

RADIO

Round the World

MEXICO proposes to compete with the U.S.A. in wireless transmissions when station XER increases its power. The Government has issued a permit to the station to operate with a power of 500 kilowatts. The transmitter is situated just across the boundary, and as the wattage will be ten times greater than any U.S.A. station, apprehension is felt that many of the northern stations will be completely blanketed. The American State Department has so far been quite unable to do anything about the situation.

THE Socialist station, WEVD, New York, has leased the fifteenth floor of Claridge's Hotel, and the rent, deemed to be worth 500 dollars a month, will be paid by announcing the location of the station, and allowing the landlord of the hotel two minutes a week to advertise the premises.

NATIVE and foreign-born white residents of the United States run neck-and-neck as to percentage of families having radio sets. The percentages are: Native, 44.4; foreign-born, 43.6. While negro families possessing receivers equal 7.5 per cent. It is estimated that in all 40.3 per cent. of the thirty million families of the U.S.A. own receivers.

A NOVEL idea was incorporated in the plan when the radio exhibits from Olympia were transported to the Manchester exhibition. Gaily decorated vans were employed, and a stop was made at Leicester, where a one-night show was held in conjunction with a hurriedly-arranged ball. The route was widely advertised, and aeroplanes accompanied the vans for parts of the way. Giant loudspeakers toured the byways and radio received excellent publicity from the idea.

THE last of Italy's high-power stations will be erected at Milan, and will have a power of 50 kilowatts. With the completion of this station Italy will be most effectively wirelessly covered.

DURING their visit to London the famous film comedians, Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy were featured as a surprise item on the London programme.

THE British Post Office, in announcing that a new drive is to be made to rope in wireless pirates, has every reason to believe that evasion is being practised on a large scale. Although licenses amount to approximately five millions, it is assumed there are at least two millions still evading their responsibilities. Last year a drive in the London area alone saw the figures for London increase by 260,000. The Post Office has recently been greatly impressed by recently compiled statistics. While Bournemouth has 186 licenses per 1000 of population, other areas are very substantially less.

BEFORE the advent of wireless Britain was unable to boast of a single good symphony orchestra. The orchestras that subsisted were required to depend upon small special audiences and subscribers and consequently could not afford high-salaried conductors nor an adequate number of

rehearsals. Wireless popularised the concerts among the masses with the result that subsequently the orchestras were subsidised by the B.B.C., and now rank among the finest in the world.

THE new Crosley station of 500 kilowatts will have a wavelength of 420 metres. It will be America's most powerful station and will operate only after other stations have closed down. It seems possible that it may interfere with distant listeners to 2YA.

THE management of B class Australian stations deny that restrictions placed upon them by gramophone companies will affect them: Two manufacturing companies have offered B stations full stocks, including latest releases by leading American, English and European artists. Since arriving at an agreement with the gramophone trust the A stations not only announce the title of a recorded item, but advertise the name of the maker as well. The B stations have intimated that the trust may keep their records.

THE first new regional station to be erected under the Ferrie plan in France will probably be at Nice and will have a power of 60 kilowatts.

A MUNICIPAL order protecting listeners from electrical interference has been made at Oran, North Africa. The authorities have ordered that all industrial, commercial and domestic electric machines shall be fitted with suitable devices for preventing interference. Where a difficulty is experienced in machinery that is moved from place to place it is ordered that this type of machine must not be used after noon. Loudspeakers may not be used unless the sound is strictly confined to the house of the owner. During the summer when Oran enjoys a siesta between noon and 3 p.m., the use of loudspeakers is strictly forbidden.

ONE of the most difficult announcer's jobs in Europe is that at Bratislava—the announcements being made in Czech, Slovak, French, German, Hungarian, and occasionally in other languages.

SOME few months ago an American radio and television apparatus manufacturer started a factory in England for the purpose of overcoming the tariff imposed on important receivers. Recently the first entirely British-made sets of this firm were placed upon the market, nine months ahead of schedule. At present output is limited to 750 sets a week, but an extension of plant is contemplated as soon as trained employees are in sufficient number to warrant the extra capital expenditure.

AT a dinner given in his honour, Captain P. P. Eekersley told the story of how Dame Nellie Melba took part in the world's first broadcast performance. The high-powered station at Chelmsford was under construction, and the idea of broadcasting a performance was conceived. Melba was asked to assist, and a crude microphone was employed, to the delight of a few hundreds throughout England. Later a formal reprimand was received from the Postmaster-General for the "frivolous employment of wireless equipment," and a warning was given to



Helen Roy.

4YA contralto, who will sing several solos and two duets with John Leech, on Tuesday, January 3.
—Zenith, photo.

"cease activities calculated to hamper legitimate wireless service."

THE Bombay broadcasting station, after many vicissitudes recently celebrated its fifth anniversary.

THERE appears to be some disappointment with the results from the much-heralded new Breslau station, with its unique vertical aerial, suspended within a wooden tower. Reception at a distance no further than the South of England does not indicate that the new station is the success that was anticipated.

THE B.B.C. plans to erect at Droitwich a station that will eventually replace 5XX and 5GB. It will be a twin wave station with 100 kilowatts on long waves and 70 kilowatts on medium waves.

EARLY next year the Dutch station Hilversum will open a new studio building. Included in the apartments

will be a concert hall capable of seating 500 people, with film facilities and a kinema organ, in addition to its broadcasting equipment.

THE projected 120 kilowatt station for Madrid will transmit on a wavelength above 1000 metres.

DURING 1933 the Soviet Union proposes to erect 440 broadcasting stations, with an aggregate power of 380 kilowatts.

THERE are persistent rumours in Britain that a radical change in religious broadcasts is imminent. The B.B.C. has always relied upon advice and support of the main religious bodies, the advantage of which procedure has been the avoidance of special difficulties, and the alignment of the organised Christian community. A disadvantage has been an irregularity of standard of preaching, brought about by the admission of many clergymen possessing no microphone manner. It is now felt that the importance of the service necessitates that the selection of preachers should be determined fearlessly, with only a subsidiary regard for denominational affiliation.

SOME 200 broadcasting stations recently picked up a speech by Sir Eric Drummond, Secretary-General of the League of Nations, and rebroadcast it in various European countries, Canada, U.S.A., Argentine, China, Japan, and other countries. The transmission was one of the regular weekly summaries that are broadcast by the League's short-wave station for rebroadcast by any country interested in the deliberations at Geneva.

OCCASIONALLY Leningrad, Moscow, and Kharkov stations broadcast special concerts for workers on night shift.

PRAGUE, contrary to the principle adopted by French studios, has decided that, in future, only newly-issued gramophone records are to find a place in its daily radio programmes.

FOLLOWING the visit of the Scottish "pipers" to the Copenhagen exhibition, it is now stated that the Band of the Royal Horse Guards will give concerts on the Continent. Arrangements have been made to have the performances broadcast, and it is hoped that Continental bands and orchestras may be induced to reciprocate by visiting Britain.

AN additional broadcasting company has come into being in Holland, and is known as HIRO. It includes various social and religious bodies. Four hours weekly have been allotted to the new company, which will broadcast from the Huizen station.

THE musical box which is used at Oslo (Norway) for the opening and interval signals was designed by an Hungarian engineer, who devised the original apparatus adopted by the Budapest studio. The signature tune used for opening the closing at Oslo consists of a few bars of the National Anthem and the few notes used as an interval signal between items are a condensed theme taken from Grieg's opera "Sigurd Jorsalfar."