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Round the World on SHORTWAVE

Conducted by F. W SELLENS

Short-wave Notes

What of PCJ?

BRITISH listeners to the once-famous Dutch experimental station PCJ, at Eindhoven, are wondering how much longer the reopening of the station is to be deferred, writes the "Wireless World." The closure took place in November last, when Messrs. Philips announced that a complete reorganisation of the transmitter was to be undertaken, and since then little has been heard concerning the future of what was undoubtedly one of the most famous of the world's broadcasting stations. We understand that the owners are now negotiating with the Dutch Government on the question of wavelength and power.

Anzac Memorial Broadcast.

THE short-wave broadcast of the unveiling of the Anzac Memorial at Port Said last Wednesday was a great success. Considering the handling of the signals received before being heard by the average listener, speech and music was good. From Port Said to Cairo by land line, then to England by radio, and then to Rugby, where it was rebroadcast by the post office station, GBP, picked up and rebroadcast by VLZ, of Sydney, and again by 2YA. The writer tuned in and heard it from GBP, which was received at good volume. Reception, however, was marred by a listener who does not know how to tune a short-wave receiver. Too much reaction weakened the signals, making them mushy. It is best to listen to the rebroadcast from 2YA for these special events, and leave the air clear for the receiving stations doing their best to pass on a clear signal.

Giving the Empire What it Wants.

SIR JOHN REITH, Director-General, and Mr. Cecil Graves, the new Empire broadcasting director, have been planning the make-up of the Empire programmes to be broadcast from the new stations at Daventry.

The Empire is to have just what it wants, not what the B.B.C. thinks it ought to want! If the cry goes up for vaudeville, it shall be given. If overseas listeners like their humour "broad," they shall have it—but there will be nothing vulgar! A big demand for light entertainment is expected—hence the bustle to augment the programme staff with revue producers, who will be ready for home or Empire work.

Although no contributions to the Empire service are as yet forthcoming from overseas, the B.B.C. is determined to make use of its best material. It is recognised that the programmes must be "robust" to catch the ear of the colonial. The very best artists of every department of the B.B.C. will be engaged in this Empire work.

One of the difficulties is the time difference between the various countries, and even between one part of a country and another. At first Mr. Graves will be satisfied if he can feed each of the five zones with programmes between 8 and 10 p.m. local time, extending the period later from 6 p.m. to 12 midnight local time.

The two-hour transmissions for each zone will be as follows, New Zealand summer time: Australian zone, 9.30 p.m. to 11.30 p.m.; Indian zone, 2.30 a.m. to 4.30 a.m.; African zone, 6 a.m. to 8 a.m.; West African zone, 8.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.; Canadian zone, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Empire Station Testing for All Zones.

WE reported last week that the Empire station at Daventry had been testing on the Australian zone transmitter, and the results of our observations. Since then tests have been made on the Indian and African zone transmitters, which the writer made a point of observing, although it meant the loss of some sleep. As previously announced, the Indian zone was tested on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 2.30 a.m. to 4.30 a.m., our time, on 16.9 and 25.3 metres. On the last morning I was up at 4 a.m. to see what was doing. Signals on 16.9 metres were too weak to be readable, just a weak carrier only. On 25.3 metres reception was very good, being only a trifle weaker than from the 25.53-metre transmitter for this part of the world.

It was announced that the African zone transmitter would be tested on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. our time, on 31.3 and 49.6 metres. Again observations were made, the lower wave being fairly well received till after 7 a.m., when they became weak; 49.6 metres was poor, being just readable at times, fading right out every few seconds, and gone altogether about 7 a.m.

The next test is on the West African zone on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 8.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. our time, on 31.5 metres and 49.6 metres. It is doubtful if these will be audible here, if the African zone tests are a reliable guide.

It has not been announced, but tests will probably be made on the Canadian zone transmitter on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. our time. As regards wavelengths, we will have to wait and see, but will most likely be one or two of those used for the other zones, or waves near these.

The results of these tests to date prove that we in New Zealand will be able to hear the Empire station at other times than when the transmissions are intended for reception here. Of course, the change of seasons will vary reception, and different frequencies will probably be used on the various zones. Briefly, the prospects are very bright for the success of our Empire station.

Log for Week Ending Nov. 26

OTHER than the new Empire station, there is nothing much to report. Morning reception is very poor, unless one is up very early. The following log is what I heard during the week during short periods of listening:—

(?) **Russia**, 74 metres (about).—Thursday, 6 a.m., Russian talk at R3, soon faded right out.

