

Broadcasting to the Empire

(Continued from page 7.)

return on expenditure in the form of a contribution from the colonial listener, possibly a proportion of the license fee paid by such listener to his local administration.

Among the suggestions for financing Empire broadcasting recommended by the Colonial Conference last year was a special fee of 5/- per listener be charged. And so after four years an Empire service is to be inaugurated.

Technical Details.

Technically, the following details will be of interest. Two separate transmitters will be used, arranged for simultaneous operation. They will be erected at Daventry, where a site is already available on the land owned there by the B.B.C. It will be possible to radiate separate programmes from the two transmitters at the same time, although normally it will not be necessary to do so. A number of aerials will be used to permit transmission on the various wavelengths necessary to reach any part of the world at the desired time of day. Although no wavelengths have yet been chosen, it is probable that one wave will be available in each of the bands of short waves allotted to broadcasting by the Washington Conference, viz.:—

| Kilocycles. | Metres. |
|------------------|------------------|
| 6,000 to 6,150 | (50 to 48.8) |
| 9,500 to 9,600 | (31.6 to 31.2) |
| 11,700 to 11,900 | (25.6 to 25.2) |
| 15,100 to 15,350 | (19.85 to 19.55) |
| 17,750 to 17,800 | (16.9 to 16.85) |
| 21,450 to 21,550 | (14 to 13.9) |

It is probable, therefore, that each transmitter will be able to transmit on three short waves, arrangements being made for a fairly quick change from one wave to another. The transmitter will conform to modern standards of frequency, stability, modulation, depth and audio frequency characteristic, while their power will be of the order of 15 to 20 kilowatts supplied to the aerial in carrier-wave condition. The construction of the station will begin shortly, and it should be completed in about one year's time.

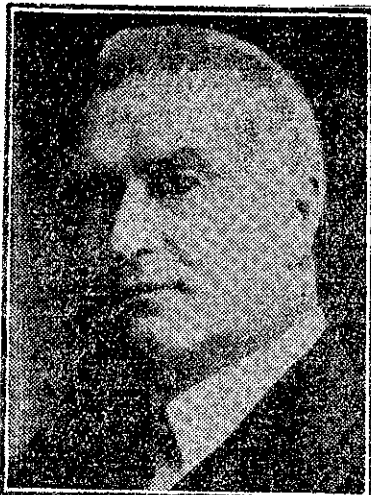
Transmission Hours.

In order to reach the ideal of each Dominion and colony being given a programme during the whole of the hours from 6 p.m. to midnight local time, it would be necessary to run the transmitters for a very considerable part of the 24 hours. At the outset, however, the hours of working will depend on the initial success of the service and the demand it stimulates. In general, it will be composed of material available in the Home programmes, but the production of specially-timed programmes would also be involved in any complete service to an Empire which covers some 300 degrees of longitude.

In concluding this brief survey of a wide subject, it is perhaps well to state, for the benefit of British listeners in this country, that, except in certain conditions, the Empire transmitters will not be generally receivable in the British Isles. The direct rays of the short waves in use will become attenuated very rapidly, while the indirect rays which will give the

Empire Broadcasting

A message from Sir Thos. Wilford,
C.M.G., K.C.



—S. P. Andrew, photo.

High Commissioner
for N.Z.

"I am delighted that at last the long-looked-for 'Empire' Short-wave Broadcasting Station is to materialise. By this progressive movement a 'news service,' which has hitherto been lacking, will be given, and will provide a feature that dwellers in the Empire overseas will greatly value; while the use of alternate wavelengths will make the transmissions much more effective than heretofore. The scheme sponsored by the B.B.C. has my sincere good wishes."

service to the Empire will not reach the earth again, after returning from the Heavyside Layer, within a distance of several hundreds of miles, the exact distance depending on the season of the year, the time of day, and the wavelength in use.

News Service from G5SW.
THE Chelmsford shortwave station, G5SW, have started the New

Year well by broadcasting a regular news service for "shortwave listeners in the British Commonwealth," commencing on January 4. This service, according to the announcer of 5SW, is available by special arrangement with Reuters.

