

The New Zealand Radio Record

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Home Journal

(Incorporating the "Canterbury Radio Journal.")

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BROADCASTING CHANGES HANDS.

AT midnight on New Year's Eve the control of broadcasting passed from the hands of the Radio Broadcasting Company of N.Z. to the newly-constituted Broadcasting Board. The changeover was marked only by a few brief announcements and a statement by the Broadcasting Company. In their farewell speech to listeners the company briefly traced the growth of broadcasting in the country from the time when there were 3000 listeners till the present, when there are 70,000. Many difficulties have beset their path, and they were not able to please everyone, but it must be acknowledged that it was due only to their pioneering work that broadcasting in New Zealand has reached the high standard it now maintains. Misunderstandings there have been, and much criticism has been levelled against the company, but they nevertheless leave behind them a large number—by far the majority—who are satisfied with their efforts. The company faced many difficulties, financial and otherwise, but that is all by the way. The service is now the property of the people, and the Board are merely the trustees; the extent to which they can improve the service rests to a large extent upon every person who is in any way connected with radio.

Tribute was paid the company by the Hon. A. Hamilton in a brief speech made prior to the taking over of the service. The Minister expressed his belief in broadcasting by saying that the possibilities, both from the educational and social point of view, are almost unlimited. It is with this realisation that the Board have taken control, and listeners can confidently look forward to a general broadening of the service in the future.

Tribute was also paid the general manager of the Broadcasting Company, Mr. A. R. Harris, by the station director of 2YA. It is mainly his foresight and energy, combined with the enthusiasm and ability of his staff, that have been responsible for the present state of New Zealand broadcasting. It is gratifying in this respect to see that the Board have seen fit to take over with only a few minor exceptions the whole of the staff of the company. By doing this the continuity of the service is assured during the time the Board are engaged on the pressing matters concerning the actual changeover.

OFFICIAL statements were broadcast immediately after the midnight chimes. The Board in a New Year message again paid tribute to the company, making mention of the fact that in a very few years broadcasting had been elevated to a comprehensive service run on very satisfactory lines. They were trustees of the people, and as

such will carry on where the company left off, and will seek ways and means of extending and improving the service.

THE Board has no easy task, but it is characteristic of sound business methods that they do not attempt to make any changes until they have had time to investigate the service. It seems that to run such a service the first essential of the controlling body is to be able to place reliance in others—specialists in their special lines. The next essential is that the personnel be men with experience in finance and business methods—that is essential for any organisation. The next is to possess the elasticity to explore and learn the essentials of the new task they are faced with. It is men of this description who were appointed to the British Broadcasting Corporation and who made of it such a brilliant success. They were not experts in broadcasting matters, but they employed experts. These were sound methods, and in essaying to follow in the footsteps of Great Britain the Board should be accorded every support. They have been chosen because of their ability as business men, and have shown it in assuming office but a few days before the old regime came to a conclusion and carrying on without disruption. Under the circumstances chaos could have reigned, but everything goes on smoothly.

ONLY gradually will the policy points be settled and the changes made, and it is far too soon yet to look for other than a few minor alterations. Points which listeners will await with interest is the policy with regard to "B" stations, for it is likely that the service will unified, transmission hours and programme standards, including a possible re-shuffling of musical organisations. It must be borne in mind, however, that the Radio Board is not the B.B.C. and has only a very limited income, which it must make go a long way. The only way the service can succeed is by co-operation of all interested in broadcasting and an extension of the license numbers.

A Broadcast That Wasn't

Arrival of Floating Dock

AN incident that is not without its humorous side occurred when the floating dock arrived in Wellington harbour last week. Although the probable date of the arrival was known some weeks ahead, it came as a surprise when it was learned the day previously that it would arrive in the harbour the next day. Seeing the possibility of a "stunt," arrangements were hastily made for 2YA to broadcast the actual arrival of the dock. The engineers hastily constructed a 5-watt transmitter that was to broadcast from the "Natone," and this was to be picked up and relayed by 2YA.

All went well and the transmitter, the announcer, and the operator duly shipped abroad and the ship left for the Heads. On round the point the huge dock was sighted and the announcer gave the sign to the operator that he was ready to broadcast. Then commenced a long description of the scene, the huge dock which, jutting abruptly out of the water resembled a cast of old, the hundreds of small fry, outboards, launches, dinghies and skiffs that scurried round the monster, the zooming planes which came so low that one could have shot a pebble into the fuselage, and the thousands of people who lined the shores and hills to witness the unique event. For two and a half hours the supposed broadcast continued, during which time Mr. H. D. Bennett, of the Harbour Board, addressed the microphone.

When it was all over and the announcer came ashore, the rest of 2YA wanted to know what had happened,

Voluminous Correspondence

EVER since it was announced that broadcasting would be placed under a board, correspondence has been received from all over New Zealand and elsewhere. Even before there was a board correspondence was sent in, and all this has accumulated, so that one of the first tasks of the General Manager has been to deal with this pile. Every letter is receiving attention, although it is impossible to deal with some of the questions raised owing to there being a lack of completed plans.

It is hoped that correspondents will realise this position, if they do not receive in reply to their letter exactly what they were expecting.

Personal

MR. T. W. RICKARD, together with Mrs. Rickard, left for America on the Maunganui last week. Mr. Rickard, who is the manager for C. and A. Odlin (Atwater-Kent Radio), proposes to investigate the radio trade in America, and will be abroad for approximately six months.

for, as listeners know, nothing went over the air. The operator on the hill heard nothing, yet the operator on the boat averred that the broadcast went out all right. Now the question of the hour is "Where did the broadcast go?"

Those of us who heard the now famous fire broadcast from 2YA, and have realised the ability of the announcer to rise to a special occasion, are very disappointed that the broadcast was missing.