

A Page for

Letters from Listeners



Announcers Should Give All Programme Changes

To the Editor.

Sir,—Permit me to make the following suggestion through your most valuable paper: Would it not be possible for the announcers at each of the YA stations, when giving details of the evening programmes, to tell listeners of changes in programmes, not only of their own individual station, but of all the stations under the board? Last night I switched over from 1YA to 3YA to catch a certain item at about 8.35. 3YA announcer was in the middle of announcing the speaker for the evening, who was scheduled for after 9 o'clock. I returned to Auckland, and, at 9 o'clock, returned to Christchurch, when, pleasing to relate, a wrestling contest was announced.

My point is this: But for a "fluke" I would have missed this match, and I am now wondering how many of these I have missed. On many occasions we are asked to stand by for three minutes to await the chimes at 8 p.m., and I would suggest that the five minutes before eight be reserved for the announcement of changes in programmes or items of special interest at all the YA stations: this might stop a certain amount of discontentment, as listeners would then know when and where to tune in.—I am, etc.,

WANDERER.

Hamilton.

Waipawa Listener Likes the Sporting Relays

To the Editor.

Sir,—We are very pleased with the programmes that 2YA is putting on the air now, especially the sporting relays. We country folk are very keen on football and wrestling, and I would like to know if it would be possible for the Wellington station to relay the big wrestling bouts from, say, Palmerston North and Masterton. Relays would be much appreciated by country listeners, who never get a chance to see the actual matches. If you could see us clustered round the radio when we know that a match is on you would realise how much we appreciate them.

Wishing the new "Radio Record" every success,—I am, etc.,

(MRS.) S. HULL.

Waipawa.

Improvement Wanted from 3YA's Rugby Announcer

To the Editor.

Sir,—After listening to 3YA's broadcast of the Ranfurly Shield match to-day, I should like to suggest that if future Shield matches are to be put on the air a new announcer be secured. One got rather sick of hearing a rising crescendo of "Hullo!" repeated as often as six times whenever the home team looked like doing something; also of "He's going through!" repeated three times whenever the ball reached Oliver, only to be told afterward that Canterbury had lost 20 yards by that passing rush.

Another suggestion is that the announcer learn the names of more than three players in the visiting side. I am not disgruntled because Southland were defeated, as they were apparently beaten by superior play in almost every department of the game. But one would like to hear a little less excitement, some details of the work of visiting players, and a little less jumbling of names.

3YA's announcer might make good if he were to understudy Mr. McKenzie, of 4YA, for about twelve months. His broadcast of last Saturday's match made one almost see the game.—I am, etc.,

STANLEY BROWN.

Invercargill.

"My Friends Call Me Jess—the Public Jessie"

To the Editor.

Sir,—The following extract from a letter received from Mr. Jesse Crawford may be of interest to S.H.P. (Gore) and Peter the Hermit (Auckland), whose letters have recently appeared in your columns: "My friends call me 'Jess,' while the public says 'Jessie,' but I answer to both."



Incidentally, Jesse Crawford was born on December 2, 1894, at Woodland, California. At the age of two he played a mouth organ and got a penny to be quiet. He still plays the organ, but it is a Wurlitzer, and he is paid more to make a noise than any other organist in the world. He was brought up in an orphanage, where he was taught to play the piano. Eventually he became pianist in a cinema, and when opportunity presented itself he taught himself to play the organ.

The genius of Crawford soon asserted itself, and in a few years he held the position of organist at the Paramount Theatre, New York City, at a salary greater than that received by President Roosevelt.

Jesse Crawford, whose records have sold in millions, is at present in Manchester, England, playing on a Wurlitzer, which was made to his specification and design.—I am, etc.,

WURLITZER WIZARD.

Wellington.

—And Another Letter on Crawford's Sex

To the Editor.

Sir,—In reply to "Peter the Hermit," re the correspondence about Jesse Crawford, the organist.

ford, the organist.

I have seen Jesse Crawford on the talkies playing his favourite instrument, and there is no doubt whatsoever as to his sex. He is a man all right, or I shall have to see a doctor.—I am, etc.,

INTERESTED READER.

Gisborne.

Criticism of Wednesday's Announcer from 2YA

To the Editor.

Sir,—It was with a feeling of great relief that I heard the voice of to-night's (Wednesday) announcer from 2YA. This voice was a stranger to me, but very preferable to that of the gentleman usually announcing from 2YA on Wednesday evening. Personally, I think the latter gentleman's voice is the most monotonous and exasperating I have ever had to listen to. Might I suggest that he speed up his speech a little? If he were to speak a little more naturally and a little less correctly perhaps listeners up this way would be more likely to enjoy the programme for that night from 2YA.

I appreciate a nice sounding voice at any time, as most of us do, I suppose; the majority of the YA announcers' voices, and also some of the "B" stations for that matter, come within this category. Some of the latter sound a bit rough, but they also sound natural. In my humble opinion the voice of the announcer plays a most important part in the enjoyment of any programme.

In conclusion, may I congratulate you on the new "Radio Record." It is indeed a great advance on the old style, and more than worth the extra penny.—I am, etc.,

VOICE.

Hawke's Bay.

Pleased that Nellie Cooke is Game to Speak Out

To the Editor.

Sir,—I have noted with great interest the comments on my letter of a fortnight ago. I regret that the title you gave my letter, "Cut Out the Talks," was somewhat misleading. If you will refer to my letter you will notice that I did not advocate the cutting out of talks; what I did do was to object to the insertion of talks in the middle of evening concert programmes.

I also thank those who have supported certain of my views, and in regard to those who criticised me I would suggest that they endeavour to make their criticism as constructive as possible, as it is only constructive criticism which is of any use in assisting to improve programmes.

I am indeed pleased to see a correspondent, Nellie Cooke, is game enough to say that 3YA's announcer is the best, and I heartily concur with this opinion. He is very similar to the splendid Australian "A" announcers, having an ideal radio voice, with no sing-song and yet exceedingly pleasant to listen to. A lot has been said in criticism of wrestling announcers, but personally I am quite con-