

STATIC

by "SPARK"

LICENSES are due—Have you renewed yours? The Post Office people tell me that renewals have come in particularly well so far, in spite of the depression. These early renewals represent, of course, the old loyal brigade who wouldn't be without the radio for worlds. The question is, will the rate keep up? There is talk on all sides of "cutting out the radio." Frankly, I don't believe that. I believe that radio will increase in popularity through the depression.

WHY? Well, we must all have our fun. Radio is the cheapest fun and entertainment going. It thrives on hard times. Germany recently suffered a further drastic cut in wages and salaries. No country in the world probably is so poor as she is. Her suicide rate through poverty is up four times normal. Everybody is suffering in proportion. Yet the last year saw an increase of five hundred thousand licensed listeners. Investigation into this increase showed that the "cuts" had made it impossible for a wider circle to go to the cinema, the opera and the restaurant. So they came to radio.

The same thing will happen here—except the suicides! Unable to go out, we will stay home more and bring the radio into the home. Many are saying that they will drop radio. They might—for a fortnight, then they will come back—and bring others with them.

GOOD News! Titles of dinner music once more in the programmes. This will be keenly welcomed by all music lovers.

I HEAR on all sides growing interest in the music lovers' competition, with its challenge to the memory and knowledge of listeners. I am sure that the interest that has been

aroused will necessitate further competition of this character later. Obviously listeners must have titles on which to hang their memories of tunes.

lishing an independent commission. A general manager at from a thousand to fifteen hundred a year will be required, and it is proposed to appoint one or two liaison officials in



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from

2YA

On April 9

2ZW is to be congratulated upon securing Mr. Syd Reid to speak on behalf of Mr. Telford, who desired to express his thanks to the New Zealand public for their interest in Phar Lap. The information that the horse was still fed on New Zealand fodder would surprise most listeners. That this country grows good grass is well known through our dairy and mutton industries, but it is not generally known that our fodder is in great demand by racehorse owners abroad. First-class horses even so far afield as India are regularly fed on New Zealand fodder.

I NOTICE that one bright intellect suggested that Parliamentary debates should be broadcast. Mr. Forbes has refused. That is the soundest decision he has ever made.

FOLLOWING on strong protests the Commonwealth Government has abandoned its idea of political control of broadcasting and purposes estab-

London to skim the cream of British developments for Australia. Major Keith's name is suggested for this position.

Would it not be possible for New Zealand to co-operate in some way with such an officer in London—possibly sharing the expenses. I am satisfied that as time goes on the broadcasting authorities throughout the world will need to pull together more and more and pool their resources and experiences.

IT was proposed earlier that Australian A stations should be allowed to accept commercial advertising. In response to strong protests that has been dropped.

WITH the abolition of daylight saving and the approach of winter, listeners who habitually tune in to Australia notice a decided improvement in reception and will be able to retire earlier—without getting Chili!

A CURIOUS instance of the accuracy of popular rumour occurred in connection with Phar Lap's victory in Agua Caliente. The announcement was not made by either Press or radio until nearly twelve-thirty on Monday, whereas rumour was active from eleven-thirty to the effect that Phar Lap had won by five lengths. The source of this information was not given, but I am now led to understand that a skilful amateur in Gisborne secured it on shortwave.

MR. VON HAAST'S treatment of "Nikko and Old Japan" from 2YA was entertaining and very well done. To give a word picture of the temples of an old Oriental family and convey the spirit of feudalism is a difficult matter when dealt with by a Westerner for an Occidental audience. The speaker's reference to stork in flight reminds us that the artistic faculty was highly developed in Old Japan, and his description of the garish art, which is not art at all, was a painting that discerning listeners would appreciate. An enigma to the Occidental is the artistry of some of the Japanese representations of nature and the grotesque handicraft that stalks under the cloak of art, which holds no reflection in nature. I would like to hear Mr. von Haast again.

I UNDERSTAND that the W.E.A. is arranging two talks a week for each of the YA stations. This organisation does fine work and possesses some good speakers. In the past some have been heard that were, to put it mildly, not so good. It is a shame to hear good matter murdered. If good vigorous speakers are chosen this series should be welcome, and may encourage the formation of study circles amongst listen-

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