

Editorial Notes

Wellington, Friday, September 23, 1932.

THERE are parts of New Zealand where listening to other than the local station is an impossibility, due to interference caused by power leaks. Christchurch and Auckland appear to suffer most and in the former, complaints have been made that in certain areas even 3YA is interfered with. The rectification of the trouble is essential if radio is to make rapid progress, but the great problem is where to start and who is to make that start. There are four parties concerned—those owning the offending apparatus, those who supply the programmes, the listeners, and the Post and Telegraph Department.

FROM the viewpoint of those owning the apparatus, the situation is more or less satisfactory. They are concerned only in installing the apparatus which will fulfil their requirements, and whether or not it interferes with anyone else is not their concern. Certainly H.F. noise implies waste, but the suppression of noise would in many cases involve scrapping much valuable apparatus or installing expensive filters, and this involves capital expenditure. Capital is scarce just now. But this point of view is not altogether justifiable. If a band decides to practise when it will cause continual annoyance to even one neighbour, the law can be brought to

bear and the band shifted. Yet it is legal to instal apparatus that will interfere with hundreds of neighbours. Clearly legislation is called for in this respect, though the enormous expense to which local bodies for instance would be put may make the enforcing of such legislation difficult. The point is, however, that legislation could prevent the further installation of apparatus likely to cause trouble. It could be applied to apparatus entering the country in such a manner that only the non-radiating type could pass the Customs. An instance of new apparatus making the existing situations much worse, is that of the trolley buses in Christchurch. These bus-trams, we understand, employ 600 volts which they derive from two overhead wires, the result being that sparking takes place between each trolley pole and the wire. The ordinary trams use lower voltage and have an earth return. It is stated by residents along the route that the buses can be heard from town till they reach their destination and that even 3YA is interfered with. Clearly this is a case where legislation should be brought to bear.

THE Broadcasting Board receives a major portion of license fees and its responsibility is to supply the greatest number of listeners with a trouble free or class A programme. It is in its interests to eliminate the trouble as far as possible in order that it may get more listeners. We are assured that the Board will take active steps and it is understood that the committee recommended by the Coverage Commission to investigate interference is now in the process of formation, and that in the next week or so will be functioning. They will no doubt go thoroughly into the matter and make recommendations, and they may call together representatives from the affected parties. They may even organise machinery for the location of interfering leaks, but of course the rectification is another matter to be achieved only by co-operation. Listeners can help materially. As users of electrical apparatus, ranging from vacuum cleaners to certain types of battery chargers, they can prevent radiation by the installation of proper filters. These in the case of small articles are not expensive and would have an appreciable effect on their

own radio. They can help, too, in the matter of definitely locating the troublesome apparatus and drawing the attention of the radio inspector to it.

THE Post and Telegraph Department is doing steady work on the problem and in some cities has had the noise suppressed to a considerable degree—Dunedin is a case in point. In others they have been less effective, due probably to the

greater magnitude of the field of their operations. At the present it seems that little more can be done. The task is one primarily for the committee to report on and until its recommendations is available, each listener can only go his quiet way doing all he can within his own sphere. That a definite policy will have to be adopted by the Government, who have the final word in matters such as this, is clearly evident.

In Phase and Out

By "Quadrant"

IVE learned a great deal through talking with the editor of the "Times," who has been south during the week. If anything I have to say thereon is not quite correct, blame him, not me.

DUNEDINITES are still a bit canny about the extended hours at 4YA. Something for nothing, and they think there is a catch in it. On that account some of them do not like even tuning in.

THERE is not much amateur radio construction going on in Christchurch. In fact, it has fallen as flat as the city itself. Geologically speaking, of course.

I BELIEVE 2YA is very uncertain in Invercargill, yet a few miles out of the town it comes in at great strength and can be relied upon. Funny, 2YA not liking the southern city, and the people are so hospitable, too.

A MEETING of the local branch of the DX Club was held in Dunedin and the chairman was propounding his views on the Advisory Board of four. There were present the president of the Club (who comes from Invercargill) and the "Times" editor. "There should—er—be, four representatives on the board," he said, "one from each of the four principal provinces—Auckland, Wellington, Canterbury, Otago." There was a dead silence, broken by a slight scuffle from his right. "Oh, and—er—Southland." But that makes five, so I am anxious to see what is going to happen.

THE signals best received in most parts of Christchurch are those transmitted by the trolley buses. For some unknown reason these mobile broadcasting stations are not at all popular, and there is some concern because the city council is talking of putting on more.

THE various branches of the DX Club concentrate on different aspects of their hobby. In Auckland it's the business of getting enough funds to do something; in Wellington—puzzle, find the DX Club; in Christchurch it is how to stop power leaks; organising is Dunedin's forte, and in Invercargill it is dzing, real and serious

CONGRATULATIONS. The president of the DX Club was recently married—to another member of the Club. The local lads are still tittering because when Mrs. President joined the Club, a few months ago, she was sent a circular advising her to get into touch with the local secretary (also the president), "who would be pleased to make her acquaintance."

EXCERPTS from a meeting of Wellington listeners:—"Why don't they put 2YA on 800 metres and then we could listen to it on its first harmonic. It mightn't come in all over the dial then!" Another: "I wish they would take 2YA out to Upper Hutt. I'd help them carry the thing."

IT has been prophesied that within 50 years return tickets to Mars will be available. At that rate within 100 years return tickets will be available for many other places and a new interpretation will then be placed on that Scriptural exhortation: "Oh, Death, where is thy sting?"

AFTER listening to Sphinx at 2YA make a few figures do exactly as he wanted them, I am at a total loss to understand why the Great Pyramid was given material being.

WHEN 2YA went to the Hutt Railway Works I felt certain we were going to be surprised by being informed that radio was to be installed on the railways. Workmen working isn't much of a surprise.

MR. VOCO owes me a new magazine cigarette lighter. We did the light fantastic so hilariously on Tuesday night that it jumped out of my vest pocket and I danced on it.

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