

## Our Mailbag

## R.S. Exam.

**I** NOTE "Radio Serviceman" thinks my ideas of a "serviceman" amusing but no doubt we are looking at the matter from two different points of view.

It seems to me there should be two classes of "serviceman."

First, there is the real expert, devoting his whole time to the science, and capable of performing any job that comes along.

No doubt this is the class of serviceman "R.S." had in mind.

I was, however, thinking of the vast army of dealers, salesmen, etc., most of them engaged in other employment as well as radio, who have no facilities, or time (and in some cases, education), for acquiring technical knowledge, and yet are handy men, capable of performing most of the everyday troubles that are apt to occur a day or two before a Test match, or a wrestling contest, thus proving themselves a very present help in time of trouble.

For these latter, I cannot see that a technical examination should be compulsory.

We take our cars to garages for repairs, but though the danger to life is far greater in this case, motor mechanics are not required to pass a technical examination. By all means have examinations for the expert, entitling him to various degrees, but it seems to me that it is unreasonable to expect the 2000 odd dealers and servicemen in New Zealand to have acquired, in the short space of time that a.c. sets have been in general use (about three years) any great amount of theory on the subject.

They are, however, a practical lot and have been of immense service to their customers, and unless I am mistaken have never been responsible for a single fatality, or, indeed, any serious mishap.—"Aerial" (Hinnera).

## Olympic Games Results.

**N**OW that arrangements have been concluded for Olympic Games results to be given from KFL, could not 4YA's frequency be shifted slightly to avoid heterodyne interference between the two stations? I am sure many listeners would welcome this.—"Sportsman" (Oamaru).

As no doubt our correspondent has now noticed 4YA's frequency has been temporarily shifted.—Ed.

## Improved Programmes.

**T**HE Broadcasting Board does not appear to be doing anything as yet in the way of reorganising the programmes and hours of the YA stations, but as a rather severe critic in the past I must say that there is an improvement in the quality of the programmes. Frank Crowther's novelty orchestra is, in my opinion, the best musical combination heard from 2YA. The class of music it plays may not

**A**S a listener with no other interests than that of the majority of the great listening public, permit me to review the eagerly awaited report of the Broadcast Coverage Commission as published in your columns.

The reference to "man-made interference," as far as it goes, is timely. It has merely drawn attention to what all city listeners are unfortunately only too familiar with. It is a matter which the Broadcasting Board would be well advised to adopt as one of major importance. The radio set to-day is a musical instrument, and if one cannot listen-in with some degree of certainty that his ears will not be offended by the parasitic noises that cloud the atmosphere in certain districts, a reaction will assuredly set in which will eventually destroy the popularity of radio, with disastrous effects on the board's revenue. It is to be hoped that the recommendations of the commission for co-operation between the Public Works Department, Post and Telegraph Department, and the board will not be lightly passed over. I would have appreciated more detailed reference to this in the chairman's published comments.

Everyone, excepting those with unselective sets, will approve of the recommendation of the commission for an increase in the power of the YA stations and the establishment of relay stations at strategic points to serve the greatest possible number of country listeners. This suggestion displays commendable vision as well as business acumen. The proposal, when carried into effect, will be reflected by a sharp rise in the number of licensed listeners in country districts, with consequent addition to the board's revenue.

The proposal to use more efficient plants at the four main stations is long overdue, and is one of the benefits accruing to listeners through the change of ownership where profit-making is not of such paramount consideration as up-to-date efficiency.

