

## Ultra Short-Wave Wireless Telephony

### Important Demonstration by Marconi

IN the presence of representatives of the Italian Government, an official demonstration took place on November 20 in Italy between Santa Margherita Ligure and Levanto—a distance of 25 miles—of the new Marconi quasi-optical, ultra-short wave radio-telephone system. The wavelength used was only 50 centimetres (the same as that employed in the previous demonstration recently carried out between Santa Margherita Ligure and Sestri Levante over a distance of 11 miles), corresponding to the enormous frequency of six hundred million cycles per second.

The success of the demonstration was all the more complete because, although the range had been increased from 11 to 25 miles, the margin in the signal strength was such as clearly to indicate to all present that apparatus used was capable of covering a considerably greater distance.

In an interview granted immediately after the demonstration to representatives of the Press, his Excellency the Marchese Marconi made the following interesting statement:—

"Since 1896, when I was already experimenting with wavelengths of 20 centimetres, I had no doubt in my mind but that the short waves, which are called quasi-optical because they behave very like the waves of visible light, would one day come into use for commercial communications. The results of those very early tests were confirmed by the more recent experiments I carried out at Leghorn during the World War using a wavelength of 50 centimetres. However, nobody, myself included, had then succeeded in producing ultra shortwave apparatus sufficiently powerful, economical, and reliable to justify its immediate use for public telephone or telegraph services over suitable distances.

"During the last six months, my assistants, particularly Mr. G. A. Mathieu, and myself have been concentrating our efforts toward a commercial solution of the problem, and many unexpected and valuable discoveries have been made, I would therefore ask you not to consider this demonstration as a mere scientific experiment, but as a test of a new practical and commercial radio-system which will very shortly be used for public services in Italy. Owing to its simplicity the new system is very moderate in price and in running costs; it will thus soon afford to the inhabitants of many small islands scattered in the Mediterranean a reliable telephone service which they could not, heretofore, enjoy in consequence of the high cost of the submarine cable telephone installation."

Requested to state whether it was correct that the application of this "quasi-optical" wave was strictly limited to very short distance communications, Marchese Marconi added: "Well, at the present stage of our knowledge I do not anticipate a reliable range of more than about 100 miles; but this is of course a very useful range in itself and could be very greatly increased by making use of relays or repeaters wherever possible."

## Our Mailbag

### Howling Valves Again.

NOW that we have a Radio Board to control broadcasting matters it is to be hoped they will take immediate steps to deal with the howling valve nuisance.

In this district we are never free of this trouble, day or night, and frequently an evening's programme is completely spoilt.

This annoyance has been going on for months past, and protests in the local papers and complaint to the postal authorities have been fruitless.

The matter is serious enough to demand the attention of an expert from outside the district, and besides stop-

ping the trouble it may be the means of discovering a number of unregistered sets.—"Ted Up" (Gisborne).

### Announcers and Announcing.

CONGRATULATIONS to dxers on their European verifications. The time is now ripe, it may happen next winter—what about a gold medal for the first dxer to get a verification from London?

Conditions have improved somewhat during the last week, and I have managed to add 2SM, 4BH, 2GN, KOL. I have also picked up a station at R6 overpowering 2NC, but have got no call, but I am picking him to be the new Wellington station, 2ZR.

Our YA announcers are getting worse. When will they wake up to the fact that there are hundreds of overseas listeners waiting to identify their

stations, yet they seldom give their location? It must be remembered that other countries do not pick up New Zealand stations at R7-8, and most listeners like to know where the material is coming from, and it would not keep them at their post very much longer if they gave station particulars when closing down at night. I am sure there are many overseas listeners who would appreciate this. The same applies to most of our B-class stations. I think dxers as well as assisting one another in New Zealand could keep their eye open and probably assist some of their overseas friends in many small ways. I know this is being done by the secretary of the Round the World Club, but he needs all the support he can get from the N.Z.D.X. Club.—B.W. (Stratford).

## Travel Broadcasts

TWO interesting people are shortly to be heard on the air. One is Miss D. M. Chown, F.R.G.S., R.E.S., an English authoress who loves to travel round the world on tracks that are not too well beaten. One of her achievements was to journey alone from the Cape to Cairo, availing herself of any means of transport that presented itself on by-way or highway. Miss Chown has been to New Zealand on a previous occasion, and when she broadcast a talk in Japan she was able to tell her English listeners there a lot about this country. She has been booked for a series of talks from 2YA in February, and will take as her theme "A Woman's Wanderings Through Africa."

