

"Not in the Know."

I WOULD like to reply to "Not in the Trade" for so kindly saying such nasty things about me as an unselfish "squealer." I am glad he signs himself "Not in the Trade," but how much better "Not in the Know" would have looked at the bottom of his letter. In spite of his nasty criticisms of "birds" like me, I would like to endorse his views. He seems to be labouring under a trivial misapprehension as to the purport of my original contribution.

I admitted that I did not think that the funds of the Broadcasting Board would stretch to the extent of allowing a subsidy to be paid to city "B" stations. Country "B" stations obviously have prior consideration. What I did say, and what I still say, is that I hoped that the board could relax the advertising regulations a little so that the services of stations such as 2ZW and 3ZO would not have to be curtailed. I am still certain that 95 per cent. of Wellington listeners would sooner listen to 2ZW with a little advertising than be forced to listen to 2YA with no advertising. I know that 2YA, being the most powerful New Zealand broadcaster, performs a valuable service to country listeners, but if town listeners would prefer to listen to "super programmes" ("Not in the Trade's" phrase) from 2ZW, why can't we have them? I am not asking that even sixpence of "Not in the Trade's" license fee be diverted to support the station. "Not in the Trade," be fair! Imagine us without "B" class stations. Imagine broadcasting as a State monopoly! By competition we progress. By monopolies we retrogress.—DX42W (Oamaru).

Dance Session Wanted.

ON Tuesday evenings 3YA is silent, and 3ZO is apparently off the air. On this evening also, 1, 2, and 4YA all

Our Mail Bag

While we welcome the expressed views of listeners on topics pertaining to radio, we ask that these communications be kept to minimum length, as heavy demands are made upon space. Mere reiteration of arguments cannot be accepted for publication, and we cannot take responsibility for views expressed. Address communications to the Editor, and sign all correspondence, though a nom-de-plume may be used for publication.

close down at 10 p.m., and no dance music session is available. On Wednesday nights both 3 and 4YA are on the air until 11 p.m. Could not 2 or 4YA put on an hour's dance music from 10 p.m. for Christchurch listeners?—C. H. Iles (Christchurch).

Restricted Advertising Suggested.

WHEN we buy our daily or evening paper, as a rule we pay for 75 per cent. advertising matter. Nobody minds. Needless to say the average reader scans the ads., and derives a certain amount of benefit in doing so. We have been waiting on the radio authorities to come to light with a policy on broadcasting, and I think a humble listener ought to be pardoned if he suggests a policy for them. Here it is—in brief: (1) All radio broadcasters to have a minimum output of 250 watts; (2) a separation of 10 kilocycles between all stations except when time-sharing; (3) broadcast schedule to contain not more than 20 per cent. of time in advertising; (4) all licenses to be reduced to 10/- per annum, and the money so derived to be used for the purposes of control and administration of radio solely by a commission (such as in U.S.A.). In connection with this recommendation, I wish to say that I have listened lately to American stations advertising during their broadcast schedules, and have been as much interested in their ads. as in the entertainment part of their programme.—James Bain (Port Chalmers).

Hints to Teachers.

AS a keen and enthusiastic listener I would like to express my views on the present position. Most of your correspondents are attacking the Broadcasting Board, but I think that if the board were offered some helpful suggestions we would be getting somewhere. There is certainly a larger variety of entertainment in a recorded programme, but why should a country like New Zealand have to import its entertainment? To cut out all local talent would be a calamity. The ladies and gentlemen who are training our entertainers are the culprits. They should realise that conditions to-day are very different from 20 years ago. Before broadcasting became general an entertainer had to face a very critical audience in a large hall, and then only two or three times a year. Their general appearance, facial expression, etc., were all studied, and they were not their natural selves. When entertaining father and mother and the family at home they could sit down at the piano and play or sing in a totally

different manner. Now, sir, this is the form of entertainment they should be giving us to-day. There is far too much orchestral work. We do not usually have a full orchestra in the sitting-room at home. More instrumental solo work and songs at the piano, with a fair proportion of simple and humorous entertainment, is generally looked for. Thousands of young people are trained as entertainers each year, and our competition societies are endeavouring to bring these people out, but their energies are being sacrificed for scratchy old records and usually very crude humour, which possibly is quite good where it belongs. I think the static during the last few months is affecting our nerves, and we do not really know what we want.—Reform.

Morse Interference.

IN your issue of the 5th ult. there appears a letter from a correspondent complaining of Morse interference with broadcast reception, and in an editorial comment on the letter you state that "undoubtedly" the interference was caused by signals from amateur transmitting station.

The Auckland branch of the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters wishes to protest against your statement. There was nothing in your correspondent's letter to indicate that the interference was caused by an amateur; in fact, rather the reverse, as the frequency of the interfering signals would show the cause would probably be transmissions from ships. A receiver, not in an oscillating condition, would be incapable of picking up the clear-toned symbols of radio telegraphy. Interference, if it occurred, would be heard in a broadcast receiver as a series of thumps.

The Auckland branch of the N.Z. A.R.T. is willing at all times to investigate cases of alleged interference with broadcast reception and to take effective steps to discipline any member proving to be a source of annoyance to broadcast listeners. At the same time it is thought that an unqualified assertion that Morse interference is "undoubtedly" caused by amateur transmitters is quite inaccurate and likely to lead broadcast listeners

into a wrong impression of the amateurs' activities and their value to the community.—G. McB. Salt, ZLICK, hon. secretary.

Technical Equipment.

I AM and have been in this radio game—technical and otherwise—for a period of over eight years, and I feel quite justified in making these remarks through your columns.

When we had the R.B.C. in control of broadcasting, they were a company not working a public benefit scheme, they had to make a profit or were supposed to.

Under those conditions we could not expect our 30/- worth to be spent on our own selves. Now, it belongs to us. I say, we listeners should have a say in things in general.

My first proposal is that every listener licensed be issued with a vote, postal or otherwise, by the Board or perhaps your worthy paper. On this vote the listeners could vote on programmes, say, under four headings, viz., popular, humour, classical and plays and lectures; of course, dance music would come under popular, etc. Now "Ten Per Cent." wrote wanting more high-brow music. If the listeners' votes were apportioned out, say, popular 40 per cent., humorous 20 per cent., classical 25 per cent., and plays, etc., 15 per cent., the programmes would be divided likewise, and everybody should be satisfied.

My next proposal is urgently needed. Better technical equipment in 1YA, 2YA and 4YA; also one short-wave transmitter working in conjunction with 2YA; the wave to be in the vicinity of 30 and 40 metres, as my experience over a long period of listening convinces me gives best all-round performance.

Why should a "B" class station in Dunedin, with an output power of 100 watts, 100 per cent. modulated, compete against our 750-watt station, 4YA, more or less to the detriment of 4YA? This should not be, as 4YA has all the advantages bar, perhaps, technical equipment.

Also, the Board is making the biggest mistake possible by curtailing the announcer's personality which truly makes some stations popular.

My YL used to "hit the roof" if I switched Mr. Drummond off before his famous "Good-night" was spoken. Now she "hits the roof" proper. For the Board should be compelled to listen to the listeners' views. Do they read your paper or other papers, or are they extraordinarily thick in the hide? Suggest you send them "Radio Record" free each week.—S. T. Gossling. [We do.—Ed.]

Coverage Question.

THE most important point concerning the coverage question has not been mentioned. The system adopted must be such as to increase the number of listeners by making it possible to use smaller and consequently cheaper sets. The average set in England must be around £5, as compared with £30 in this country. This is because every listener can get two main stations in the day time and three or four at night. This

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