

A Prominent W.E.A. Lecturer

MR. R. A. FALLA, M.A., who is to deliver a series of W.E.A. talks on "Ways of Wild Birds" from IYA, commencing on May 12, is one of New Zealand's leading ornithologists and a well-known member of the staff of the Auckland Museum. He was twice chosen as one of the New Zealand scientists to accompany Sir Douglas Mawson's expedition to the Antarctic.

Radio on the "Water Lily"

Keeping In Touch With N.Z.

CONSTANT communication between members of the crew of the ketch Water Lily, who are all Christ's College old boys, and their homes in Christchurch will be possible throughout the greater part of the voyage by means of a shortwave wireless set installed on the boat.

Messages will be transmitted by the wireless operator, Mr. F. Parsons, to a Christchurch amateur, who will telephone them immediately to the families concerned and receive any answers. The answers will be then sent back to the Water Lily, and consequently it will be possible for any of the crew to ask a question and receive an answer within the space of a few hours, regardless of the position of the ketch.

Rotary Conferences

World-wide Broadcasts

THE proceedings of Rotary gatherings held simultaneously in New York, London, and Sydney were broadcast at midnight on April 22. At New York the proceedings took the form of a breakfast. At the same time, Rotarians in London attended a luncheon, and those in Sydney a supper. Microphones and loudspeakers allowed those present at any one of the gatherings to hear his colleagues at the others.

The shortwave broadcast of the New York function was relayed through Holland to Java, thence to Sydney, and on to the Pacific Coast of America, where it was rebroadcast on long-wave, through the national network of stations. New York was thus able to hear the proceedings after the signals had travelled around the world. New Zealand listeners were able to hear the broadcast from the various shortwave stations at midnight.

The Coverage Commission Investigations in North Island

THE Coverage Commission, which is now working in the North Island, is now at Taumarunui. As in the South Island, very considerable variations in reception conditions are being encountered. Some unexpected results have been obtained, due, no doubt, to the varied topography. In many respects, surprising as it may seem, conditions are equal to those in the South Island. It will be remembered that, in their report on the work in this island, the commission stated that conditions varied very rapidly from point to point, and that places as close as two miles to one another had remarkably different types of conditions. The places visited include the following: Paekakariki, Otaki, Levin, Shannon, Foxton, Palmerston North, Feilding, Marton, Rata, Taihape, Ohakune, Ohingaiti, Mangaweka, Kahurangi, Raetihi, Wanganui, Eltham, Stratford, Kapaonga, Opunake, Rahotu, Inglewood, Waitara, New Plymouth, Awakino, Mahoeuni, Piopio, Taumarunui.

While in New Plymouth last week the commission met the executive of the local Radio Society, together with dealers and experienced listeners. "The commission," said Mr. Gibbs, addressing the meeting, "fully realises that in New Plymouth reception, from some stations, at any rate, is not all that can be desired, due to the natural interference of Mount Egmont." The Broadcasting Board had found that conditions in New Zealand were not exactly right, and that was the reason for the appointment of Dr. Barnett and himself to investigate conditions throughout the country. Both of the commissioners were tackling their problem with perfectly open minds, and whatever views they might hold, they kept to themselves, and were quite open to conviction. Dr. Barnett asked for a report as to the class of reception from the various New Zealand stations. The consensus of opinion expressed on the "A" stations might be summed as follows:—

- 1YA: Day reception reasonably good; night indifferent. Weaker than day, distortion and volume below noise level.
2YA: Day, good; night, useless, fading and distortion.
3YA: Often cannot be heard, frequently fades right out.
4YA: Usually nothing during the day; sometimes good at night.

Detailed reports on the reception of the various "B" stations were also taken by the commission. Australian and American reception were discussed and were stated to be extraordinarily good. It was stated that 2YB meant a great deal to listeners in Taranaki, and were it not for that station the province would be ill-served in the matter of radio entertainment. It was urged that improvement should be made to 2YB in order to give fuller service.

Mr. Gibbs, in replying to a question, said that three parties could be traced in broadcasting, transmitter, the medium and the receiver. The time was coming when the receiver would have to play a more important part than at present.

While at Stratford Mr. Gibbs gave a general resume on the causes of man-made static, and he and Dr. Barnett answered questions relative to the subject. It was pointed out that both these gentlemen while on their tour are investigating methods by which this form of interference can be combated.

It was urged by the borough electrical engineer that the raising of the power of the three main stations outside Wellington would provide listeners in Stratford with the choice of four stations at night, as atmospheric conditions and man-made static make the "B" stations ineffective.

It was apparent from the remarks of the listeners that Stratford enjoyed a position of good reception and comparative freedom from interference. The principal complaint voiced at the meeting was the trouble of heterodyning of New Zealand and Australian stations. Mr. Gibbs explained that the number of wavelengths available were carefully allotted, and the broadcast band was so fully occupied that five or six stations, say, in Dunedin, were given the same wavelength, but restricted to separate hours of operation, but so many new applications, both here and in Australia, prevented any larger division between the stations.

Mr. Gibbs called attention to the fact that, in the case of Invercargill and Gisborne clashing, they were meant to cover a local district, so that listeners in Stratford should not complain if they got both coming in simultaneously.

A Listener's Questionnaire

2YA's Programmes Criticised

A LISTENER who recently completed his questionnaire was prompted to submit the following as an alternative. While written partly in a humorous vein, it contains much sound and helpful criticism of 2YA's programmes:—

1. To which New Zealand station do you listen most frequently?
2. Are you satisfied with our news session and market reports?
3. How do you think we could improve our concert session?
4. Why do we so seldom put on a good piano performance?
5. Do you like our orchestra?
6. Do you get too much band music?
7. Which class of performer should in your opinion be hung by the thumbs?
8. And which by the neck?
9. Do you enjoy hearing our announcer say "G-o-o-o-o-d night"?

A.: 2YA.

A.: Yes. The weather forecasts are particularly valuable and reliable.

A.: Put on a lot more band music. If local band not available, put on good records. Cut out most of the solos: you have very few soloists worth hearing anyhow. Good banjo and concertina music much appreciated about here.

A.: Search me.

A.: Not much, though no doubt excellent. But why not have less screeching and more tune?

A.: No, not half enough. Everyone enjoys a band, especially good marches.

A.: Screaming sopranos, especially those that consider it necessary to sing tremolo. Same applies to tenors.

A.: The comic woman. A most distressing form of entertainment.

A.: No. It arouses all my worst instincts.

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