

Round the World on SHORTWAVE

Conducted by F. W SELLENS

Short-wave Notes

Unique Broadcast.

AN Australian aboriginal corroboree was, for the first time, broadcast on Saturday night by several Australian stations, including VK3ME, Melbourne. The native dances, war songs, etc., took place at the Baramba Settlement, 200 miles north of Brisbane, in the open by the light of flaming tree stumps. There were 1400 miles of land-line between where the broadcast originated in Queensland and VK3ME, where it was transmitted for "all the world" to tune in to something never broadcast before.

Reception was very good, being clear and loud, with but very little fading. The relay commenced at 10 p.m., our time, and concluded about 11 p.m.

Coronation Broadcast.

A DUNEDIN correspondent sends particulars of a very interesting broadcast heard on Saturday evening, December 10, on about 16.100 k.c. (18.6 metres). The letter reads: "I found it between 6 and 7 p.m. They closed at 8.29 p.m. Strength was about R8, not very gushy, but speech distorted. I had them earlier in the afternoon, apparently testing. After 6 p.m. they were putting over some weird orchestral and vocal music. Announcements were made in English with a foreign accent. Later they relayed some ceremony which I took to be the coronation of some king. These are one or two of the announcements: 'His Majesty is now signing the Constitution,' and 'The great moment is now at hand.' After the latter there was a short speech in a foreign language, and then great applause and bands playing. The foreign speeches appeared to be given in some hall.

"After this, the Constitution was read in English. This consisted of over forty articles, and dealt with the form of government and the king's powers. After this, the announcer returned and gave the station name and frequency, neither of which I could pick up. I fancy, however, that I heard the word Siam both in this announcement and in other parts of the relay. I have not, as yet, been able to see anything in the papers regarding such a happening, and wondered if you knew of anybody else who had picked it up."

If any other listener heard anything of this broadcast, further particulars would be interesting.

Empire Station Call Signs.

THE new Empire station, which will have commenced its regular service on the Australian zone before these notes are in print, has a call sign for each wavelength which will be used. The call, GSD, was heard frequently when they were testing recently on 25.53 metres. The calls which will be used are as follow:

49.586 metres. GSA
31.545 metres. GSB
31.397 metres. GSC
25.532 metres. GSD
25.284 metres. GSE
19.815 metres. GSF
16.88 metres. GSG

Stranger on 48 Metres.

MR. C. F. GEE, Bay of Plenty reports a new station on about 48 metres, using the call sign, IZOR. This station was heard on the 11th inst with music from 4.30 p.m. till 6 p.m. They announced

that they would be on again next week. Announcements were in good English.

32-Metre Stranger.

ON Wednesday evening a station on about 32 metres was coming in at R9, and good quality with recorded music till after 11.30 p.m. No announcements were made, just one record after another. They were on again on Thursday evening, going down to R8 by 10.30 p.m.

Notes on Reception.

CONDITIONS are still below normal on the short waves. VK3ME, VK2ME, and the 32-metre stranger reported, are the only stations I heard that were worth listening to. All the other regular stations are either very weak or not audible. Friday, although bad for short waves in general, was good for American amateurs on the 80-metre band, several coming in at good strength on telephony. One in particular, located at Rhode Island, New York, came in almost like a local, while talking to another amateur in the 7th district. U.S.A.

Questions and Answers

(Continued from page 22.)

A.: Rebuild your wave-trap in a simpler form, using only one of the binocular coils. This tuned with a .002 mfd. semi-variable condenser, the whole being in series with the aerial, should solve your trouble.

2. When I increase volume the dynamic speaker jars with every strong note.

A.: It sounds as though the moving coil is rubbing against the pole pieces and needs adjusting.

3. I cannot get stations under 12R's wavelength.

A.: Your only plan appears to be to take a few turns off the secondaries.

"CURIOUS" (Picton): Are my valves suitable for my four-valve Brown-ing Drake?

A.: Yes, quite suitable. If you wish to use the American type use three 230's and a 231.

"DISAPPOINTED" (Hamilton): I have a four-valve commercial set, latest design, but my local station is the only one I can receive at good volume.

A.: Your aerial and earth are quite good, so apparently something is wrong with your set. Possibly the condensers are not correctly lined up or one of the valves may be a little "off-colour."

"APEX" (Napier): I have a five-valve battery set and employ an eliminator for "B" supply. Could I take my "A" supply off this also?

A.: Your whole eliminator could not supply one-hundredth of the current necessary. For example, your eliminator's output is probably something like 30 mls, and one 201A takes .25 amps or 250 mls, so you can see how hopeless it would be.

"TINKER" (Hamilton): Could you publish details of a mixed oscillator circuit?

A.: We will do so shortly in the "Times."

2. Are the Wire-Tables in the "Radio Guide" correct or well on the safe side?

A.: The carrying capacities are on the safe side.

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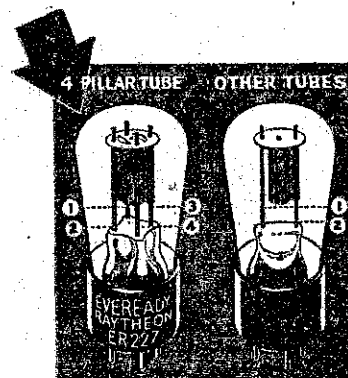
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