

## "B" Class Stations

(Continued from page 5.)

Board actually met on February 3, and 3ZC met the Board by arrangement and stated its case setting out that if the Board wished for further time to go into the question, 3ZC would be agreeable to wait that time, provided that the Board would give an undertaking now that it would do something, not necessarily any specific thing, for "B" class stations.

In the course of the discussion, it was suggested that "B" station owners had embarked on their various enterprises for the purpose of personal gain. This is not denied for one moment, but the point was made in reply that during the last six months so many new restrictions have been placed upon the activities of "B" class stations by Government regulations that the sources of revenue which were available to them when they entered upon the business are no longer capable of being developed, and it was for this reason that the "B" stations were financially unable to continue their service. The authorities had altered the basis which existed when the licenses were granted, and the "B" stations embarked upon their enterprises, and that being so the Board, as the present keeper of the radio purse, might reasonably be expected by listeners to offer some compensation to provide for that loss of revenue, and make it possible for a continuance of the definite service being rendered listeners by these stations. A material factor in this situation is that the existence of the "B" stations materially increases the number of licenses issued, and the Board are thereby really pocketing the revenue earned by the "B" stations. The phenomenal jump in licenses in Wellington after the opening of Station 2ZW was sufficient proof of the work that "B" stations did in this way. It could confidently be claimed that, if it were left to the listener himself to deter-

## Gramophone Records

### The Case Stated for the Companies

THE representative of one of the gramophone companies who has been in touch with us on the broadcasting situation makes the following statement:—"There seems to be considerable misconception on the part of the public and the broadcasting authorities generally, as to the record manufacturers' claims and desires, and perhaps this statement will help to clarify the situation. Let me say at the outset that the gramophone record manufacturers are very desirous of assisting and collaborating with the broadcasting stations, so far as they possibly can, provided, however, that in the process the market for their product is not destroyed.

"You have given considerable prominence to a statement apparently culled from an English source, that broadcasting of the cheaper gramophone records has been beneficial to the record manufacturers. May we ask the name of any make of record or any particular title manufactured by any company in England that will bear your statement out? We venture to state that your statement is contrary to fact. Every gramophone record manufacturer is suffering severely because of the fact that his market for records has almost ceased because of the broadcasting of records, and a large number of factories have been compelled to close down. The position, however, in England, in connection with broadcasting, is entirely different from this country. If you will examine the published programmes of the British broadcasting stations, you will find that in many instances no records are used whatsoever. In other cases, they are used for a few minutes daily. Contrast that with New Zealand conditions. There are approximately forty "B" class stations in this country—all practically dependent upon gramophone records for their programmes; consequently you can listen in to gramophone records from 7 o'clock in the morning until 11 o'clock at night. Needless to say, this state of affairs makes it practically impossible for the record manufacturer to

find a market for his enterprise. It is a popular fallacy to imagine that the broadcasting of records benefits their sale; exactly the contrary result follows by reason of the fact that they are broadcast.

Another point you raise is that the large gramophone record manufacturers have not reduced their prices to meet new conditions. You are in error in making this statement, as the larger companies' prices are just as low as the smaller companies'.

"May I also remind you that gramophone records are made for sale and unless the record manufacturers can expect a reasonable market for their product, then it is impossible for them to continue to produce records except at a loss. It is therefore in the interests of broadcasting generally, that this point should be considered. You also refer in your article to restrictions which may be imposed by the record manufacturers. Might I point out that the only restrictions mooted are that the new releases and the popular record of the day should not be broadcast immediately and continuously as at present, but that a certain time should be given to the record trade to endeavour to sell their records to the public. Surely no one could cavil at the reasonableness of such a request.

"In conclusion, I would like to emphasise that it is the earnest desire of the gramophone record people to work in close co-operation with broadcasting, provided that the broadcast people will endeavour to see that it is in their interests as well as the gramophone record manufacturers' that some compensation is due to the record manufacturers for their enterprise in recording high-class orchestras, world-renowned artists, etc., and so making available to the public in this country a class of entertainment which would not be within the reach of the majority of the people."

[The technical trade journal from which we extracted the views quoted was "Sound Waves," representing, we believe in large part the views of the gramophone trade at Home.—Ed.]

mine where his license money went, a very considerable volume of that money would be forwarded to "B" class stations in preference to YA stations.

It was also suggested to the Board that "B" class stations should continue to be allowed to make reasonable use of the YA land lines for relay purposes on payment by the "B" stations concerned for any charges incurred in their use. This was formerly allowed by the Broadcasting Company, and when all was said and done was only a matter of courtesy comparable to a man permitting another to use his telephone line when it was not required. This request was also deemed to be a question of policy, and the reply given that the Board was not prepared to make any concession whatsoever to "B"

stations at the present time, irrespective of whether the concession cost the Board anything or not.

It is almost superfluous to point out that the Broadcasting Bill's rapid passage was due to the fact that the Government gave an assurance that the major "B" stations would be provided for.

"In view of the extremely discouraging attitude of the board," concluded Mr. Woodhead, "notably in the case of relay lines, the loan of which would cost the board not one penny piece, the directors of 3ZC have been forced to the conclusion that if the board has any policy at all in regard to "B" class stations it is to discourage them, and hence we have no financial alternative but to consider immediately a curtailment and possibly cessation of our service."

## Reduced Hours

### 3ZC Two Days Weekly

MR. C. F. WOODHEAD has made the following statement:—"The Directors of 3ZC have decided not to cease broadcasting but to reduce drastically the service. The present schedule of a 7-day week comprising 39 hours will be reduced to two days a week totalling five and a half hours. The sessions left are Wednesdays 7.30 p.m. till 11 p.m. and Sundays 8 p.m. till 10 p.m.

"This step has been taken with extreme regret, but it will have to remain in force until the Government gives some indication that it intends to carry out the promise given by it at the time the Broadcasting Bill was passed. Listeners tuning their sets may find us on the air with a programme at times other than those mentioned, but no guarantee can be given in this respect. Nor will those times necessarily be times at which 3ZC was formerly on the air.

"These cuts in the service will automatically result in the station having to dispense with the services of Miss Millicent Jennings, whose work as organiser of the women's morning sessions has been appreciated by so many listeners.

"Another result will be a completely silent morning in both Wellington and Christchurch on Saturdays. Neither 2YA nor 2ZW are on the air on that day before 3 p.m.

"Crystal set users have relied on 3ZC for four years on Tuesdays. They will now be left without any service, at all on that day. Possibly some criticism may be directed at us for cutting out the Tuesday night session whilst retaining the Wednesday night and part of the Sunday night sessions. I would therefore like to take this opportunity of stating that these are the only times at which we can guarantee to be on the air without interfering with the work towards which the energies of the staff will now be directed."

## Station 2ZW

### Economies In Train

THE directors of 2ZW announce that they are reluctantly obliged to institute economies forthwith and the services of Mrs. H. Ninnis, lady announcer and organiser of the morning sessions, have been dispensed with. This step is taken with deep regret as

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