

Editorial Notes

Wellington, Friday, May 13, 1932

THE problem of electrical interference is one of the most important matters now requiring attention in the interests of listeners. In certain districts interference, occasioned both by leakage from power lines and from household and medical electrical appliances, is considerable, and occasions very grave inconvenience to radio listeners. It will be remembered that one of the proposals of the Radio Broadcasting Company was to attend to the problem by the appointment of a special engineer equipped with suitable appliances. While that procedure would certainly result in the detection of the interference, it would not necessarily imply rectification of the trouble. The actual position is that there is no hard and fast legislation empowering rectification of the trouble once it is located. Both legal and technical points are involved, so that, while all are agreed as to the need for action, there is much diversity of opinion as to the manner in which the trouble can best be remedied.

IN the case of power-line leaks, it is contended by many electrical authorities that, as their lines were in existence before the advent of radio, they have priority over radio. In the case of some of the earlier installations, the system is such as to make leakage unavoidable, and the only means of rectifying that trouble would be to scrap the plant in toto and start afresh. As against the policy of completely disclaiming responsibility, it is apparent that power authorities have benefited considerably by the advent of radio and the more general use of electrical appliances. Radio keeps people home, and by encouraging longer hours promotes the use of light, thus increasing revenue. It can be urged that they would be serving their own best interests by rectifying leakages, and so inducing an even larger use of radio sets and electrical appliances on the part of their consumers. This argument has been used with effect in America where many power authorities have voluntarily undertaken remedial steps.

IN the case of the private owner of disturbing apparatus, the position is not simple. While such disturbances can be easily located, it is

not so simple to effect remedy, for that rests entirely in the hands of the owner of the disturbing element. In the majority of cases, where dealers and radio enthusiasts have pointed out the fact of disturbance and how rectification can be made, individuals have been ready to comply. In others, however, a blunt refusal has been accorded representations. Against that blunt refusal there is no remedy as the law stands. Where interference is occasioned by electrical medical appliances, remedy is sometimes technically difficult, even if the doctor or specialist controlling the apparatus is quite willing to do his best. In such instances, judicious choice of hours the least likely to interfere with listeners is sometimes all that can be done. Where household appliances, such as carpet-sweepers, etc., occasion interference, we think that in these days, when radio is of such importance, it would be a relatively simple matter for legislation to be enacted requiring that the vendors of such appliances should guarantee that their particular equipment would not be a nuisance in the radio field. It is a relatively simple matter to guard this equipment from radiation, and in the interests of listeners we are strongly of opinion that legislation to that end should be promoted.

WHILE some listeners who have suffered from interference may think that the broadcasting authorities should solve the problem by erecting stations of such a power as to override any possibility of interference, a moment's reflection will show that is not feasible in practice. Even in England, interference still obtains and is a source of definite trouble. All that can be hoped for in this case is, we think, to require that electrical appliances of whatever nature should be sold guaranteed free of radio interference, and that the power authorities should in addition have authority to exercise control over consumers who install apparatus likely to create radio interference. Such power must be given the electrical supply authorities rather than to the Broadcasting Board. The supply authority is in direct touch with the consumer, and given the legal backing could improve the position for radio listeners with a minimum of difficulty and inconvenience.

Stop Press

Programme Innovation

THE principle of the "Stop Press" column in the newspapers—which permits of the publication of important news received after the pages of the paper have been made up and are actually in the course of being printed—is to be applied to the programmes of the YA stations.

As is well known, broadcast programmes are prepared weeks in advance, and as a consequence it frequently happens that, in the time between the preparation and the presenting of the programmes, items which would be welcomed by listeners cannot be taken advantage of. It is to meet this contingency—perhaps a visiting artist who would perform, or a notable personage who would give a talk, new recordings just to hand, or perhaps some topical happening—that a space of fifteen minutes is being allowed on programmes. This period is being reserved at 9 o'clock every evening, except on such evenings when there is already an outstanding regular attraction, such as an international talk or "surprise item."

This innovation will allow of greater elasticity in the programmes, and listeners will be intrigued each evening as they wait till 9 o'clock to see what this Pandora's box has in store for them.

The mystery surrounding the "surprise item" at 2YA creates the greatest interest every three weeks, and, in a minor degree, the nightly unallotted quarter of an hour will be endowed with all the elements of surprise.

Empire Wireless

Growth of British Industry

IN Britain the wireless industry has reached a turnover of £30,000,000 a year, says the "Daily Mail." It is second only to the motor industry in rapidity of development.

There were 67,413 wireless licenses issued last March, and the total in existence is now more than 4,500,000. Factories have been enlarged and are working with full staffs. Last year 1,250,000 wireless sets were sold and manufacturers expect to sell 2,000,000 this year.

In the House of Commons the Dominions Secretary, Mr. J. H. Thomas, said the Government was taking no steps to include Empire broadcasting facilities in the agenda of the Empire Economic Conference at Ottawa and would not include a wireless expert in the British delegation. However, the Government would support any suggestion tending toward further co-operation on the lines advocated at the last Imperial Conference, which recommended reciprocal Empire programmes.

Mr. J. Maxton (Lab.): Will the Minister arrange for the proceedings of the conference to be broadcast in Britain?

Mr. Thomas: I shall keep in mind the distance between Ottawa and Glasgow.

Australian Radio Licenses

Now Total Over 350,000

An increase of over 13,000 licenses in three months is revealed by statistics showing the number of licenses in force in Australia as at March 31, 1932. At the end of the preceding quarter the grand total was 337,658. Details of the latest figures are as follow—:

State.	Number in force as at 31/3/32.	Ratio of licenses to 100 of population.
New South Wales	132,861	5.28
Victoria	135,995	7.56
Queensland	27,671	2.88
South Australia	33,757	5.78
Western Australia	11,489	2.73
Tasmania	8,888	4.05
Commonwealth	350,661	5.88

Philips Radio

Radioplayer Set at
£19/10/-

THE new 1932 model radio sets recently arriving in this country include the new Philips five-valve radio player number 932A, the price of which was given, in an advertisement in last week's issue of the "Radio Record," as £29/10/-. This is incorrect. The price of the new Philips 932A is £19/10/-.

Programme Notes.

ARRANGEMENTS are being made for a regular series of farming talks from 1YA, thus bringing the station into line with the other three, where agricultural talks have been a regular feature on the programme.

AN eminent pianist, Mr. H. Hoffman, is at present visiting New Zealand. He is a graduate of the State Academy of Music, Berlin, and he had the honour of playing at the Schubert Centenary celebrations in Vienna a few years ago. Mr. Hoffman has been engaged for recitals at 3YA on Wednesday, May 25, and at 2YA on Tuesday, May 31. He recently broadcast in Sydney.

New Canadian Radio Telephony Circuit

BECAUSE the rugged British Columbia coastline precludes long-distance wire telephony, a radio-telephone service between Vancouver and Prince Rupert, including a 400-mile radio circuit between Prince Rupert and Campbell River on Vancouver Island, was recently established to connect with the regular telephone systems of the cities of Vancouver and Victoria. This opens up to telephony an area that previously enjoyed contact with the outside world only via radio-telegraphy.