We and Little N.R.H.' We don't know the result of our labours yet, as all the reports are not in yet. Yours is the greatest distance so far, and I believe it will be the greatest distance recorded for this test. Countries that have reported up to the present time are United States, Colombia, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Peru, England, France and New Zealand.

"We heard the test very well in Chicago, and heard the announcer call your name twice. In the middle of the programme he read the names of everyone notified by me and Mr. Reeks, and during the programme selections were dedicated to certain persons. The first selection in the programme was dedicated to Mr. Les-



THIS page is conducted in the interests of shortwave enthusiasts. A weekly log comprising notes of reception and interesting topical events is contributed by Mr. F. W. Sellens, Northland, Wellington, but all listeners are invited to send in paragraphs of general interest.

lie Jones, and another was dedicated to you.

"I was glad to know that you were able to hear Sr. Amortegui, or rather his announcer, Sr. Illeru. Amortegui understands only Spanish.

The New Year on Shortwaves.

THE owner of a shortwave receiver is able to "see the New Year in" a number of times, conditions permitting, by tuning-in to various stations as the local time of the country approaches midnight.

After leaving New Zealand and Eastern Australia, midnight arrives at the following countries where there are short-wave transmitters broadcasting regular schedules:—Siberia, RU15, 3 a.m. (N.Z. summer time), Tokio, J1AA, 3 a.m.; Java, several stations, 4.45 a.m.; Saigon, F31CD, 5 a.m.; Moscow, RV59, 9.30 a.m.; Nairobi, VQ7LO, 9.30 a.m.; Rome, 12RO, and Zeesen, 11 a.m.; Chelmsford, G5SW, 12 noon; and then to New York, where there are a number of stations, 5 p.m.

From here a trip is made westward to San Francisco, midnight at the latter being 8 p.m. the following day in New Zealand. Last year W2XAF, 31.48 metres, was linked up with various stations across the United States, and the New Year followed across the continent from New York to Chicago, then to Denver, and then on to Los Angeles and San Francisco.

It is not likely that conditions will be suitable to hear all the above countries, or the time convenient, but it will be interesting to try, and quite a novelty to hear the New Year in other countries several hours after New Zealand.

Reception During Week Ending December 17.

CONDITIONS have been very poor the last few days, plenty of static and weak signals from most stations.

In spite of conditions, two old friends were heard for the first time for several weeks.

12RO, Rome, on Thursday and Friday mornings, was about R7—8 at 7.30 a.m. On Thursday, volume was up to R9 by 8.30 p.m., but had faded right out by this time on Friday.

Zeesen was heard on Friday, being R7—8 from 6.45 a.m. to 7.30 a.m., but very gushy.

Radio Maroc is another station that has returned. On Monday, at 8 a.m., they were R8—9, fading and static spoilt reception. It is strange that when regular stations go off, others which have not been heard for a time, come to light.

The 49—50 metre American stations have suddenly gone off in volume.

The only stations worth while during the past few days have been RV15, which continues to be good every evening, sometimes soon after 7 p.m.

ZL2ZX, of course, cannot help but come in strongly, as they are only a mile or two away.

3XL, Boundbrook, was R9 on Sunday from 4.30 p.m.

VK3ME, Melbourne, was one of the best, being R9 on one stage of audio on Saturday.

VK2ME, Sydney, on Sunday was quite good.

PLW, Java, at 10.45 p.m. on Tuesday, was R9, with records, before commencing duplex telephony.

F31CD, Saigon, is good soon after 11 p.m., but static has been bad.

HKD Testing.

ADVICE has been received from the N.Z. Short-wave Club from information supplied by Mr. Arthur Stevens, of Hawera, that HKD, Barramquilla, on 51m., will be testing at the following times: Tuesday, December 22, at 9 p.m. Friday, December 25, at 5 p.m. Tuesday, December 29, at 9 p.m. Friday, January 1, at 5 p.m.

N.Z. Short-Wave Club Notes

The Secretary Writes

MUCH to my regret, I have to state that permission has been refused the club to broadcast notes. The reasons given are that our short announcements will be likely to cause interference and that it is thought there is not enough interest taken in what we have to offer. Personally, I have listened-in to our local member, and have noted the swarm of whistles, both loud and low, waiting to hear the news. It may be truthfully said

that there are thousands of short-wavers in New Zealand, and daily the numbers are increasing. Not only that, but, by the enthusiasm of set-owners, the authorities are benefiting by additional license fees, and also by increase in the postal revenue, so that, to encourage a club such as this, would ultimately result not only in more revenue but also would tend to increase employment by means of sales and replacements.

The Short-Wave Club is not run for profit, and, in order to help listeners who through unemployment are debarred from joining our ranks, we hoped to be able to give them a little information as to when and where to look for stations. By doing this we would be encouraging reports to be sent to these stations and, by means of these reports, attract attention our way. Also, these reports, which are of inestimable value to the stations in various countries, are helping on the science of radio. As regards interference, anyone who has listened to the NZSWC stations knows this to be incorrect, as there is far less interference from our local member than there is from a nearby Morse station, which spoils reception of a number of night stations.

A letter from an American member compliments us upon our growth and optimistically remarks that the club will grow so strong that it will help to put radio in its proper place.

It is rather a puzzler at times to solve the problems put to me. I am asked, "What is the station I get on 25 on my dial?" For instance, from 49.02 to 50 metres there are 22 stations on the latest list I received. Some would answer "Tune it and see." But the best way to get a rough idea of the wavelengths is by "landmarks"—that is, well-known stations. For instance, RV15 is 70.2 metres, Saigon 49.10, and both are easily received at 11 p.m. Thus, by identifying regular stations and marking the harmonics of the local station, the calibrating of the dials can be undertaken.

Travelling in a bus recently I heard two fellow passengers having an argument about shortwave and clubs, but I did not introduce myself, because recently I was talking to a working man and the subject veered to short-wave. When he found out my connection with the club he said, "Why, I thought it was some big pot running it." Hi, Hi.

Someone called at my door recently to inquire about short-waves, but I happened to be out. I believe he waited a long time, but must have been disappointed. If a note with a name and address is left, full particulars will be posted. We are always pleased to help, and beginners should never be afraid of asking questions. We all had to learn from some one.

My postal address is: A. B. McDonagh, Secretary, New Zealand Short-Wave Club, 274 Cuba Street, Wellington, N.Z. Overseas letters always welcome.

Your fraternally,
MAC.



TYPE W.

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