

Broadcasting Ban on Records

Suggested Royalty of 2/6

to that of some of the older established concerns whose names are household words, they are rising stars on the market, and the older organisations must recognise and face the coming competition. Radio listeners, of course, will want the best, and that is the strength of the gramophone companies' case. No one wants to see any injustice done to the Gramophone Companies by the practice of indiscriminate broadcasting of their best records. They have a case, therefore, for adjustment and co-ordination in protection of their interests. Some payment of a reasonable character might even be required, but if negotiations be started on the one hand by an exorbitant figure, then the old Egyptian method of haggling by a counter offer at the other end of the scale may be invoked. In the background lies the possibility of adjudication by the political machine, which in safeguarding the interests of listeners to the enjoyment of international music and the amenities of civilisation, may be prepared to amend any law regarded as unjust or unduly harsh. While listeners are closely concerned in the future course of the gramophone situation, we do not see that they are without possibility of protection.

Mock Trial at IYA

By Auckland Comedy Players

NEXT Wednesday evening, February 10, Mr. J. F. Montague will present his Comedy Players in a delightful comedy interlude (not a play) entitled "Heavy Damages," a mock trial in an alleged collision case, the damages claimed being set at £5000. The sketch is crisply written and the humour bright and refreshing throughout. The situations that arise can only be described as hilariously funny from beginning to end. The case will be heard before Mr. Justice Knagge, and some of the other characters are: Dr. Adney Payne, L.S.D., Sir Hugo Honne (defending counsel), Mr. Ellis Dee (for the plaintiff), Esau Backfire, Charles Higham Larkin, P.O. MacHinery (for the police), Nurse Marion Earle, Count von Richman, Mr. O. B. Kwiot (usher), and a number of others. Those who enjoy an evening of bright comedy should not miss this broadcast.

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TRAVEL IN COMFORT BY
CAR

WELLINGTON — PALMERSTON
NEW PLYMOUTH

NO solution has yet been reached in connection with the gramophone dispute, and all the indications point to a somewhat protracted struggle between the negotiating parties before finality is attained. Early in December last, it will be remembered, the main gramophone companies, including the His Master's Voice, Columbia and Parlophone organisations, served notice upon all broadcasting stations, both "A" and "B" class throughout Australia and New Zealand, forbidding them to broadcast records issued by them save under direct permit from themselves. The broadcasting stations concerned immediately got into touch with the headquarters of the gramophone companies in question and arranged for a conference to take place in Sydney. So far as New Zealand was concerned, no action was taken, as it was recognised that the decision, if any, reached in Australia would give a lead to this country.

Advices to hand from Australia show that no agreement has been reached. The latest position is that the gramophone companies concerned have issued a demand for a royalty of 2/6 on each one of their records broadcast, with a limitation upon the number of times a record can be used. This sum is claimed to be exorbitant by the broadcasting authorities, and beyond their capacity to pay. Particularly is this the case in connection with the "B" class stations, for they are dependent for their revenues upon sums derived from sponsored programmes or advertising. The case for the gramophone companies, as was pointed out at the time of the demand by special articles in the "Radio Record," has some merit in that the indiscriminate repetition of popular tunes has undoubtedly affected the sale of individual records, thus depriving the gramophone companies of the return they might legitimately expect for their enterprise in producing the records in question. On the other hand, it can equally fairly be claimed that a good deal of publicity value attaches to the performance of records by broadcasting stations in that a wider public is reached and a demand created for such records. There is obviously a case for a compromise, but the whole question is at what level can a fair and legitimate figure be reached, that will be satisfactory on the one hand to the gramophone companies and on the other to the broadcasting companies who have to pay the piper in their efforts to serve the public.

Appeal to the Government.

AN appeal to the Government has been made in Australia, and, in all likelihood, when the situation in New Zealand makes that necessary, the same course will be taken here. In Melbourne last week a deputation presented to the Postmaster-General the claim of broadcasting stations for consideration in connection with this demand of 2/6 royalty from the gramophone companies. The deputation set out that, in addition to that royalty, the gramophone companies sought the

right to restrict the number of times an individual record could be broadcast. In its turn the Australian Performing Rights Association opposed any reduction in the existing charges for the use of copyright, as it is claimed they were fair.

The representatives of "B" class broadcasting stations throughout Australia strongly protested to the Attorney-General, Mr. Latham, and the Postmaster-General, Mr. Fenton, against the claims of the record manufacturers. As an alternative they urged that if the record manufacturers insisted upon their claims for payment for the use of records, then the Government should adjust the tariff so as to permit records intended exclusively for broadcasting use to be introduced free of duty.

The Ministers listened carefully to the statements and requests formulated to them, and promised that full consideration would be given, and in all probability an early announcement made of their viewpoint.

So far as New Zealand is concerned, it is anticipated that the question will speedily become one of definite interest in that the new Radio Board is likely to be immediately confronted with a demand from the gramophone companies concerned. Since early December, all new records coming to the country have had a label on the paper cover announcing that they were not to be used for broadcasting purposes. In actual fact, no station in New Zealand has complied so far with the requirements of the gramophone authorities to refrain from broadcasting records altogether.

A New Cheap Market.

IN England certain aspects of the matter have been under discussion in trade papers. Broadcasting, it is contended, has created an entirely new market for gramophone records, in that it has popularised music with a class of people that formerly were not recognised as buyers of gramophone records. This new market necessarily must be supplied with cheap records, and certain trade papers have emphasised the point that the gramophone companies, by maintaining unduly high prices for their records, have been stultifying their opportunity and neglecting to supply the broader market opening to them. Some of the smaller gramophone companies, who are content to issue records on a cheaper scale, have been meeting the demand and reaping splendid profits. The higher class organisations, however, which have concentrated upon issuing good records, have so far refused to make any real concession in their prices, and it is the representatives of this class of manufacturer that are mainly concerned in the demand now being made.

Hawera's Golden Jubilee

Celebrations to be Broadcast

THIS month the borough of Hawera is celebrating its golden jubilee, and great preparations are being made for the occasion. The proceedings which will interest listeners, will be the entertainments to be given on Sunday evening, February 21, and on Wednesday evening, February 24, when 2YA will carry out relays.

The broadcast on Sunday evening will be of a performance of Haydn's "Creation," while a minstrel show, followed by a vaudeville entertainment, will be the attraction on Wednesday evening.

The B.B.C.'s Programmes

MR. HAROLD WHITTLE, the well-known Wellington musician, who is at present visiting England, writes to a friend in this strain concerning the B.B.C. service:—

"I have heard a great many radio programmes, all of them containing merit here and there. The public are always growling about the B.B.C., but that is not common to England only. It is impossible to attempt to please all."

Australian Radio Licenses

Now Total Over 330,000

AN increase of over 11,000 licenses in three months is revealed by statistics of the number of licenses in force in Australia as at December 31, 1931. At the end of the preceding quarter the grand total was 323,599. Details of licenses in force at the end of last year are as follow:—

State	No. in force at Dec. 31, 1931.	Ratio of Licenses to 100 of population.
New South Wales	125,409	5.00
Victoria	134,173	7.46
Queensland	26,449	2.76
South Australia	32,160	5.51
Western Australia	10,800	2.57
Tasmania	8,667	3.96
Commonwealth	337,658	5.19

WHEN installing a new earth, do not forget that it is a good plan to bring the lead up through a gas-pipe, down which water may be poured to moisten the soil around the earth plate in dry weather.

Mullard
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