

STATIC

by
"SPARK"

RADIO was mixed grill in Wellington on Thursday night. Mr. Rowland Hill made us feel cheerful by visualising our regeneration by the rejuvenation of the languishing flax industry. The Hon. Robert Masters firmly convinced us that we can be healthy, wealthy and wise by buying more wool. But—both stations read out the Government's financial statement. This is like boasting of our penury. Other stations were better. Static was that fierce they could not be heard.

I LEARN from a Jewish friend that had the Yiddish songs from 2ZW recently been translated, the Gentiles would have demanded that the station be put off the air for—well, unsuitability! I don't know Hebrew, but really some of it sounded like that to me.

I SEE that a member of Parliament has asked the Postmaster-General a question about radio programmes and other matters concerning broadcasting. If the Minister does the right thing he will advise this member to peruse the contents of the Broadcasting Act, 1931. The measure shows that a body called "the Broadcasting Board" was to control broadcasting in New Zealand from January 1, 1932. It would seem that this member may not quite know where or when he is living.

THE decision of the Wellington radio dealers not to hold an exhibition this year must have been arrived at without consideration of the increase in licenses. 75,351 at the end of February, an increase of 2394 for the first two months of the year, when people spend so much time out of doors. The British dealers' slogan is "A Radio for Every Home." It is not suggested that saturation point is being approached in Wellington district, but the inference is that Brutus was wrong in his declaration in connection with taking the tide at the flood.

LISTENERS would be well advised to overhaul their aeralis before the winter is upon us. Soldered joints should be examined and new joints made if faulty, halyards should be moved so that a new part of the rope is in contact with the pulley and the mast guys should be set up in order that there will not be need to attend to the aeralis some night when a howling southerly is blowing.

COMMUNITY singing is more popular than ever in Australia, and

there is seldom a night in the week when one of the stations is not broadcasting a sing. Apparently the depressed Aussie will not be miserable although he has little to spend and, as this form of entertainment is cheap, full advantage is taken of it. Will Wellington have to await the return of Mr. Albert Russell—our Ambassador of Joy—to line up in the Happiness Stakes?

WELLINGTON listeners were unfortunate on Tuesday night when Mrs. Soljak spoke from 1YA on "The Ethics of Internationalism." Static was very bad, and marred considerably the enjoyment of the speaker's very excellently presented case for wider vision and tolerance. The virile Nordic of New Zealand will disagree with many of Mrs. Soljak's premises, and reject as impossible her plea for that idealism which hold no terrors of the risks of miscegenation, with Ancient Rome and the history of the Portuguese in India and China as examples. The alleged overbearing attitude of the Whites may have been a factor responsible for the troubles in the East to-day. The contempt and intolerance of the people of civilisations older than our own also may have been a cause of dissension. The immediate and major causes, however, were a spineless British Labour Government that relinquished its duty to govern, Hollywood culture that has taught for years that Whites at home are either imbeciles or crooks, and vile anti-British propaganda. I hope conditions will be kinder next time Mrs. Soljak broadcasts, for I wish to hear everything that this very able and learned speaker has to say.

THOUSANDS throughout New Zealand would not miss Dr. Scholefield's travel talk on Wednesday night from 2YA. The correlated facts concerning the people and countries traversed, coupled with that incisive style, always makes the subject a fascinating one. The speaker's mention of a friend from the Otago School of Mines who was working in Burma reminds me that most dredge mining in the East is conducted by New Zealanders. A further fact about Burma is that the colour-bar is less observed there than in the rest of the British Possessions in Asia and Africa, possibly due to the care-free manner of the Burmese and their comparatively high general standard of education. Although Britain has valuable oil concessions in many countries, Burma's production is greater than that

of any other part of the Empire, which produces about three per cent. of the world's output. Here is a problem for Ottawa.

A BROADCASTING Artists' Society is being formed in Auckland. The object is to assist members in the art and technique of broadcasting, and to assist radio authorities in securing talent. Auckland is now one up, and other centres must follow suit.

THE visit to the Gas Works per 2YA on Monday night was interesting though there was something missing in the atmosphere, notwithstanding the fact that the sulphur-

etted hydrogen is well washed out. Next time it is to be hoped that someone drops a cob of coal on someone's foot so we can get the real thing.

THE most popular concert of the week is the Band Concert on Sunday night from 2YA. This is what atmosphere does, for many performances from the studio are of equal merit and many are of a much higher standard. The applause deludes many into believing that the artists are the best they have heard during the week, although it is possible they may have heard them all during the month previously.

ADVERSE criticism and interference with normal business has resulted in the resignation of two members from the Wireless Serviceman's Examination Board. This is regrettable, as both are leading lights in the Wireless World.

The next Wireless Serviceman's examination is to be held on May 2. Applications for examination closed on April 11.

AS a result of the visit to this country of Mr. C. B. Le Maistre, a New Zealand branch of the British Institute of Standards has been formed under the auspices of the Wiring Committee of the Public Works Department. Many difficulties will have to be overcome, but in view of the possibility of increased Empire trading following the Ottawa Conference, common standards are necessary.

THE Railways Board has again turned down the proposal to fit wireless receivers to certain sections of the railway system, although many competing service cars are already offering wireless fare as an inducement to travellers. It surely will not be said that that good sport and wireless enthusiast Mr. H. H. Sterling was a party to the policy. There is always money available for sport no matter how dreadful the financial drought, and thanks to the innate love for clean competitive games the powers that be never try to repress the urge but cater for it. This year a New Zealand Rugby team is to visit Australia, and we hope to hear the principal matches broadcast, as on the last occasion. Now would the chairman of the Railways Board go on a train journey when one of these matches was in progress—we know he wouldn't!

FOOTBALL relays resume this week, and the majority of listeners will be glad of the respite



Vincent Aspey

A brilliant young violinist who will give a recital from 1YA on April 21. Mr. Aspey recently returned from Sydney after three years as soloist and leader of stations 2FC and 2BL. In 1929, he won the championship of New South Wales, and has since appeared at all the big concerts in Sydney. Mr. Aspey was leader of the orchestra that accompanied Balokovic at the Sydney Town Hall in November last—when he played the "Tchaikowsky Concerto"—and received great praise from Balokovic for his leadership. His numbers will include "Andante and Finale" from the "Mendelssohn Concerto"; "Rondo Des Lutens" (Bazzini) and Fibich's "Poem." His brother George Aspey will be at the piano.