

absolutely spoiling the trash that is handed out to us is to put the switch in the "off" position before the stations sign off. To us it sounds as if "well, that's what we have for you, take it or leave it." And then for a few men who perhaps have never seen a broadcasting studio to turn round and tell a man like Mr. Drummond how to go about announcing!!! Yes, Sir, "Six Valve" has expressed my sentiments on the present service very fully. If I had the option, I would certainly forward my 80/- to the B class stations in preference to the programmes the R.B.C. are dishing out.—"Disgusted" (Wanganui.)

District Petitions.

I AM another of the 6900 dissatisfied listeners, and would do all in my humble power to assist "Kaiwarra" his grouch. Our popular 2YA announcer seems too stiff-necked now that he is shackled to the Radio Board, not like our pleasant old friend in the least. Now that "Kaiwarra" suggests a petition to the "R.R." by subscribers sending in their names to have their old friend reinstated, how would it do

to have a petition from the various districts where we listeners are all interested, and sending in block petitions to Wellington. I have not heard one in the Far North who does not denounce or condemn the new rule, and am sure I could get more names here in favour of being wished our old good-night than the 100 who got in first. Cannot someone central organise whereby each town and country district could have a petition paper posted to an enthusiastic listener thereby getting a few thousand protests. I can guarantee to fill a large-size sheet up north.—Good Night and Wake Up People.

The High Horse.

SURELY the high horse of officialdom is being ridden to death when the personality of our announcer has been attacked. The genial feeling of fellowship existing between listener and announcer no longer exists and the cold "Good evening" or "Good-night" savours almost of a rudeness. Now, whatever our high official might think necessary for an alteration, we want our genial announcers just as they were with their own individual naturalness. Now that the renewals of our licenses are quickly approaching is our opportunity for action—that we cancel our licenses until the high officer of officialdom be removed from his stilts. The question has been much discussed here, and listeners think this line of action would be a capital one.—W.G. (Hamilton).

A Contrast.

IT is very nice to hear Brother Bill's "Hello, Everybody," instead of the curt "Good Evening" which the announcers have had to adopt lately, as the personal element is a great factor in radio entertaining.—A.J.B.

"Oliver Cromwell."

I WAS amazed to see the criticism levelled at the play of "Oliver Cromwell." To me it was wonderful, and the reception on our eight-valve set was perfect. Your correspondent S. K. Smith, and evidently his friends at Pahiatua (as the wording is practically the same), evidently do not like to hear unbiased history. Every actor in the play was superb, and I voted it quite the best evening's entertainment I have ever heard. "Oliver Cromwell" was given in the Technical College Hall here some years ago, as a descriptive lecture, and I was thrilled with his strong character. He was one of England's outstanding great men, at a time when the nation was groaning under the tyranny of Charles I, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, who sent any who dared to resist their policy or differed in religion to the Star Chamber, which meant imprisonment or even mutilation. I am sure that thousands of listeners would agree with me when I say that an evening like that is never forgotten, whereas one of the frivolous kind is just a night's entertainment with nothing of worth to remember it by.—E. Gwynn (Wanganui).

Criticism.

FOR the past few weeks I've been very interested in your Mailbag page. I've come to the conclusion that certain people must sit each night with pen and ink ready to register grumbles at the radio programmes. Every type of programme, no matter what it is, has been pulled to pieces and criticised, and

in some cases in a very paltry and spiteful manner.

These chronic grumblers appear to think that the staff and artists of 2YA have a personal grudge against their listeners, and take it out of them in the programmes. They don't seem to realise that all the people concerned put forward their best efforts to give general satisfaction to the greatest number.

I do not belong to 2YA—I'm just an ordinary—well, it doesn't matter.

For goodness sake let us be less critical. Times are bad enough without being made worse by hypercritical people searching round for things to grumble at.

And, anyhow, they say that one man's meat is another man's poison, so why not eat our own meat and let the other man have his poison if he likes.

I think it was Addison who said, "It is ridiculous for any man to criticise on the works of another who has not distinguished himself by his own performances."—E.M.L. (Wellington).

The Coverage Problem.

WITH regard to this vexed question of B stations, I'm a bit with "Put 2YA First" in his views. When you've formed a company to sell anything—records, radio goods, or rags—you take a risk of losing your good cash. If you've anticipated something that hasn't come off to keep your company out of the liquidator's hands then you're unlucky. There was an outcry from some of the B's some time ago for advertising rights to enable them to finance their stations. They didn't get the permission they required (for which the Lord be thanked), and so other avenues had to be explored. Mind you, I'm not referring to the whole—only to the trade B stations. The old R.B.C. rightly wouldn't subsidise them, so they may or may not have had an understanding to bump them out if possible, and substitute as the controlling body some kinder-hearted combination which would assist their profit-earning institution with a subsidy or else take over the dead horse and so relieve the owners of the job of burying it.

