

WHO HOLDS THE CRYSTAL RECORD FOR 2YA?

PRIZE OF £1/1/- FOR SEPTEMBER RECEPTION.

We have received some very interesting records of the distant reception of 2YA on crystal—both Dunedin, Auckland, and even north thereof entering claims which we quite believe to be accurate. This prompts the thought as to just how far away can 2YA be heard satisfactorily on crystal sets, and at how small a cost can that reception be made.

To secure answers if possible to these questions, we propose to offer a prize of £1 1s. for the authenticated record of the reception of 2YA from the greatest distance in New Zealand throughout the month of September on a crystal set, preferably home-made. The following simple conditions will apply: (1) The reception must be certified to by some reputable person, whose name and address, together with that of the successful entrant, will be published; (2) the reception must take place in September, and entries will close with us on October 10, thus giving full time for mails from distant corners to reach us; (3) only New Zealand entries accepted; (4) cost of crystal set to be given with brief description and whether home-made or not; (5) in the event of difficulty in adjudicating the winner on distance alone, the other factors of merit in the equipment and cost will be taken into consideration, the principle being to secure the maximum results at the lowest cost; (6) decision as to airline distance from 2YA will be based on the "Radio Record" map as published in our issue of August 12.

Crystal reception at great distances is usually regarded as unreliable, but the crystal is the first step to the valve set and crystal users are generally most enthusiastic. As an indication of what can be done in expert hands read this letter from E. W. Thompson, Panama Road, Otahuhu, Auckland: "I have read in your columns of the remarkable results obtained from crystal sets. I myself have obtained equally good results from my crystal set. The set is a home-made one, and the crystal used is a Neutron. The aerial is about 33 feet high and 120 feet long, including lead-in, and the earth wire is 20 feet long and is secured to a well-cleaned water-pipe by a proper earth clip. My set is situated about nine miles from 1YA, Auckland. The stations I have received are: 1YA Auckland, 12B Auckland, 2YA Wellington, 3YA Christchurch, and 2FC Sydney. I can pick up any of these stations on Monday night when 1YA Auckland is silent. 2YA Wellington comes in with very good strength, but fading at times is very bad. Even on nights when 1YA Auckland is broadcasting I can hear 2YA quite distinctly. 3YA Christchurch is not very loud, but speech is distinguishable. Almost any night at all when 1YA has closed down for the night I can hear 2FC Sydney at fair strength. I think these results are very good for a crystal set."

THAT BLESSED WORD

WHAT THE LADY HEARD

COMEDY OF ERROR AT 3YA.

"I vos not swearing," said one voice excitedly to another, but the lady listening in was sure there had been bad language used, and she did not believe the fellow when he declared he had said "jamming." Those wretched operators at 3YA—such bad men all radio operators are, she knew it—were having a row. They were arguing about wireless—and swearing at each other! Such profanity to send over the air! She would not listen to it (there being other members of the family present).

So she told her husband later about the scandalous behaviour, and he, after a sleepless night pondering over the wickedness of the age and especially of radio operators, told a reporter about it first thing in the morning. And the reporter told all Christchurch about the bad language that was broadcast from 3YA. So that evening a promenader of Colombo Street might frequently have heard, as girls and aged men passed, "I wish I'd been listening-in." Many people perhaps thought that it must have been the most original "turn" 3YA had ever put on. Impromptu, too! What could be done with a few rehearsals!

At 3YA the placid waters—or the wave-lengths, whatever the orthodox thing is at a broadcasting station—were a little ruffled, for to transmit bad language is almost a capital offence (many a worthy announcer has been crucified by the public because of lapses from the perfect diction of the King's English).

The operators were tremendously puzzled by the allegation, and they were exceedingly annoyed. They had hardly spoken to one another the whole afternoon. The announcer scratched his head and thought hard. He, certainly, had not used bad language. He then referred to the list of records which had been broadcast that day. "That was a dialogue one," he said. "That was the only one it could have been in. It was an amusing argument but I don't recall any swearing."

The record was run through again in the studio, and very attentively listened to. It was about wireless, and in the conversation between the dealer and his prospective customer, Cohen, the conversation became excited. It was evidently at this stage of the record that the good old lady, so

full of religious fervour, chipped in. She had heard the word "jamming," the expostulations by one of the parties that he was not swearing (but she did not hear the common word which rhymes with "jam," for it was never said). She had heard enough. Disgraceful of 3YA operators to argue like that and to broadcast such profanity!

It is now stated in certain circles that every time the good lady goes into her pantry and sees her rows of preserves, she thinks a bad word for "jam." She will probably make or buy marmalade in future.

The moral of this little incident is enshrined in the motto "boni soit qui mali penses," but as the lady will no doubt have the last word, she will say: "Hone swore —," but she would be wrong again, for there is no operator at 3YA named Hone, and if there were he would not swear.