THE other lecturer is a young American, Arthur Cone, who is "hitchhiking" round the world. This expression implies walking when necessary, but always welcoming a free lift on anything travelling on land, water, or air. He has travelled thus during the last five years. He lately worked his way on the Ventura across the Pacific to Australia, saw that country, and also Papua. Now he is doing New Zealand, after having worked his passage across the Tasman. Though still in his teens, he has had a life of varied experiences.

He told 1YA listeners about them on Wednesday, January 6, and will speak from 2YA on Friday, January 22.

## World Radio News

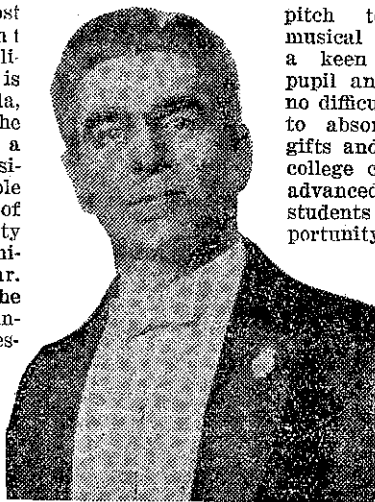
THE French police distinguish between classes of unintentional electrical disturbance and those in which the offender has wilfully endeavoured to interrupt the pleasures of broadcast listeners. From Paris comes a report that a resident has been fined nearly £6 for maliciously upsetting his neighbour's reception by means of an electric machine.

A SMALL fee of a dollar a year is charged for a radio license in Canada, and for this a fleet of cars is maintained under Government control to trace down all complaints of interference, such as leaky lines, faulty transformers, etc., on the power mains. This fleet does good work, and the results warrant the small charge made. Otherwise the stations are privately owned and controlled.

## Noted Flautist - Conductor

### 2YA Orchestrina's Director

ONE of the most prominent musical personalities at 2YA is Signor A. P. Truda, conductor of the Orchestrina and a distinguished musician with a notable record. A man of genial personality and tact, he is universally popular. As a conductor he has an extraordinary sense of orchestral balance. In Wellington he is well known as the conductor of a very efficient choir of St. Mary of the Angels.



SIGNOR A. P. TRUDA.

As may be imagined, Signor A. P. Truda comes from a distinguished musical family. At the early age of ten he commenced his musical education at the Principe Umberto College, at Salerno, where for six years, under Professor Genovese, he studied music and the art of flute playing in its various branches.

At the age of twelve he was one of twenty boys chosen at the college to sing in the boys' chorus in the opera "Carmen." The choir-master was the celebrated organist, Rossi, and the opera conductor was none other than Lombardi. Among the leading performers were Enrico Caruso, Pignataro and others. This was the youth's introduction to grand opera.

Further continuing his studies, he went to Naples for three years, where he became a pupil of the celebrated flautist, Professor Casi, a protegee of Briccialdi, who was noted for his wonderful tone colour, phrasing and voice control. The professor, a man of great culture and experience, quickly perceived Truda's sense of

pitch temperament and musical aptness, and took a keen interest in his pupil and certainly found no difficulty in getting him to absorb his own fine gifts and qualities. At a college concert, where the advanced and talented students were given an opportunity of performing in the presence of notable conductors, Truda played "Fantasie" from "Rigoletto," a number with melodious theme and technically difficult variations. His performance was so predominantly artistic

that it won for him the admiration of several conductors present and was responsible for his appointment later to play first flute in symphony and operatic orchestras under the eminent conductors, Lombardi, Barrella, Grandini and Marzano.

Signor Truda has made comprehensive tours of Australia and New Zealand as flautist and conductor, and has been associated in concerts with Madame Calve, Blanch Arral, Rosina Buckman, Lidia Lipovska, Philip Newbury and others. He was solo flautist in the New Zealand International Exhibition Orchestra and during an afternoon chamber concert given by Alfred Hill, Cyril Monk, Gladstone and himself, Madame Blanch Arral, the prima donna who was touring New Zealand at that time, heard Truda playing, and although she had a flautist, made special application to the president of the Exhibition and the conductor to release Mr. Truda for a particular concert in Christchurch. At the conclusion of this, Madame presented him with a gold pencil as a memento.