

Broadcasting Control

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which was recently appointed under the Broadcasting Act of last session.

"For the future the broadcast service will be publicly owned and controlled by the Broadcasting Board. It will be the aim of the board to give best possible service commensurate with their financial resources. As the task ahead of the new board is a big one, I would ask all listeners for their sympathetic co-operation. It would seem that unless some further new invention appears that the possibilities ahead of broadcasting, both from the educational and social point of view, are almost unlimited."

After Midnight

Board Control

IMEDIATELY after the chimes at midnight, when the Broadcasting Company's control ended, a statement was read by the announcers on behalf of the Radio Board. This message appears elsewhere.

A further statement was made by the Postmaster-General and read at 9 p.m. on January 1, 1932, at the four YA stations.

"At midnight last night the ownership of the four YA stations passed from the Radio Broadcasting Company to the Post and Telegraph Department in accordance with an agreement made some years ago. The Post and Telegraph Department is buying the stations from the company and when the transaction is completed will hand them over to the Board established under the Broadcasting Act of last year. From to-day the Broadcasting Board will be operating the stations, and, as provided by Act of Parliament, it will be the duty of the board to improve and extend the service until the whole of New Zealand is adequately covered with as good a broadcasting service as can be provided with the funds available.

"I desire to take this opportunity of expressing the Government's appreciation of the service given to the listeners by the company during the past six years. Prior to the formation of the Radio Broadcasting Company other groups had carried on broadcasting, but without much success, and it was not until the YA stations came into existence that a regular service was given. The Radio Broadcasting Company pioneered the service in New Zealand, and even if their service did not meet with the approval of all, at least it must be acknowledged that the service to-day is organised on a very satisfactory basis.

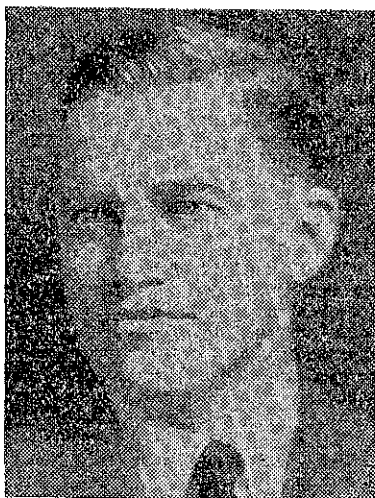
"In conclusion, I would ask for the new board the sympathetic co-operation of all listeners. A happy New Year to you all."

Seized of Its Responsibilities.

AFURTHER statement was made by the board:—"The board desires to inform listeners that it is fully seized of its responsibilities and that it will do its utmost to fulfil its functions in a manner satisfactory to licensees. It will endeavour to proceed along pro-

gressive lines with the idea of providing the best possible service and always with the idea of building up a broadcasting service that will be a credit to the Dominion. It will be appreciated that the board has not yet had an opportunity of investigating details and that it is not possible at this juncture to touch on policy matters. The board believes that the organisation taken over from the Radio Broadcasting Company is an efficient one; and it is not proposed to disturb it meanwhile.

"So far as programmes are concerned, while a few minor changes have been made, the board has concentrated



MR. A. R. HARRIS,
General Manager of the Radio Broadcasting Company, which went out of office at midnight on December 31.

on ensuring that a smooth service will be afforded throughout January. An advisory council to the board has yet to be appointed and, until the advice of that body is available, no noteworthy changes will be made.

"The members of the board extend to listeners their best wishes for 1932, and express the hope that, as time goes on, the board's efforts in the interests of broadcasting will meet with the approbation of licensees."

Staff and Plant

Change-over Arrangements

THE change over from company to board control has naturally raised the question in the minds of many listeners, "What will become of the staff and will the announcer be changed?" In all, 69 persons were employed by the Radio Broadcasting Company, and the board decided that none of these shall be thrown on to the labour market, for, with but a few exceptions, the whole staff has been taken over.

Arrangements have been made for the complete head office staff, with the exception of Mr. A. R. Harris, who was not an applicant for reappointment, Messrs. R. Lake and F. G. Walker, accountants, and Miss O. M. Taylor, typist, who have accepted other positions, to transfer to Wellington. They will be accommodated on the lower floor of 2YA, which is being altered. Owing to the noise made by the carpenters being picked up by the microphone, it is possible to work between 11 p.m. and 10 a.m. only, but the work

is proceeding satisfactorily, and by the time we go to press the alterations will be completed. The staff, which is already in Wellington, consists of Messrs. S. J. Hayden (secretary), J. M. Bingham (chief engineer), C. S. Booth (programme supervisor), J. I. Inkster (publicity officer), C. Atkinson (recorded music supervisor), G. Brocklehurst (accountant), E. Perreau (cashier), Miss D. Corrigan (music librarian), Misses I. E. Rowe, E. J. Bishop, T. R. Woodham, L. Lattimore, P. Spencer, and M. Hood (typists), Messrs. W. Huggins (operator), and H. Fletcher (assistant operator).