New Plymouth was a great dump for radio reception before the R.B. Co. realised 2YB was necessary! 2YA was fierce—yes, we know it is the mountain, and so are the others still, unless you've got a multi-valve set and A.C. handy. We're outside the service areas of the YA stations, and so are many other parts of New Zealand, excluding Wellington. How on earth they carried on and raised 30 bob for a license fee when they hadn't 2ZW to listen to gets me! Where does 2ZW get these super programmes that 2YA can't? The shrieks and wails of birds like DX4ZW, may be applauded by the other W's, but surely the country listener is entitled first to a service before that necessary alternative and super programme from 2ZW and others. I'm afraid I, with 99 per cent. of disinterested and not disgruntled listeners, will agree with the chairman of the Broadcasting Board when he knocked back the dealers and trade stations' representatives the other week with the reply that no fair-minded person would suggest that the town B stations should be subsidised to the detriment of the country stations.

It tickles listeners like me to hear how these B's give traders that daylight service—that desirable adjunct to the sale of radio sets. What's that got to (Concluded on page 24.)

"MISSING WORDS" COMPETITION No. 2

IN PRIZES—"MUST BE WON"
£25 1st Prize £20, 2nd Prize £5

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO:—Each picture represents ONE English word. You find these words by reading what appears above each picture, which gives you a clue, and then refer to the picture for the "Missing Word." Now LOOK AT THE FIRST PICTURE, above it you will see "A few—". Look at the picture and you get "SHORT" as the "Missing Word," making "A few SHORT years have—". When you get to the last picture you get a statement about "The marvels of wireless." Hyphenated words count as one word.

Write in block letters under each picture the word you think correct. Sign name and address at bottom, cut out COMPLETE diagram and send, together with postal note for 1/- for one attempt, or 2/- for three attempts. (Stamps 1d.)

ONE ATTEMPT 1/-

ADDITIONAL for EACH 1/- sent. Stamps ONLY if P.N.'s unobtainable. Further attempts on plain paper. Sign each attempt. First prize for correct or nearest solution. Next prize in order of merit. Ties divide. Maximum three prize shares to one person. Prize money and sealed solution with this paper. May prize winners one week after closing date. Results published in this paper March 25th. Immediate result if id. stamped addressed envelope enclosed. SEND AS MANY ATTEMPTS AS YOU LIKE. COIN ACCEPTED IF LETTER REGISTERED. Each attempt AFTER three—6d. A prize distribution considered unsatisfactory by the promoters will be settled by another competition. The same word is not used twice under any picture.

Address Entries to:—"MISSING WORDS" COMPETITION No. 2, Box 685, Christchurch.

Three Attempts 2/-

A FEW YEARS HAVE SINCE THE OF THE WIRELESS AT				
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MORE MARVELLOUS IN INCLUDING THAT BEHAVE LIKE AND PENETRATE				
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I Hereby AGREE to abide by the PUBLISHED DECISION, which is Final.
NAME R.R.
ADDRESS
ENTRIES MUST BE POST MARKED BY 5.30 P.M. THURSDAY, MARCH 10TH, 1932.

WINNERS COMPETITION "MISSING WORDS" NO. 1

Correct solution:—1 TIME, 2 PEOPLE, 3 BENEFITS, 4 SUNSHINE, 5 MONTHS, 6 SPENDS, 7 DAYS, 8 SEA-SIDE, 9 SWIM, 10 FISH, 11 HEALTH, 12 BETTER, 13 MATERIAL, 14 BASK, 15 FIT. The following entrants found all the words and divide £25:—Miss G. Bullen, Papakura; Miss V. Gubb, Papatoetoe; Mrs. J. Nelson, Cobden; G. W. Delbridge, Sal Street, Hokitika; B. Lane, 43 Halifax Street Nelson; Mrs. M. Baker, 4 Douglas Street, Dunedin; W. Miller, Bunnythorpe; June Palnton, Sanatorium, Otaki; E. Tolan, Denniston; F. H. Smith, Waimate Valley; H. Smith, Normanby; Joan Harding, 48 Disraeli Street, Hawera; Mrs. G. M. Paul, 114 Campbell Street, Wanganui; C. Brebner, Bank of N.Z., Christchurch; Mrs. D. Reynolds, 336 Ferry Road, Christchurch; May Yardley, Duntroon; Mrs. S. Carter, Panmure; Mrs. H. Thompson, Grovetown; Miss I. Hare, 9 Lerwick Terrace, Wellington; Miss D. Zelnert, Te Rapa R.D.; Mrs. A. Whiting, R.D., Manutake.