

Radio Transmitters

Annual Convention

The annual convention of the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters was held last week in Christchurch, more than 50 delegates from all over New Zealand attending. The Dominion president, Mr. H. P. V. Brown, presided. Among the delegates were four women operators, including Mesdames P. Cameron (ZL4GL, Dunedin), M. Blake (ZL3DW, Rangiora), and Miss E. Herrick (ZL3BT, Christchurch).

The report of the general secretary (Mr. W. G. Ashbridge) stated that the past year had been most successful. In the short history of the association, in every phase of its life and activity, the New Zealand association had made substantial progress. Membership had more than doubled, and it was estimated that 90 per cent. of the active amateurs in the Dominion were now members. Financially the association had more than prospered. At the 1930 convention the fate of the official magazine "Break In" had hung in the balance, most of the members considering that the cost was too great, but the excellent and untiring efforts of the editors had shown that it was indispensable.

During the year, continued the report, headquarters had been accorded by the Post and Telegraph Department the valuable privilege of reporting upon applications for higher frequency permits, and it was felt that in the future the N.Z.A.R.T. might by this means make 40 metre and 20 metre permits the reward for virtue rather than a matter of mere routine. Four new branches of the association had been formed.

The balance-sheet showed a credit of £38 on the year's working. The report and balance-sheet were adopted.

A motion of approval of the general policy followed by headquarters throughout 1931 was passed unanimously.

After discussion it was decided that shortwave listeners be admitted to membership. Considerable discussion followed on what powers listening members would have, it finally being decided that they have the right to vote on all matters excepting those affecting only transmitters. The meeting decided that it be a recommendation to the executive that the constitution of the association be amended in connection with taking action against amateurs with bad transmitting notes. It was decided to recommend that the executive take up the question. A decision that the association be registered as an incorporated society in the New Year was arrived at.

Tightening Valves

PULLING a valve out of its socket by the bulb may not appear to harm it, but in time there is a possibility that it will work loose from its base. If you have a valve whose bulb has been loosened in this way, you can strengthen it by binding sticky insulating tape over the bulb and the valve-base where these come together.

Radio Licenses

Further Increase Indicated

IT is gratifying to note that the number of licenses in New Zealand is still rising. The latest return from the Post and Telegraph Department indicates that there are now 71,000, as compared with 67,500 a month ago, denoting a rise of some 3500 during a month of what is generally regarded as the "off" season—November. Rather surprising is the increase of about 50 in the number of dealers, indicating that probably radio is considered one of the best trades at the present

time. For the same period last year the total number of licenses was approximately 61,000, of which 1200 odd were dealers. The transmitting licenses have increased almost hundredfold, for at this time last year there were 273 compared with 450 this year. The number of listeners' licenses last year was approximately 60,000. The order of the provinces with respect to the number of licenses is the same this year as last, Wellington leading, followed by Auckland, Canterbury and Otago.

DISTRICT.	CLASS.					
	Receiving.	Dealers'	Receiving.	Experimental and Special.	Free.	
Auckland ..	20,783	263	108	—	95	
Canterbury ..	11,221	153	101	2	45	
Otago	8,717	130	70	1	31	
Wellington ..	28,944	399	176	4	54	
	69,665	945	455	7	225	

GRAND TOTAL: 71,297.

Broadcasting an Election Campaign

Australia Makes an Important Move

IN all the important countries of the world, including England, the broadcasting services play a tremendous part at election time. Not only is the service undertaken compatible with that given it by New Zealand stations during an election, but the majority of the campaigning is done over the radio.

In the recent Australian elections the national service allowed the three parties two forty minutes' broadcast each, one for an all-States hook up and the other for a separate broadcast in each State, so that each party had six broadcasts from national stations.