RV15, Khabarovsk, 70.1 metres.—Heard at good volume early in the week, being silent the last few days.

HVJ, Vatican City, 50.26 metres.—R7-8 between 6.45 a.m. and 7 a.m. most mornings.

RV59, Moscow, 50 metres: Very poor unless one is up very early. Thursday was an early morning for the new English station, when this Russian was excellent at 4.45 a.m., being R9. This slowly decreased to R4 by 6.30 a.m.

VQ7LO, Nairobi, 49.5 metres: Also the result of early rising, but very weak, R3 at 4.45 a.m., fading out by 6 a.m.

W8XF, Chicago, 49.18 metres: Heard most afternoons after 4 p.m., but seldom reaches more than about R5.

W3XAL, Brookbrook, 49.18 metres.

Sundays only, not up to their usual last week, also were gushy.

W8XK, Pittsburgh, 48.86 metres: Comes in quite well most afternoons till 5.30 p.m., sometimes later.

REN, Moscow, 45.38 metres: Not heard every morning. Thursday was the best. They opened at 4.45 a.m. with a musical programme at R8-9. They sometimes broadcast the same items as RV59, but not this morning. By 6.45 a.m. they were only just audible. On Saturday at 6.45 a.m. they were still R7.

39.2 metres (about): At 11.15 p.m., foreign talk at R8-9 was heard. I think it was Russian, but static was too bad to make a good guess.

38 metres (about): At the same time as the above station was on, a Jap. was talking very fast on this wave at R3. Static was also bad here.

33.2 Metre (about).—Another stranger, this time at 8 a.m. on Wednesday morning, when orchestral and vocal music was heard at R3-4. The announcements, which were in English and a foreign language, were not readable, except an odd word or two. They faded out every few seconds.

VK3ME, Melbourne, 31.55 metres.—R9 as usual on Wednesday evening.

W2XAF, Schenectady, 31.48 metres.—Has been poor most afternoons. At 7.30 a.m. on Tuesday they were R5, with slow fades. They faded out about one hour later.

DJA, Zeesen, 31.38 metres.—Very weak again, not heard more than R5 during the past week.

W1XAZ, Springfield, 31.35 metres.—Similar to W2XAF, very weak at its best.

VK2ME, Sydney, 31.28 metres.—Good volume on Sunday, with the usual fades.

J1AA, Japan, 30.5 metres.—Not heard so well or often now, seldom reaches more than R5.

EAQ, Madrid, 30.4 metres.—Not audible at midday now, but is very fine on Sunday till 8 a.m., with a good Spanish programme.

29 Metres (about).—Monday, 10.15 p.m., music at R8. Later, proved to be "Bandoeng calling Sydney."

G5SW, Chelmsford, 25.53 metres.—Very poor each morning. Did not try the 12.30 a.m. session this week.

12RO, Rome, 25.4 metres.—They opened at 4.30 a.m. on Thursday, being excellent at R8. This session finished at 5.30 a.m. Volume was fairly constant all through. They were poor when opening again later, as they were on other mornings.

Short-Wave Club Notes

CORRESPONDENTS to the daily papers are condemning faith-healing, but there must be something in it, for, recently, a man brought a set along which refused to work. I assured him that I had no testing gear, but he persisted, so I told him a few things and gave a hint or two on tuning. He went home and rushed back, quite excited, to tell me of his results. But please do not bring sets to me as I have neither the time nor a radio serviceman's license.

The all-important topic in N.Z.S.W.C. circles here is a Radio Exhibition and the success of the stall is entirely due to the untiring activities of Mr. J. V. McMinn. We are displaying transmitting and other valves and two up-to-date wave meters, the latter being loaned by a member, Mr. Roberts, ZL2AH. A collection of verifications from Messrs. F. W. Sellens and J. V. McMinn are a prominent feature, and several more exhibits will be added later. Members of the DX Club and readers of the "Record" are invited to record their names in the visitors' book. DXers should take the opportunity of getting a close-up view of the transmitting valves as well as the baby one-volt valve.

Club address is A. B. McDonagh, Secretary N.Z. Short-Wave Club, 4 Queen Street, Wellington E1., and please do not send any more "Owl" Christmas cards as I already have quite a number.—Yours fraternally,

MAC