This service, no doubt, will be very welcome to Britishers overseas who are well away from daily newspapers which get the cables from Home in quick time, but for the majority of us in New Zealand the news given out by 5SW has already appeared in the local Press; at least, that has been my experience during the past few days.

These news sessions are thrice daily (except Saturday and Sunday, when 5SW is silent) from 12.30 a.m. to 12.45 a.m., 6.30 a.m. to 6.45 a.m., and 12 a.m. (noon) to 12.15 p.m., all New Zealand summer time.

Listening on Shortwave.

NOW that a new Empire station has been decided upon, there is bound to be a much greater interest taken in the most interesting of all broadcast listening—on short waves.

Of course, the British programmes will be rebroadcast by the YA stations, but who wants a rebroadcast programme when it is possible with a very little expense to acquire a shortwave receiver? One can be obtained either ready to use or—the most interesting way—can be built by oneself, and it is not very difficult when you are told just what is required. Next, and most important, is how to tune in the dozens of shortwave stations that are broadcasting interesting programmes from nearly every civilised country in the world. This tuning is just a little tricky at first, but with a little assistance from the right quarter and experience the newcomer to short waves will be surprised at the number of stations it is possible to log, not always strong enough for the loudspeaker, but loud enough to be readable on the phones. There is more credit in logging a very low-power station in a distant country than in putting one of the mighty stations of many kilowatts on the speaker.

Empire Broadcasting



A message from
Hon. Sir Philip
Cunliffe-Lister,
G.B.E., M.C., Sec-
retary of State
for the Colonies.

"It is one of the most pleasant duties which has fallen to my lot since I became Secretary of State for the Colonies to express my gratification at the decision of the British Broadcasting Corporation to erect a short-wave wireless station which will enable broadcasting stations in the Colonies and individual listeners to receive programmes from the Old Country.

We live in an age of great and extraordinary inventions, but I count none greater nor more potent in uniting the bonds of Empire than those which will so soon enable lonely listeners in the heart of Africa and remote islands in tropical seas to hear with their own ears the familiar chimes of "Big Ben" and the same programmes which their own people are listening to in their own homes in distant England."

Empire Programmes

Organisation in Britain

AN interesting development, of which news has just reached the Dominion, is the establishment in London, under the title of Colonial Radio Programmes, Limited, of an organisation with the specific object of recording British programmes and circulating them among overseas broadcasting stations.

The managing-director of this new organisation is Mr. M. A. Frost, who was in the Dominion some few months ago in the course of a world tour. Mr. Frost, as a prominent radio playwright and producer, had very close affiliations with the British Broadcasting Corporation, and was engaged to proceed to America by one of the important national broadcasting chains of that country to give advice and engage in production. Following on that engagement Mr. Frost made a world tour, and as a result has organised the business outlined.

The company is now circulating programmes devised on three main lines:—

- Those sponsored by international advertisers;
- Those distributed by them designed to carry local publicity; and
- Those for purely sustaining purposes.

The latter class only will carry a specific appeal for New Zealand, and this class is to be circulated on the lines of syndicated Press articles. It is intended in the preparation of these recorded broadcast programmes to maintain 80 per cent. of British artists and music, and to keep the tone of the organisation distinctly Imperial. To that end a close liaison and co-operation with the British Broadcasting Corporation is being established.

A sample of one of the new organisation's recorded programmes is now in the Dominion, and may prove to be the forerunner of a development of distinct interest and value to New Zealand listeners. With the increasing attention being given in Britain to shortwave broadcasting for Empire purposes, it is apparent that the various parts of the Empire will no longer be confined to Empire sources for international programmes.

Radio Competition No. 1

Over 200 people tied in The Radio Competition No. 1 by gaining 60 points, the names of the Radio Sets being as follows:

Airzone, Crosley, Ultimate, Philco, Courtenay, Zaney-Gill, Gulbransen, Pilot, Radion, Majestic, Eagle, Q.P.

Retry forms have been sent to successful people, and results will be published after the 16th.

RADIO COMPETITION No. 1

Box 1582, Wellington.