One of the most interesting features of these broadcasts is that wherever possible speakers address listeners from the Australian Broadcasting Company's studios and not from the crowded political meetings. Special accommodation was granted the parties to bring a limited number of party officials and supporters to create the necessary atmosphere. Through these arrangements it was possible to get the Australian election through in record time, and never before has radio played such a big part in public affairs in Australia.

The policy speeches were broadcast from the main stations, but the majority of the campaigning went over the air from the B-stations. Elections are godsend to the advertising departments of these stations, and the political organisations pay large sums for privileges.

There was a humorous interlude early in the campaign, when one party was making overtures to a Sydney B sta-

tion. They were not quick enough and another party jumped in and signed the contract, which covered the time the former party required. This provided material for a violent article in the following morning's paper, in which the B station was cursed for its political prejudice, and this in return drew a terrible answer from the opposing camp.

An interesting feature of the B class campaign was that Mr. Lyons, the leader of the Australian Party, chose to deliver his policy speech to a network of B stations, rather than through the A. An inter-State hook-up of B stations broadcast the election results as they came in.

Complete arrangements were made with all A stations, which broadcast direct from the tally room of the G.P.O. in each State.

March of Television

British Cinemas

IT is persistently rumoured in English newspapers that negotiations are proceeding in London for the introduction of television into British cinema houses.

According to the "Sunday Chronicle," Mr. S. L. Moseley, of the Baird Company, states:—"I can't tell you the name of the company, for I have been placed under a pledge of secrecy, but I feel quite confident that there will be big developments following our negotiations."

It appears that promises have been made that television programmes will be introduced in one of the large cinema circuits in America inside a few weeks. To begin with, the shows will last for half an hour, but it is reported that television scenes will be shown on a 10ft. square screen. Later on it is anticipated that full-length plays will be given.

Radio Control

Change-over Procedure

THE first official meeting of the newly-appointed Radio Board was held in Wellington last week. A number of urgent matters relative to the change-over were dealt with.

Practically all the present staff of the company have been taken over by the board and will carry on, in the meantime, as at present: some re-organisation may be expected at a later date.

The head office of the board will be located in Wellington, and the staff will be accommodated on the ground floor of the 2YA studio building in Featherston Street. The staff (now in Christchurch) are expected to arrive in Wellington early next month, and if the 2YA premises are not actually ready for their use, temporary accommodation will be provided for them.

It is understood that the policy of controlling the entire service from head office will be largely altered, and the service will be de-centralised, enabling the station directorates to act to a considerable extent on their own initiative when special conditions make it advisable.

It is now generally realised that the board, owing to the lateness of its appointment, will be unable to make any marked change in programme policy at the New Year. As the Broadcasting Act provided for the establishment of an advisory council directly representative of listeners' organisations, it is probable that the board will not attempt any drastic change until it has had the opinions and advice of his council, which has not yet been appointed. The New Year change-over will therefore be almost unmarked, except by brief official statements from the broadcasting stations.

One of the outstanding broadcasting feats which may be expected to mark the early stages of the board's control will be an eye-witness's description of Norman Smith's attempt to break the world's motor speed record on the Ninety-Mile Beach. Arrangements for this event have been completed by the board. A portable radio transmitter will be located on the beach at Kaitia, and will send to a receiver at the Kaitia Post Office. Thence the description will be relayed by land-line to 1YA and 2YA, and if the time is suitable and lines are available, to 3YA and 4YA as well.

The process of transfer of the Broadcasting Company's property to the board is not at this stage an affair of the board at all; in accordance with the original agreement the company's property has to be taken over by the Postmaster-General, who will in turn make a "deal" with the board. The company's assets are to be taken over at a price to be agreed upon, or failing agreement, at a price to be reached by arbitration. Agreement has been found to be impossible, and Mr. Justice Blair has been chosen as the arbitrator.

IF the wrong voltage is applied to its screening grid the average S.G. valve misbehaves in a way that ordinary valves cannot do. Such a wrong voltage may send the valve into oscillation, causing unsteady and erratic reception.