

a universal language would go a long way in the prevention of war, but the instance of South America, which has had its share of battle, almost disproves the contention. This, and the fact that warlike activities have kept the whole of the continent near the straight and narrow path, and furnished each republic with a virility that predicts future greatness, is fairly emphatic contemporary evidence, that moonbeams don't make a very solid foundation for a nation.

WHEN Nagel got busy with the ball in the cricket match at Melbourne, England versus Victoria, many listeners, knowing Mr. Drummond's prowess in flannels and his enthusiasm for the king of all games, heard more of 2YA's programme than they otherwise would have done, just in case anything further relative to the match became known at the studio. All the British Empire, white, black, and brown, waited expectantly for details of that match, while the rest of the world remained in blissful ignorance of the fact that broadcasting in Australia had been responsible for a whole lot of work being left undone.

New Zealand Verse

Favourable Reception

THE attractive book of poems, issued under the title of "Gift Book of New Zealand Verse," has met with a particularly favourable reception from the public. This is exemplified by the following extracts from congratulatory letters received:—

"It is indeed a charming composition, and besides being an eloquent evidence of fine taste, is also a restorative to one's somewhat pessimistic soul, as at times it seems as though the younger generation has no poetry in its composition. Your book disproves this, and one rejoices that so much sensibility, charm and talent exist in our young land."

"The external appearance of the little book alone did much to refresh me. The whole thing is a fitting materialisation of a fine idea. I sincerely hope further compilations will be made from time to time."

"I wish to congratulate you on the 'Book of Verse.' It is a gem."

"The book is splendid. I am proud to be included in such good company."

"The verses are a credit to New Zealand."

"Surprisingly varied both in style and matter."

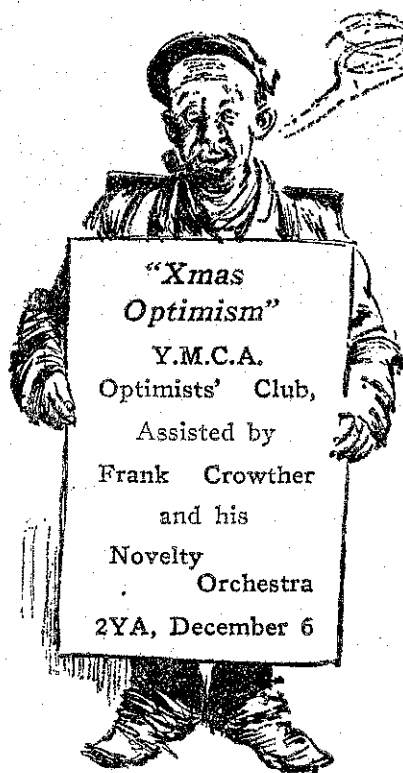
"A charming small volume, and does not contain one dry item from cover to cover."

"A splendid production for the money, and well got up."

"A most attractive booklet, which will be highly treasured by all interested in beautiful literary expression."

"A charming collection which I shall always prize."

This book is ideally suitable for presentation as a Christmas gift, and a strong demand is being experienced. Copies may be obtained from leading booksellers at the price of 2/6, or from the Radio Publishing Company, "Dominion" Building, Wakefield Street, Wellington.



Ultra Short Waves

Experimental Broadcasts

EXPERIMENTAL transmissions on the very short wavelengths, around seven metres, are at present being conducted in Australia. Little is known of the qualities and peculiarities of these low waves, which differ enormously from those of the band between 200 and 575 metres, on which the usual broadcasts take place. They are also quite distinct in their action from the ordinary short waves of 20 to 80 metres, on which long distance communication is usually conducted.

Every Sunday programmes for worldwide reception are broadcast from Penrith Hills, Sydney, on a wavelength of 28.5 metres. These programmes are now being radiated also on 7 metres in order to determine the range of ultra short waves. It may be found that they are only effective within the comparatively limited range of about 200 miles.

It has been noticed that transmissions on 7 metres are peculiarly free of the effect of static and there is little or no fading in the signals. The suggestion has been made that these ultra short waves may prove useful for purely local broadcast services for listeners within a limited range.

