

Fire of Criticism

Board Attacked

IT has not taken long for the Broadcasting Board to come under the fire of criticism. A correspondent in a Wellington paper attacks the board for its alleged failure to improve the programmes of 2YA. He emphasises that "there is not the slightest doubt that radio enthusiasts lived in great anticipation of better programmes on 2YA's re-birth," and he proceeds to state his case, his main contention being that 2YA persists in "broadcasting almost tuneless airs night after night—compositions, a few admittedly good, that were composed nearly thousands of years ago!"

The letter drew replies from a battery of four guns the following night. The writer was taken to book by one correspondent, concerning his musical knowledge. The second, commiserating with 2YA for "getting it in the neck again," calls for fair play. The third correspondent also defended the board.

In the course of his letter he said: "In less than a fortnight of the board taking over control it is subjected to a tirade about the 'type of stuff' put over from 2YA. The critic is evidently one of those who expected the board to usher in the broadcasting millennium in New Zealand. I don't think the board has ever made any statement that even suggested it was going to revolutionise broadcasting. The Government did not take over the service with that purpose in view. The board is in the position of trustees for the listeners. If too much is expected of the new control it is due to the wild statements and promises made by those who opposed the previous control. But I say emphatically that 2YA programmes have improved since January 1, 1932, and 2YA listeners in general will bear me out. It is well known that the board has been working under extreme difficulties, and it is greatly to its credit that any improvements at all should be noticeable. Personally, I don't expect any rapid—or any very great—improvement in the service, and neither would 'Radio' if he were fair-minded and unbiased."

The fourth writer also contended that the programmes had been improved, forcefully pointing to and applauding the board's action in substituting a recorded programme for the "international Yankee matter."

Experimental Television Station

THE television station which the National Broadcasting Company of America is building at the top of the Empire State Building in New York, 1250 feet above the street, is expected to be ready shortly. It is proposed to use ultra-short waves in the initial tests, and a number of receiving stations will be established in the metropolitan area for observation purposes. It is hoped by those in charge of the work that Vladimir Zworykin's new cathode ray receiver will be ready by the time the station commences its initial tests.



Robert Burns anniversary programmes will be broadcast from 2YA by the

Caledonian Society

on Saturday, January 23,

from 3YA by the

Christchurch Municipal Band

and assisting artists

on Monday, January 25.

and from 1YA by the

Caledonian Concert Party

on Tuesday, January 26.

"Oliver Cromwell"

2YA Broadcast Applauded

THE recent broadcast programme of "Oliver Cromwell" by Mr. Victor Lloyd and his company met with widespread appreciation. The producer and 2YA have received letters from all parts of New Zealand, as well as many telephone messages on the evening of the performance.

A Hawera listener wrote:—"The play 'Oliver Cromwell' has just concluded, and the writer feels that it is only just that an appreciation should be given where it is due. The play was very much enjoyed in our house, and were it not for the interruption caused by the relay from the Ninety Mile Beach, time would have ceased to exist from 8 o'clock till the end of the play. We hope that many others will give you their appreciation and that as a result we will be favoured with more plays of a like nature in the future."

From Napier:—"I wish to express a radio listener's appreciation of the excellent performance of 'Oliver Cromwell' broadcast by your station last night. I was listening-in with four others and we were completely thrilled with the performance from beginning to end. The reception was very good and we hardly missed a word. Each member of the cast was extremely good and there was no difficulty in distinguishing the various speakers. Personally, I have never enjoyed a radio programme more."

Christchurch:—"Please congratulate the producer of 'Oliver Cromwell' for

me for his very excellent production. The parts were well sustained and the property effects were splendidly effective. I thoroughly enjoyed the whole performance and others also have expressed their appreciation."

A reverse opinion:—"Can you imagine a tired businessman listening-in to 'Oliver Cromwell'? I will guarantee not 5 per cent. of radios were on Wellington last night. Why not put on records in place of the weird wallings in Eastern music of the Orchestra and Orchestra? They only make 'static' a pleasure."

A DX Achievement

2ZI Heard in New York

THAT station 2ZI, Hastings, could be heard in New York would at first seem an impossibility, yet a letter for verification has been received from a listener in Brooklyn, New York. The letter reads: "This morning I believe I heard your station at 5.30 a.m., E.S.T. I understood the announcer to say 'Good-night Waltz,' but it commenced with what I believe was the 'Last Post.' The station faded out at this point."

After making due inquiry as to time, etc., it was found that the report was correct in every particular.

Credit for this remarkable performance is due undoubtedly to the engineer and operator of the station, Mr. Paul Barcham, while, on the reception end, no little credit is due to Mr. Halpem, who tuned in the station.

Gradual Improvements

Policy of the Board

IN preparation for the efficient conduct and probable new developments in the New Zealand broadcasting service, the Broadcasting Board is laying sound foundations. As has previously been stated by the chairman of the board, Mr. H. D. Vickery, no sudden changes in the existing service need be expected. The board, which came into existence only a few weeks ago, is content with a slow but sure policy. It is evident, however, that plans for the future are being carefully laid.

Prominent Novelist

Views on Broadcasting

MR. H. G. WELLS, who is now on a lecture tour of the United States, has had some interesting things to say to the American Press on broadcasting, and the evolution of his own ideas on the subject. Four years ago Mr. Wells said that "the whole broadcasting industry will dry up" and that at best the microphone and loudspeaker had the future of "crossword puzzles and Oxford trousers—very trivial indeed." Since then, his experiences with the English rather than with the American method have brought about his complete reconciliation to radio. He smilingly admitted to reporters who interviewed him that it was "about time he climbed down."

He drew a comparison between the English and American systems of broadcasting, his comments being prompted by a network broadcast which he made recently. "I was obliged to speak in a room that was not soundproof," he said. "The microphone was jammed like a muzzel against my mouth. It was even proposed that while speaking I should be subjected to the intense heat and light from powerful lamps necessary to the exposure of a talkie or motion-picture film. At the same time, to increase the unrest of both me and my talk, an audience of newspaper reporters was being introduced. Doing this sort of thing in the studio destroys all the distinctive possessions of the radio. It irritates even the most experienced speaker."

"We have learned in London that the programme is the essential thing. In addressing radio listeners words must be spoken in the manner of a quiet talk with a friend in the room. Everything is done at the Savoy Hill studios to create the atmosphere which I have likened to a quiet conversation. One is able to prepare the talk exactly as to time and deliver it under the most favourable conditions; at the receiving end the effect on the listener is exactly the same—like a friendly person talking in the room with the hearer. This is the effect we always try to achieve."

KNOW the time all over the world with a DX Clock.

Posted in Cardboard Tube, Price 9d. Write "Radio Record," Box 1062, Wellington.