

fate of "B" stations is involved in that preliminary investigation it is doubtful in our view whether any announcement of the Board's major policy can be made for some considerable interval. In the programme field and the administration of the service, minor changes can be made, and it is in this field that listeners will doubtless first see results of the Board's activity.

Speed Record Broadcasts

Rebroadcasting Descriptions

THE first big "stunt" to fall to the Broadcasting Board has been "Wizard" Smith's record-breaking race on Ninety Mile Beach. This undertaking—we are referring to the broadcasting part of it, the attempt on the world's speed record speaks for itself—has been beset with difficulties. Ninety Mile Beach is not a populous locality—except for toheroas—and telephone communication does not reach beyond Kaitia, so, to bridge the intervening distance a portable transmitting set had to be installed near the beach, with a receiving set at Kaitia, whence the telephonic relay was carried to Auckland and Wellington.

The technical portion of the undertaking was carried out by the engineers of the P. and T. Department, which installed and operated the transmitting equipment and also arranged the necessary relay lines.

The uncertainty as to the date and time of the record-breaking attempt made things difficult for the Broadcasting Board, but proved fortunate for listeners, as the Board arranged for broadcast each evening at 9 o'clock, when the happenings of the day were related and some interesting talks were given.

The arranging for these preliminary talks—which were broadcast by 1YA, 2YA, 3YA and 4YA—is a good augury for the future, indicating that the Board can be expected to make the most of an opportunity.

On Sunday evening the broadcast was also carried out by 4ZP, Invercargill, so that, already early in its career, the Board has set a record by relaying from the extreme north to the extreme south of New Zealand.

In addition to the broadcasts by the

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The Board Takes Over Head Office Now in Wellington

THE head office staff of the Broadcasting Company was transferred from Christchurch last week, and has now taken up its new quarters in the 2YA Building, Featherston Street, Wellington. The necessary structural alterations have been made, and excellent accommodation has been provided. The staff of the Board appears to be settling down steadily to its work under the direction of the acting-general manager, Mr. E. C. Hands.

There is no indication yet of any great "kicking up of dust," and listeners need not expect any manifestations of that nature nor any clamour as to what the Board proposes to do. No more can be expected of it than that for a time it should "feel its way," and listeners will be well satisfied in their expectation of slow but steady development. At the same time, despite what has been said about the time it would take for the influence of the new Board to be felt, listeners will already have noticed a "something different" about the YA programmes. The Board took up the running on January 1, from which date it is responsible for the service and the nature of the entertainment provided.

The Board proposes to continue the system of committees already in existence, while it will also have the assistance of the Advisory Council which is shortly to be appointed from nominations received from all parts of New Zealand.

Though the three members of the Board bring to New Zealand broadcast-

YA stations, all B stations who applied for permission to connect up with the Board's relay were permitted to do so, and broadcasts were carried out by 1ZR (Lewis Eady), 2ZW, Wellington (Nimmo), and the Western Electric short-wave station, 2ZX, Wellington.

In addition to being used for broadcasting speech, the portable transmitter installed at Ninety Mile Beach has also been used for radio telegraphic purposes. Its call sign is ZLE.

ing a new angle of outlook, it is essentially a business combination—similar to the directors of a company—which will decide questions of policy and act as trustees for listeners who, like shareholders in a company, have invested in the broadcasting service.

The Board, however, differs from the directorate of a company in that it is essentially a non-profit-making concern, though, in the interests of licensed listeners, the service will be run on sound commercial lines. The Board, it cannot be too clearly stated, is not in any respect under Government control, although the Postmaster-General is and always will be the licensing authority. Apart from this, however, the Board will have a free hand—this is clearly the intention of the Act—and will be untrammelled politically or otherwise.

IF the earth lead is taken to a water-pipe it is essential that this is cleaned properly, and that no paint is allowed to remain on the pipe before the clip is placed on it.

Radio Author's Success

First Novel Published

(By "Microphone.")

MR. EDWIN J. LANDON, of Auckland, the author of the broadcast dramatic sketch "The Signal" (which should not be confused with Mary Scott's prize-winning radio play of the same name) which has been successfully produced from 1YA, 2YA and 3YA has had his first novel "Suspicion" published in London. Listeners to "The Signal" will recall that the action in the sketch, which was written specially for broadcasting, took place in the mine-fields of the English Channel and that wireless played an important part in the plot.

In one sense there is an affinity between "The Signal" and "Suspicion," which deals with the activities of German submarines and British Q ships. Mr. Landon had extensive experience in the wireless cabins of Q ships during the war—having begun service on British boats patrolling the English Channel when 17 years of age—and has drawn upon his store of first-hand knowledge in "Suspicion."

Another radio play from the facile pen of Mr. Landon, "The Drum," a story of the Dutch Wars, has been broadcast from 1YA.

Notes and News From the North

(By "Microphone")

COMMENCING on the first Tuesday in February a recorded programme of popular semi-classical numbers will be presented from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. at 1YA. Last year Tuesday evenings were devoted to International programmes, while, at present, a studio programme is being given from 8 p.m. to 9.30 p.m., with operatic and classical selections between 9.30 p.m. and 10.0 p.m.

AN interesting talk from 1YA last week was that on "Hitch Hiking Around the World," by Mr. Arthur Cone. Mr. Cone, an enterprising 19-year-old American youth, is hiking around the world, but, as he explained in his lecture, he does not refuse a lift. Mr. Cone, who has a pleasing, racy style and diverting subject matter, will give another talk from 1YA on January 13.

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