## The Question of B Stations.

**T**HE section of the report likely to raise most discussion is that dealing with "B" stations. The city "B" stations are to be ignored, but certain country "B" stations are to be subsidised "until such time as the improvements at the four main stations can be carried out and the relay stations es-

~~~~~

meet all tastes (no orchestra in the world could do that), but it is as finely balanced a combination of its kind as is possible to get, and I feel sure it will meet the requirements of listeners of other than "high brow" music. Another feature was the well thought out sporting playlet on Tuesday, 12th. Admittedly it was centred on "that awful vice racing," but nobody could deny that it was other than a very

established." Does this mean that when such relay stations are established, the subsidy to country "B" stations will cease, or does it mean that when this coverage has been effected, the board hopes that their financial position will improve sufficiently to enable them to subsidise city "B" stations also?

Judging by the chairman's comments, there is no immediate prospect of assistance to city "B" stations, but the door does not appear to have been definitely bolted and barred, as witness the chairman's remarks that "the board considered its first duty was to endeavour to afford service to licensees in places where poor reception of the YA stations obtained." Does this mean that the board still feels that they will, if future finances permit, afford some recognition to the "B" stations of a more tangible nature than "appreciation of their services"? I think the board might be a little more explicit on this point.

I feel that the board will run a serious risk of failure if they neglect the substance for the shadow. In their desire to nurse the country listener, they must not overlook the fact that 75 per cent. of the listeners are thickly massed around the main centres. I venture to predict that if, as the result of the board's lack of encouragement, the "B" stations go out of existence, there will be such an outcry from city listeners that the board will be compelled to re-cast their ideas on the subject.

There is no denying the value of the "B" stations to the listeners. With all due respect to our local talent, recorded music as given to us by the "B" stations, brings the world's best to our fireplaces. If, as Mr. Vickery states, "the board does not desire to see the 'B' stations go out of action," the fair and proper thing to do is to compensate them for their existence, or at least to hold out some reasonable prospect of doing so in the future.

I feel I am expressing the wishes of thousands of listeners when I say "Hands off our city 'B' stations and give them a little encouragement." Before concluding, I note that the Advisory Council approved of the report "holus bolus." Does this mean that great minds think alike, or that the Advisory Council has merely made up its mind to say "Hear, hear," when listening to the board's suggestions?

I suggest that had they offered some of the comments above they would have more correctly interpreted the wishes of the listeners whom they are supposed to represent.—I. Meltzer (Wellington).

~~~~~

excellent feature. 2ZR, Nelson, ranks next to 2YA for reception here, and deserves the everlasting thanks of listeners for filling in the 7 to 8 hour with music. I notice in your valuable "Mail Bag" columns a lot of criticism of such matters as the interruption of community singing to give race results and other similar happenings. In these matters let us be tolerant. The giving of race results is repugnant to some but most acceptable to others, so why grumble if the B.B. tries to cater for all?

One other thing I must mention, and that is 2YA's children's hour. This is generally fairly well conducted, but may I appeal to those in charge not to use too many, shall we say "grown-up" words. Try and talk to the children in children's talk, and they will en-

## N.Z. Shortwave Club Notes

## From the Secretary's Pen

**I** HAVE received a number of letters from ladies in Taranaki re the woodshed incident, so it appears that short-wave listening must be very popular up that way. Our list of lady members is slowly mounting. Another remarkable feature is the number of transmitters who are joining up.

A booklet for new members is now under consideration. It will be practically a correspondence course of short-wave. Later on, a definite system will be arranged for members receiving stations.

My latest postal curio is a letter that had no address—merely a club stamp—



Ernest Rogers,

tenor, broadcasting from  
3YA on Friday, August 5.

—Stephano Webb, photo.

so evidently I must appear in the "Gallery" of the Postal Department.

I had a rap over the knuckles from one or two country members re my complaint about visitors. As it happens, the country members are only down for a very short time, so it does not refer to them. Only those who take on a secretary's job know what it is like. One member used to call at 7 a.m.; others at lunch time, and at 7 p.m. So, in order to do a little work, I had to ask them to make their visits brief. Visitors from the country are always welcome. As they have not the benefits of reference libraries and the facilities that town members have, it is an advantage for them to get a few ideas to take back to their friends.

Drop a line to A. B. McDonagh, Secretary, N.Z. Shortwave Club, 4 Queen Street, Wellington, and hear all about it.—Yours fraternally,

MAC.

~~~~~

joy and understand it. And could not some of the Uncles who are guilty cut out their ridiculous and inane remarks to and poorly concealed flirtations with the Aunts? No doubt this little criticism will arouse a storm of protest, but I reiterate that a lot of personal rubbish is broadcast, at any rate during children's hour from 2YA.

Many thanks to DX33T for his support of my previous letter.—DX 4T,

**BURGESS  
RADIO  
BATTERIES**

**PRICES LOWER  
THAN EVER BEFORE**

*They're British, too!!!*