

ordination through broadcasting impossible by any other means. Radio tuition cannot displace the teacher. It can, however, supplement individual effort by making available highly expert tuition over a wider field than is possible by any other means. Our distances in the Dominion are so great that personal travel on the part of experts is impossible. Radio can bridge that distance. Radio can carry, given the necessary power in transmission, the highest class of instruction into the furthest hamlet. With the demand for economy now ruling, it is at least conceivable that radio can be used as a factor in economy; that it can supplement the teaching instruction, particularly in rural districts, without loss of efficiency. The resumption of the service now undertaken will, we hope, lead to closer co-operation between the radio service and the Education Department. That department has had much money lavished upon it in the past, and is now being called upon to economise. Possibly that economy can be achieved without loss of efficiency or any detriment to the interests of rural children if the fullest possible use is made of radio. The radio trade in the past has been fully alive to the possibilities of radio in the schools, and we have no doubt that any forward move inaugurated by the Board and the Education Department will meet with their fullest backing.

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Inter-University Boat Race

Successful Relay by 2YA

AT about 3.20 p.m. last Saturday 2YA passed over to relay a running commentary on the inter-University eight-oared boat race, an annual event which was held this year on Wellington Harbour.

Technically the relay was of great interest, as the broadcast was actually carried out by the commentator on Mr. W. Cable's launch Kereru as she followed in the wake of the competing boats. A short-wave transmitter, owned and operated by Mr. Clive Liddell, had been installed on board, and the transmission was picked up on a short-wave receiver by Mr. E. W.

Sellens, of Northland. From there it travelled by telephone line to the 2YA studio, and thence by underground cable in the ordinary way to the broadcast transmitter on Mount Victoria. The final reception was surprisingly clear and steady.

For the information of the more technically-minded, the short-wave transmitter on the launch employed a pentode as modulator for a type 245 valve. All power was derived from batteries. The transmitter, which was crystal controlled, was of about 6 watts power, and employed about 80 per cent. modulation. A portable voice amplifier and condenser microphone completed the equipment. The aerial, which was slung between the masts of the launch, was about 60 feet long, and the launch's engine was used for an earth.

The broadcast commentary was effectively carried out by Mr. Gane,

the Victoria University rowing coach.

The day was fine, but as a gusty southerly wind had made the harbour very choppy, it was necessary to reduce the length of the race from 3 to 1½ miles so that it could be rowed over the comparatively sheltered Oriental Bay course.

A good description was given of the scene—of the yachts and launches out on the harbour for the afternoon and of the crowds of spectators, including the enthusiastic barrackers from the different universities, with their various colours.

While the three competing boats were manoeuvring into position for the start, details of the crews and the results of previous races were given. After several false starts by the Auckland boat, the gun was heard and the race commenced. The ensuing description was exciting, especially when the Canterbury boat drew away to finish several lengths ahead of Otago, with Victoria a close third.

A huge crowd had collected on the Taranaki Street Wharf to see the finish, and the winning boat was given a tremendous ovation. A band of Victoria University supporters, known as the Haeremai Club, provided listeners with an amusing interlude when they lined up before the microphone and gave one of their realistic Maori hakas. Shortly after 2YA passed back to the studio.



Mr. Clive Liddell, who operated the portable short-wave transmitter during the relay of the boat race. Mr. Liddell was one of the Wellington amateurs who rendered such valuable service during the Napier earthquake last year.

The Settlement

Details Asked For

AN interesting question asked in the House last week was that submitted by Mr. P. Fraser to the Postmaster-General as to whether he would be prepared to lay on the table of the House the decision of Mr. Justice Blair as arbiter in the matter of the Government taking over the Radio Broadcasting Company's assets.

In his reply the Hon. A. Hamilton said that, although Mr. Justice Blair had given his decision as to the total sum involved and that had already been published, there were still a few points to be cleared up, and it was not expected that the final decision would be available for some time yet. He was, however, prepared to consider the tabling of the report when everything was finalised.

It is understood that the matters outstanding have a bearing upon the financial transactions between the department and the company.

A Distinguished Vocalist

THE name of Madame Merlin appears on 2YA's programme for Monday, April 4, in a series of folk songs. This lady is the wife of Major-General Merlin, who has been entertaining listeners with a series of thrilling narratives of his experiences with the Bolsheviks of Russia and in the Russian Secret Service during the war. Madame Merlin came in for her share of excitement in those stirring days.

She is a highly-trained musician and her fine mezzo-soprano voice will be heard in several Russian and other folk songs.

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