

# Editorial Notes

Wellington, Friday, July 15, 1932.

**CAPTAIN ECKERSLEY**, formerly chief engineer of the British Broadcasting Corporation, is now in Australia and has made certain references to the system of broadcasting in that country. He is surprised, it is stated, that Australia has forsaken the long waves (above 1000 metres) for the medium ones, which it is claimed are not nearly so efficient from the point of view of national broadcasting. It would be a wise move to adopt long-wave broadcasting, declared the captain, though it would necessitate a gradual transition. Big issues are involved. Australia and New Zealand have developed along American lines, both as regards broadcasting and receiving, and to introduce the English system at this late hour would mean setting in motion a long series of changes. But if long waves would be more efficient for broadcasting purposes, the sooner the schemes are put in hand the better.

**HERE** and in Australia the superheterodyne set is favoured, while in England and the Continent this design is not popular. The superheterodyne could quite easily be used for reception of long-wave broadcasting, but for some reason or other it has not been used to any extent. The sets now in use could be converted for long-wave operation in much the same way as they are used to-day for the reception of short waves—by adapters and converters—so that the introduction of the system would not render useless the sets now in operation. Dual wave broadcasting complicates matters and tends to make sets dearer, and the home constructor would find that coil con-

struction would occasion him some difficulty. Probably many excellent lines of British parts would find their way here. It seems, when all things are considered, that, were the New Zealand and Australian stations to change over to long wave, there might be a general change over to British methods and probably to British goods, though the American standards would not be useless.

**EVEN** supposing that the long waves are better for local coverage, it is not surprising that they have not been adopted in the States. In that country broadcasting started on the medium waves, and as more and more listeners and stations were added, the need for wide coverage was not so acute. For one station to make the change would mean simply that it would not be listened to, and it is not surprising that the long-wave station has not appeared. Now it has gone rather too far. Hundreds of stations cater for the American radio public, and each receiver generally has the choice of several "local" programmes. Why, then, worry about maximum coverage efficiency? In England and other countries where broadcasting is unified, and it is desirable to restrict the number of stations, the maximum efficiency has to be obtained, and listeners are more or less compelled to bring their radio sets into line—for their own good. At the moment it is impossible to say whether the long-wave station would be desirable or not. The Coverage Commission went into that question, and its report will indicate its opinion in this direction. In the meantime Captain Eckersley's remarks are of more than passing interest.

**THE** formation of a New Zealand Radio Institute denotes another step forward in wireless history. The grouping together of experts is highly desirable, and such groups are found in almost every calling. Their function is generally that of raising the status of their members, the elimination of unethical practices, and the dissemination of ideas. Radio institutes are to be found in most countries where radio is established, and association with them is considered generally to establish the identity of the technician. It is im-

perative, therefore, that the Institute should not open its doors to any but thoroughly-qualified men. It is likewise imperative that such an institute be not parochial. Admittedly it must start at some point, with one man or group of men, but if it is to be of real service and to have real standing it must expand beyond the confines of the town of origin. The foundation of such a society should not be a sign for the formation of similar societies in other towns, for if this were to happen the public could recognise none.

## In Phase and Out

By "Quadrant"

**WHILE** listening in the other night, I heard what I took to be the broadcast of an aeroplane in flight, but they tell me it is only 1YA's carrier.

**2YA'S** surprise item last week was one out of the box—you heard it, I presume. After that I am convinced that our announcers want untying. Radio should be humanised, and by that I do not mean Americanised.

**WHEN** I heard the little finale of surprise item, I felt that all listeners were rising and calling "Bravo, we want Mr. Heigh ho." It must be possible, surely.

**I** AM still at a loss to know what America was celebrating on the "Glorious Fourth"—Independence Day or gum-dipped balloons. All I heard of it was a re-broadcast of KKW from 2YA.

**YOU** remember my joke about the announcer and his wife a week or so back. It evidently appealed to one of our commercially-minded readers, for it was duly entered for the 5/- prize that "Spark" holds out to aspiring humorists. It would not have been so bad had it been left in the original form (I feel quite modest about it), but it was changed just enough to make the joke fall a bit flat. What a nerve!

**THEY** tell me "Patricia's" columns are of feminine interest so in order to keep up conversation with a housewife of my acquaintance the other night, I mentioned the women's columns of the "Record," which was lying within sight. "They are quite interesting," she remarked. "But some of the recipes are a bit off at times," and she picked up the paper. After a moment she read out: "Apple and Ham Casserole," which I thought sounded very nice, and then: "Add one teaspoon of onion juice." How are we going to get that? My efforts at making conversation fell flat after that, for I am still wondering how many onions make a teaspoonful of juice.

**SPEAKING** about onions reminds me that somewhere recently I saw that the electrical pressure of an onion is one-twentieth of a volt. Country listeners who experience charging diffi-

culties should be able to get their "A" current from a bed of these vegetables, planted outside the drawing-room window.

**"THE** broadcast will begin at 3 p.m.," says a newspaper. Evidently a 20th century version of a well-known biblical allusion.

**FOR** straight-hitting, convincing delivery, and sincerity, I pay my respects to the Sunday morning preacher at 2ZW.

**STATIC** in radio reception is like a mother-in-law in married life—only you can't switch the latter off so easily. After all, there is a lot to be said for the crystal set.

**"IS** your wife fond of listening-in." "Not half so much as she is of speaking out."—"Answers."

**COURTSHIP**—He broadcasts; she listens-in. Honeymoon—She broadcasts; he listens-in. Now—They broadcast; the neighbours listen-in.

**"TO** which station do you listen most?" I asked a friend, who had recently bought a new set, which, according to the salesman, was capable of great things. Imagine my surprise when he earnestly replied, "To the local power station." Without doubt, this power interference question is one of some magnitude.

**A** RUMOUR is circulating that there is a possibility of a New Zealand radio convention at which representatives of the different branches of the science will be gathered. If they want to do business the following branches should be limited to one representative each:—The dx club, the amateur transmitters, and the short wave club. Otherwise I pity the "Record's" reporter if this paper "covers" the convention.

**I** AM sorry the powers that be have decided that radio exhibitions are superfluous. This country is the only one where radio is developed to any extent that does not have its radio show. Although new models are little different from the old ones, there are yet many points that the public will be interested in. It needs effort to organise

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