

St. David's Day Programmes

The Welsh National Emblem

BOTH 2YA and 3YA are celebrating St. David's Day with special programmes. Next Tuesday 2YA will broadcast a musical and historical tour of Wales, with Mr. Rees-Jones, President of the Welsh Society of New Zealand, as narrator, while on Wednesday 3YA will present a special commemorative programme.

Various reasons are assigned by the Welsh for wearing the leek on St. David's Day. Some affirm it to be in memory of a great victory obtained over the Saxons. It is said that, during the conflict, the Welshmen, by order of St. David, put leeks into their

icles, fought a most brave battle here in France.

King: "They did, Fluellin!"

Fluellin: "Your Majesty says very true; if your Majesty is remembered of it, the Welshman did goot service in a garden where leeks did grow; wearing leeks in their Monmouth caps, which your Majesty knows to this hour is an honourable badge of the service; and I do believe your Majesty takes no scorn to wear leek upon St. David's Day."

The observance of St. David's Day was long countenanced by royalty. Even sparing Henry VII. could disburse two pounds among Welshmen on their saint's anniversary; and among the household expenses of the Princess Mary for 1544, is an entry of a gift of fifteen shillings to the Yeomen of the King's Guard for bringing a leek to Her Grace on St. David's Day.

Mission, alluding to the custom of wearing the leek, records that His Majesty William III. was complaisant enough to bear his Welsh subjects company, and two years later we find the following paragraph in "The Flying Post" (1690):—"Yesterday, being St. David's Day, the King, according to custom, wore a leek in honour of the Ancient Britons, the same being presented to him by the sergeant-porter, whose place it is, and for which he claims the clothes His Majesty wore that day; the courtiers in imitation of His Majesty wore leeks also."

We cannot say now as Hierome Porter said in 1632, "that it is sufficient theme for a jealous Welshman to ground a quarrel against him that doth not honour his cap" with the leek on St. David's Day; our modern head-dress is too ill-adapted for such verdant decorations to allow of their being worn, even if the national sentiment was as vigorous as ever; but gilt leeks are still carried in procession by the Welsh branches of Friendly Societies, and the national badge may be seen decorating the mantelpiece of Welsh houses on the anniversary of the patron saint of the Principality.

Whatever may be the conflicting opinions on the origin of wearing the leek in Wales, it is certain that this vegetable appears to have been a favourite dish with Welshmen as far back as we can trace their history. In Caxton's "Description of Wales," speaking of the Manners and Rytes of the Welshmen, he says:—

*They have gruell to potage.
And leekes kynde to companage.*

As also:—

*Atte meete, and after eke.
Her solace is salt and leek.*

Worldge mentions the love of the Welsh for this allfaceous food. "I have seen the greater part of a garden there stored with leeks, and part of the remainder with onions and garlic." Owen, in his "Cambrian Biography," 1803, observes that the symbol of the leek, attributed to St. David, probably originated from the custom of Cymortha, when the farmers, assisting each other in ploughing, brought their leeks to aid the common repast.

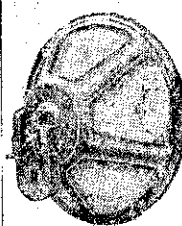
Perhaps the English, if not the Welsh, reader will pardon us for expressing our inclination to believe that the custom has no romantic origin whatever, but merely sprung up in allusion to the prominence of the leek in the cuisine of the Welsh people.

World Radio News

THE cubic capacity of London's Broadcasting House is 2,200,161 cubic feet, while the number of doors in the building total 800.

RADIO receivers arranged to operate similarly to the penny-in-the-slot gas meters are being introduced to the British market, the idea being to overcome difficulties encountered in instalment selling. The receivers operate for 24 hours on the insertion of a coin. When enough coins are collected the instalment is credited to the purchaser, and when the full value is received the device is removed.

AMERICAN stations are asking for the wave-band to be extended to 460 kilocycles, thus embracing six more channels. The new channels would be given to Canada and Mexico, and thus eradicate the necessity of redistribution in some of the States. Congestion due to increases in power can be relieved only by widening of the wave-band.



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Two DX Tests.