In future only station 3YA staff will be located in Christchurch, comprising the following:—Messrs. J. Mackenzie (station director), C. S. Bell (programme organiser), A. L. Curry (announcer), B. G. Henderson (operator), P. G. Hawes and G. F. Norris (relay operators), Miss Maynard Hall (children's organiser), and Miss D. M. Evans (typist).

The Broadcasting Bill provided for the taking over of the company's plant at valuation, or, failing an agreement, at a price fixed by arbitration. Arbitration has had to be resorted to, and an inspection of the plant and premises of the head office of the company was carried out by the Hon. Mr. Justice Blair last week. Mr. Justice Blair will inspect the premises at Dunedin when he has finished his work in Christchurch, but the final valuation will not be completed until early in this month.

And so we have started upon a new broadcasting era. It will be interesting to watch the developments. Slow they will be, but as the board has been charged to improve and extend the service we can hope for beneficial changes. But with the passing of the control from a private company to a corporate body, the responsibility of providing an acceptable service becomes one in which every listener, public body, and artist should co-operate. The board is only a trustee—the people are the owners.

Policy of the Board

NO definite statement has been issued regarding the policy of the board concerning any of the major questions of broadcasting control. The first meeting dealt with the essentials necessary to the change over, and so far no official statements have been made regarding the programme side, or for that matter any other side of broadcasting. The next meeting of the board will be held in three weeks, and it is hoped then that some of the major problems will receive attention and some policy points will be announced.

International Programmes

AS part of the policy of the board, the international programmes, which have been featured from each of the four YA stations, have been definitely withdrawn. In the meantime they are being replaced with high-class recordings.

HAVE you renewed your subscription to the—

"Radio Record and Home Journal."
Box 1032, Wellington.

The Year At 1YA

Many Plays

AS was the case in 1930, a feature of the broadcasts from 1YA was the comprehensive sports service, practically every variety of sports being covered. The announcing was in the capable hands of Mr. Gordon Hutter. Difficulty was again experienced in obtaining the co-operation of certain sports bodies for the relaying of sports, and it is hoped the new Broadcasting Board will be able to make satisfactory arrangements.

Many Interesting Relays.

THERE was a large number of interesting relays and rebroadcasts of outstanding events both in New Zealand and overseas. These included a relay from Hokitika of a talk by the trans-Tasman flyer, Mr. Guy Menzies, in January; rebroadcasts of addresses by his Holiness the Pope and Signor Marconi from the Vatican City in February; the opening by the Prince of Wales of the Empire Trade Exhibition in Buenos Aires, and an account of the Oxford-Cambridge boat race in March; relays of the Auckland Radio Exhibition in May; the ceremony of turning on the new turbines at the Auckland Power Board's station in June; broadcasts by the New Zealand cricketers via the London New Zealand radiophone service in August; and rebroadcasts of station WXAI, United States, in August and September, and a relay of the civic reception to "Wizard" Smith last month.

The entertainment side of the programme was well maintained. In spite of the copyright restrictions good progress was made with the development of radio drama. Some of the enjoyable plays presented during the year were a dramatised version of "Evangeline," "And So To Bed," "Treasure Island," "Joan of Arc," "School for Scandal," "The Price," "Destiny's Door," "The Black Mamba," "The White Owl," "The Doge of Venice," and "Kirk-o'-Field." The last six were written locally, being the work of Dr. G. de Clive Lowe.

Presentation of Plays.

IT is often said that lack of local talent is a deterrent to the improvement of broadcast programmes in New Zealand. The copyright restrictions on plays have served one good purpose; the excellent plays written locally prove conclusively that New Zealand, as well as having capable performers, has promising broadcast writers and producers. The development of this talent should be fostered by the board, and more inducement and incentive offered to the authors and artists. In Britain, the United States, Germany and Australia radio drama is a separate department in the programme organisation and each country has its own radio play producers.

The instrumental part of the station's activities was mainly in the hands of Mr. Harold Baxter's Salon Orchestra, which succeeded his Orchestral Octet, and the orchestra maintained a high standard of performance. In addition to the excellent relayed recitals by the Auckland Municipal