Television on a Train

AN unusual television test took place recently on a train travelling at a speed of 70 miles per hour between Winstanley and Huntingdon, England. Transmitted from Brooklands Park broadcasting station, images of a dancer in the Baird Studios at Long Acre, London, were observed by ten television experts on the train. The normal Baird system was employed.

Jottings

2YA listeners will be interested to learn that Will Hancock, a popular tenor, and a member of the Etude Quartet, has been transferred by the U.S.S. Co. to Suva, where he will fill the position of manager. Mr. Hancock is to be congratulated on his promotion.

ON Thursday, March 17, 2YA will relay from Wanganui a St. Patrick's Day concert. A very attractive programme is being arranged.

Radio in Italy

DURING the last 16 months no less than 921 operas have been broadcast in Italy. Two hundred and sixty-nine of these works were taken from the theatre programme, whereas the remainder were performed in the studio. Further, 400 operettas and parts of operettas and 250 radio plays were broadcast from the studio.

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Really Mr. Howard!

Amazing Article by M.P.

IN the Christchurch "Star" of February 13, Mr. E. J. Howard, M.P., contributed an article, under the heading of "Control of Radio," dealing particularly with "B" class stations. In this article some statements are made that would be surprising, but perhaps excusable if they came from an ordinary member of the public. Issued by a member of Parliament they become extraordinary, and create wonder that a legislator can be so little aware of the exact effect of legislation passed.

The following are the statements made by Mr. Howard which do not square with a proper reading of the Broadcast Act as passed to the Statute Book. Mr. Howard says:

(1) There is nothing in the Act giving the Minister power to buy any stations barring those stations owned by the Radio Broadcasting Company at the time of the passing of the Bill.
(2) As a fact, the members of the Board have little power under the Act except to draw their salaries.
(3) It is a part-time Board, and they cannot do anything without the consent of the Minister.
(4) There is no power under the Act to help B class stations.
(5) There is no power under the Act for the Board to buy the B class stations.
(6) The Board cannot erect new stations apart from the stations owned by the Broadcasting Company.

What the Act Does Say.

IN contrast with the foregoing didactic statements let Clause 15 of the Broadcasting Act speak for itself:

"15. The functions of the Board shall be to carry on a broadcasting service within New Zealand on and after the first day of January, nineteen hundred and thirty-two, and to develop and improve such service from time to time: and for such purposes the Board may obtain licenses under the Post and Telegraph Act, 1928, for the establishment and operation of broadcasting stations, and may enter into agreements with the Minister pursuant to section two hundred and three of that Act for the payment to the Board of portion of the fees received in respect of licenses in relation to wireless telegraphy. The Board shall have authority to carry on in connection with such broadcasting services any subsidiary business that in the opinion of the Minister is ancillary to the carrying on of such a service, and shall have all such other powers not inconsistent with this Act, as are reasonably necessary for the effective performance of its duties and functions."

That clause is the major one establishing the authority of the Board. It authorises the Board to "carry on a broadcasting service within New Zealand . . . and develop and improve such service from time to time." That authority is an all-embracing one. Under it the Board can do exactly what it likes in carrying out a broadcasting service. If it takes the view that the B class stations constitute a part of the broadcasting service it can, so far as the power to do so is concerned, buy every B class station in the country, or, alternatively, arrange for services, in whole or part, by every B class station in the country. It can also, if it wishes, establish new stations at any points it likes throughout the country. It has the power to do so. The governing factor, of course, in regard to the actual discharge of those actions is finance.

Statement by Minister.

DURING the debate on the Bill, the Postmaster-General, in reply to a question by Mr. Clyde Carr, said that the Board "could enter into negotiations with the B class stations, and take them over or assist them. It would be a matter of policy."

Mr. Harris asked: "Has the Board power to take them over?" and the Minister replied: "It has power to do anything it wishes in regard to the broadcasting system."

IN addition to carrying out the actual broadcasting service, the Board is given authority "to carry on any subsidiary business ancillary to the carrying on of such a service, and shall have all such other powers not inconsistent with the Act as might be reasonably necessary for the effective performance of its duties and functions." On this last point it is true that the qualifying clause "in the opinion of the Minister" is inserted, but on the major issues the Board has the authority to establish stations and operate stations under direct license from the Post and Telegraph Department.

Only Three Restrictions.

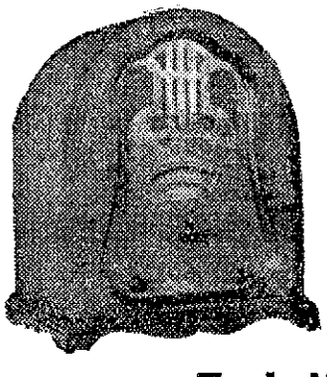
THREE restrictions only are placed upon the Board as to what it shall not do. It shall not hold a dealer's license, this being a safeguard against the Board undertaking trading in wireless sets and so on.

It is prohibited, again, from entering into negotiations or any arrangements with any Government other than the New Zealand Government, and it is restrained from borrowing any money or mortgaging or charging any of its property or rights, except with the precedent consent in writing of the Minister of Finance—not the Postmaster-General.

Apart from these restrictions, the Board, under the Act, is given the all-embracing power of "carrying on a broadcasting service within New Zealand and of developing and improving such service from time to time." Within that scope it can administer its revenues, as derived from the licenses as arranged with the Minister, entirely in its own discretion. In view of the comprehensive nature of Clause 15, it is surprising, to say the least, that Mr. Howard should have written as he did.

Coils for the "Cathode"

WHILE winding the coils for the "Cathode Super," it occurred to me to make a small alteration in the connections to the pins on the oscillator coil to avoid the possibility of a short-circuit if the formers are inadvertently placed in the wrong holders. The point is perhaps a trivial one, but the alteration is easily carried out and tends to make the set more fool-proof. All that is necessary is to change the connection of the tap on the oscillator coils from pin 1 to pin 2 (Colvern formers). If the oscillator coil is then placed in the detector holder by mistake the H.T. is not shorted to earth.—I. McMillan (Christchurch).



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