IN a verification just received from 10AB, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, the secretary of the Moose Jaw Radio Association asks me to give publicity to the fact that they are putting on two special dx tests on the mornings of February 26 and March 12 from 5 to 7 a.m., Mountain Standard time. This station has a power of 25 watts, and is listed as 1200 k.c. frequency, but I picked them up on 1185 k.c. I have also received verifications from YVIBC, Caracas, Venezuela, and LR4, Buenos Aires. The manager of YVIBC wrote to say a special dx programme would be broadcast on February 12, and wished for publicity. I did not receive the letter till the 15th, so I have written to arrange a future date, when we shall have the information in time.—J.P.C. (P.N.).

The Necessity for Complete Reports.

JUST recently I had a test out of conditions on various wavelengths, which included the 80-metre amateur band.

There has been complaint that a number of stations have not sent cards. Evidently this is because of careless and incomplete reports. I find in my replies remarks such as "This is the best report I have ever received since coming on the air." "The best report received at this station for a long time." Now I completely avoided technicalities. Asking the stations to look on my report as that of an ordinary listener, I filled in the orthodox card, but, in a letter enclosed, I gave an exact description of the aerial and set, giving details of valves, voltages, etc., and mentioned that my standard was to give a local broadcast station R9 and judge others accordingly. By writing full details the stations were able practically to see for themselves the outfit used, and, with the way I arrived at the R standard, would get an idea of how they came through. To give an idea of how such a report was appreciated I received from one amateur a souvenir card which he specially reserves for overseas stations, and greetings were sent me by the president of another branch.

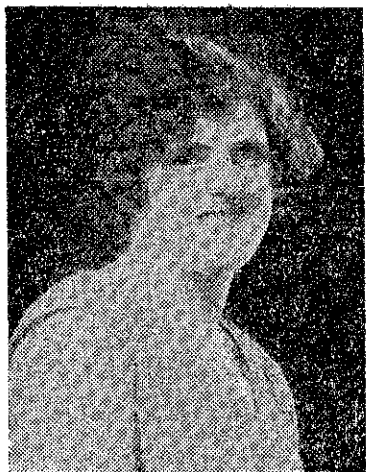
If listeners endeavour to make their reports as full and complete as possible I am quite sure that there will not be many complaints of "blacklistings." It must be remembered that the large majority of the amateurs are working men like ourselves, and the upkeep of the station, together with the cost of their station cards, needs something more than merely to tell them they were heard to justify a reply.—A. M. McDonagh (Sec., N.Z. Short-wave Club).

Improved Reception.

RECEPTION has greatly improved in this locality during the past fortnight. I logged four VK's, 7CH, 3RI, 2BQ, 3GZ, and also 6KG, Kalgoolie, on February 4.—G.F. (Hokitika).

WTFI on a Special Programme.

I RECENTLY heard WTFI on a special dx programme, and as they were offering a special inducement to those dxers sending in reports I sent a further one, despite the fact that their verification was about due. I hope this inducement is not in the form of the one received from WJAX by D.N.A. (Timaru). KOMA was heard at good strength on a special test recently. Latest logging is KOMO.—99W (P.N.).



Doris Rabey.

soprano, who will sing several solos from 3YA on Tuesday, February 28. Stephano Webb, photo.

hats to distinguish themselves from their enemies. To quote the *Cambria* of Rolt, 1759:—

*Tradition's tale
Recounting tells how famed Menevia's
priest
Marched his Britons, and the Saxon
host
Discomfited; how the green leek his
bands
Distinguished, since by Britons annual
worn,
Commemorates their tutelary saint.*

In the *Diverting Post* 1705, we have the following lines:—

*"Why, on St. David's Day, do Welsh-
men seek
To beautify their hat with verdant
leek
Of nauseous smell? For honour 'tis
har say.
"Dulce et decorum est pro patria"
Right, Sir, to die or fight it is, I think?
But how is't Dulce, when you for it
stink?*

Shakespeare makes the wearing of the leek to have originated at the battle of Cressy. In the play of "Henry V." Fluellin, addressing the monarch, says:—

"Your grandfather, of famous memory, an't please your majesty, and your great uncle, Edward the Black Prince of Wales, as I have read in the chroni-