

Editorial Notes

Wellington, Friday, February 24, 1933.

BOTH listeners and the Broadcasting Board may be congratulated upon the installation and prospective early use of "2YA Auxiliary." The establishment of this standby plant was a recommendation of the Coverage Commission, whose report was presented in July of last year. Its purpose is to ensure stability of operation for the 2YA service, which, by its location at the seat of the Government and the capital of the country, is of prime importance to the Dominion. The technical description of the plant, which is given in another column, shows that, although of only 200 watts aerial energy, the new equipment will have a potential coverage rather greater than that of the 500-watt plants now operating at 1YA, 3YA, and 4YA. This is a tribute to the advance in technical efficiency made in late years, the various angles of which are fully brought out in our article.

IT is important to know that the provision of 2YA Auxiliary, while of importance in itself, does not cover the full recommendations made in respect to 2YA. For this station to attain the ideal of efficient service sought by the Coverage Commission, and desired by the Broadcasting Board, it will be necessary to ultimately largely increase its power—to no less a strength than 50 kilowatts is the suggestion of the Coverage Commission. It is recognised, however, that that expansion must be an ideal of the future rather than a concern of the immediate present, and when that time comes, it is practically certain that it will be necessary to transfer the location of 2YA from its present commanding site on Mount Victoria to a point probably some distance from the city itself. It is found in practical field trials that the greatest efficiency in transmission and freedom from interference is secured by placing the transmitting plant some distance away from the centres of population sought to be served. This point is fully brought out in the report of the Coverage Commission, and it is only a matter of time before each of the transmitting stations are likely to be transferred from their present locations to points distant from the cities with which they are associated so as to

give fuller coverage efficiency to the whole of their respective areas. In the case of Wellington, when the time comes to lift 2YA into a full-powered national station of the magnitude envisaged by the Coverage Commission, it will possibly be timely to also consider the question of a regional station, capable of giving a full alternative programme.

THE actual operation of 2YA Auxiliary will be awaited with interest by listeners, especially as its regular operation, presumably with suitable gramophone music, between the hours of 7 p.m. and 8 p.m., will come as an additional alternative to the news session now occupying that hour mainly for the benefit of country listeners. The Board may be congratulated upon the progress it has made in working

The Week's Sporting Broadcasts

Saturday, February 25. 2YA: During the afternoon, relayed description of principal events at Wellington Provincial Athletic Championship Meeting.

Monday, February 27. 9 p.m.: All YA Stations—Resume of results in Fifth Cricket Test: England v. Australia.

Friday, March 3. 7.30 p.m.: 1YA—Sports talk by Gordon Hutter.

Saturday, March 4. 12 noon: 2YA—Relay from Hutt Park of Wellington Trotting Club's Autumn Meeting.

2 p.m.: 3YA—Relayed description of Canterbury Amateur Athletic meeting at Lancaster Park. 4YA—Relay of Otago Rowing Association's Annual Regatta.

10 p.m.: All YA Stations—Sports summary.

to the programme suggested by the Coverage Commission. Satisfactory advance, we believe, is being made in respect of certain other recommendations made, and listeners may feel assured that in spite of the difficulty of the times, steady progress is being made by the authorities concerned in bringing the national service up to the standard generally desired from the transmitting point of view. Once the technical side is satisfactorily adjusted, the way will be open for concentration upon programme improvement. The obvious first essential is that the means of trans-

mission be as perfect as possible; thereafter the fullest care can be devoted to the matter to be broadcast.

SPECIAL interest will be felt in educational circles in the news that, as from Monday, March 6, a regular series of educational broadcasts will be instituted from the Auckland Training College. Hitherto, when effort has been made to use broadcasting for the benefit of country schools, the teacher or instructor concerned has visited the station studio, and broadcast from there. To that practice there were definite limitations, particularly when the subject demanded illustration. Now the broadcast

will be of an actual lesson, given from classrooms in the Auckland Training College over a permanent relay line. This will enable the teacher to secure response from the students, or children in his class when that is desired and so enhance the instructional value of the lessons and the broadcasts. This experiment will be watched with close interest because it suggests definite possibilities for suitable development. A special committee of educational authorities has been enrolled to utilise to the fullest advantage the possibilities of broadcasting. If the Auckland experiment is successful—as we have no doubt it will be—it is likely that in due course similar permanent facilities will be incorporated at other main centres.

In Phase and Out

By "Quadrant"

AT last 2ZW's stock of the march "Wellington" has been exhausted. —Or does the new announcer not know about it?

FORCE of habit.—The doctor who put on a pair of headphones and said "now cough." And the solicitor who ruined his wet battery through overcharging. And the lady who kept the sun blinds down because her son complained the stations were fading.

A SLOW-MOTION dial: Telling a Scotsman a joke.

THERE are two kinds of stations in N.Z. B class and Be classy.

DEAR Quadrant,—Three whys from an Auckland listener: (1) Why do announcers, particularly those from B stations, mutter in their beards when announcing the titles of items? (2) Why does the dinner music have to be so heavy and tuneless? My gastronomic nerves crave light, tuneful melodies. (3) Why one B station has a Scottish sponsored programme for three-quarters of an hour each week? A little Scotch with soda may be all right, but the preference of some B stations for Scottish music on the slightest provocation becomes tedious. —"Six-Valve."

ACCORDING to figures recently issued by the Radio Congress at Madrid, there are 140,000,000 listeners. After that, it seems that whatever you and I think about broadcasting doesn't matter very much.

IT was recently stated that in Northern Ireland more than half the wireless sets in use were unlicensed.—The Wireless Free State.

A RESIDENT in our cathedral city wrote to us the other day saying that the chimes from the cathedral came in so strong on his one-valve set that the whole town rushed out to help extinguish the fire.

WITH the colder weather, 2YA's first man of the mike has returned to form. I knew neither he nor Wellington could stay off colour for long.

"OH, I say, Auckland" is to be congratulated on a most thrilling relay of the finals of the Primary Schools' Marble Championship last Monday evening. What about a running description, or at least a summary of the day's play, in the next Hopscotch tournament?

A PROVINCIAL daily relates how the local station relayed GSD better than did 2YA. It says the swing which accompanied 2YA's signals was eliminated. I happened to tune in that relay, but under no stretch of imagination can I agree. Everyone is entitled to his opinion, but when it appears in print as fact—it does not look too well.

A SCOTSMAN was recently admitted into a Wellington hospital with his head jammed down the horn of a loudspeaker. It was afterwards ascertained that, in the church from which the service was being broadcast, the collection had been upset.

DUNEDIN'S unluckiest listener. The shopkeeper who found a dud banknote among his takings, and that evening tuned in to 4YA just in time to hear a well-known actress singing: "Fain Would I Change That Note!"

A PROVINCIAL newspaper writes: "And now every Sunday evening there are thousands of listeners who, with humble mind and devout heart, tune-in to the broadcast sermons." Not including, of course, the new amateur who took all the afternoon to get the thing to go and then found he could not get 'outside' till the local closed down.

LISTENING-IN is a retreat for the husband, a recreation for the wife, and a solace for the spinster.