Australian License Figures

IN the Commonwealth of Australia there are 390,552 licensed listeners, representing 5.97 per cent. of the population. New South Wales heads the list with 150,415 listeners, and Victoria is next with 145,316, New Zealand has 78,000 listeners, constituting 5.4 per cent. of the population.

Voices in the Sky

King's Broadcast

How Airmen Keep Touch

First Direct Talk to the Empire

RADIO has played a big part in making the airways safe. The constant anxiety of the pilot in bad weather has been done away with completely, for he is constantly in touch with his base. Actually there are three main tasks undertaken by radio in airway operation. In the first place it acts as does the signalling system of a railway, messages flashing constantly from one air-port to another, reporting the arrival or departures of aircraft on their scheduled flights; and this ground-signalling is reinforced by messages from machines which are actually in the air, thus enabling the traffic controller to plot out the position of such craft while they are en route between stations.

This means that there are two checks, always, upon the movements of aircraft—one at frequent intervals while they are in flight, and the other as they arrive at, or depart from, the various air-ports along a route.

Weather Reports.

ANOTHER of the tasks of wireless is to transmit from station to station those reports as to the weather which it is essential should be at the disposal of pilots before they begin their flights; and in this respect the meteorological and wireless departments co-operate so efficiently that messages now flash constantly along our main air lines, giving immediate news of any weather changes which may be in progress; while even after he had studied, just before ascending, the conditions ahead along his route, and while he is actually in flight with his passengers, mails, and freight, a pilot has only to call up on his wireless telephone to be given last-minute reports as to the local weather existing at the point at which he is scheduled to alight.

Thus not only when he is on the ground, but also when he is up in the air, a watchful weather bureau, relying upon wireless for its rapid communication, is ever at the airman's service.

Positions Always Available.

NOR does this complete its task, because one of the greatest boons it confers on pilots is its power, at any time required, to tell them their position when they are flying above cloud or fog, or to give them wireless bearing upon any station toward which they may be flying. Constantly are

THE King will broadcast a message to the Empire during the special programme on the afternoon of Christmas Day. This will be radiated by all transmitters of the British Broadcasting Corporation as well as from the new Empire Broadcasting Station.

The King will speak from Sandringham, Norfolk, where he and the Queen are to spend Christmas.

This will be his Majesty's first broadcast talk direct to the nation, as previously he has been heard on the wireless only when attending functions. On this occasion he will probably speak from his study.

A record will be taken which will be broadcast to those parts of the Empire which do not hear his actual words, and it is calculated that some hundreds of millions throughout the Empire will thus hear his voice.

ground operators listening for the voices that come to them out of the sky, and by quick and accurate working between stations—each of which takes bearings upon the signals from the aeroplane—a pilot who may have been flying for some time above cloud or fog, and who wants to check his position in relation to the ground he cannot see below, can obtain the information he needs in less than a minute from the moment when, say, he calls up the London air-port, or any other main station.

The method is as simple as it is efficacious. Any two stations located at some distance from each other, and which may be engaged in such an operation, both listen to the distant plane, obtaining individual bearings which tell them the point in the sky from which, so far as they are each concerned, the signals emanate. Then the operator at one of the two stations plots out both these bearings on a big map, and the distant spot at which they meet, and which may be somewhere, say, above mid-Channel, is the point where the aeroplane is flying at the moment.

In Constant Touch.

ON the long-distance Empire air lines wireless is a romance as well as a science. Along the 6000 miles African route, for example, 17 stations now keep in touch with aircraft in flight, and even when they are high over tropical forests remote from civilisation the pilots of the air mail are in constant touch with one or other of these wireless posts. It is the ability to employ such aids as these, particularly when an airway is operating in difficult weather, which may mean all the difference between maintaining a service to schedule or being obliged to cancel or delay it. Without radio and meteorology it would, in fact, be impossible for Imperial Airways, even with their skilled pilots, and big dependable multi-engined craft, to maintain as they do on an all-the-year-round basis a reliability which now stands at a figure as high as 94.7 per cent.



2YA
9.2 p.m.,
Monday,
December 5