2FC WITH CRYSTAL

SUCCESSFUL MIDNIGHT EXPERIMENT.

Much was hoped from the experiment (conducted by 2FC, Sydney, from their studio on August 17) of presenting a midnight performance in order to test crystal set long-distance reception, when all other stations were closed down.

The results surpassed all expectations, as the shoals of telegrams, letters, and cablegrams testify. Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania, South Australia, West Australia, and New Zealand are unanimous in stating that the reception was perfect, and that even little asides in the studio could be plainly heard. The worst criticisms from Orange and Cudal stated that there was a little fading between 12.30 a.m. and 1.15 a.m., but only intermittent—a most gratifying result. The programme presented, which was quite impromptu, seems to have been universally acceptable, and a repetition of the experiment was generally requested.

There was only one humorous complaint made. A gentleman stated that his baby was kept awake, but no doubt with the usual intelligence displayed by Australian youngsters, it wanted to listen in.

A feature of the performance, of which novelty was the keynote, was the introduction of a lady announcer for the occasion in the person of Miss Rene Maxwell.

In a Memorial Day programme of KOA, Denver, U.S.A., were included addresses by Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson, which had been stored up on phonograph records, and were thus given again to the air.

WHO IS THE CHAMPION LISTENER?

MR. GREY'S RECORD

59 NATIONS ON FIVE VALVES

In a recent issue of the "Radio Record" a report was published of Mr. Claude P. Grey's feat of having tuned in at loudspeaker strength no fewer than 59 different broadcast stations. They extended from the United States to Japan, Philippine Islands, and beyond Australia to India. Mr. Grey employed only a 5-valve imported receiving set. A challenge was issued to any



amateur who could be found to eclipse this performance. We would be interested to hear of others rivaling or excelling Mr. Grey's performance. Mr. Grey is a comparative beginner in radio, but is a very keen "listener."

IS IT WORTH IT?

"Reflex," Palmerston North, writes: "I note with very great interest your report re Mr. Claude P. Grey, of Shannon, as to New Zealand's champion listener. As one who is in a position to, and has, tried out a considerable number of radio sets, I would like to ask where anything remarkable comes in?"

I myself have received several stations that Mr. Grey has not yet logged, in Australia, from where three have been 100-watt ones. As far as I can see, it requires only super-patience, and quite a large number of calls can be received, if one cares to sacrifice entertainment for the doubtful honour of a few calls of stations that are too weak to listen to. My own receiver has had uninterrupted reception of three Australian stations from early morning until night, on several favourable conditions, which is a far more envious record than a "record" of calls. This set is not a super-set, but is merely a six-valve receiver with an added distinction of being of New Zealand, and also local manufacture. I know of a four-valve receiver, owned by an enthusiast in Feilding, that has received Aussie during lunch hour, and I have also heard the rumour of an up-country listener with a Counter-phase-eight, who has supposed to have nearly eighty calls on his list.

74 STATIONS

LOGGED BY DEALER

INFORMATION WANTED.

Mr. S. Mackay, licensed radio dealer, Le Bon's Bay, writes as follows:—"Just a few lines to congratulate you on your paper, the 'Radio Record,' which I think is grand, for its news, programmes, and useful information by 'Meghom' for set builders and radio fans who are not getting it are not knowing what they are missing. As regards how we receive 2YA here, last night (Tuesday) was the only night that we have had any static from 2YA since they have been on the air. I think that is one way of overcoming static—powerful broadcasting stations. Fading is very noticeable though at times, but taking things on the whole, we have nothing to growl about. There is one thing the announcer should do; that is announce the item before and after. The set I use is of New Zealand manufacture, 'Dacomo 5,' and works either off a loop aerial or the outside aerial. I have 74 different stations at loudspeaker strength—42 American, including 5 Canadian, 16 Australian, 11 New Zealand, 4 Japan, 1 Manilla. Also stations I have had in off the loop, at loudspeaker strength to fill a room 16ft. x 12ft. are: KOA, KGO, KFON, and WLS, of America; JOAK, Japan; and all the leading Australian stations, and, of course, New Zealand. It is three years since I first listened in, and there is one thing I have noticed, and that is this, fading wasn't nearly so bad then as what it is now—that is to my idea. Could you let me know what station is on the air at 5 o'clock in the morning? One comes in at KFON setting; another between 3YA and 1YA, and another between 2BI, and 3IC. Music I have had well from these. I have only a part of an announcement of the one between 3YA and 1YA, which is 2 or 0. There is something more, but I haven't been lucky to pick it up. Also I have a short wave set, PCJJ, Itolland came in best here on their 21 hour programme between 8 and 4 p.m. came in great loudspeaker strength. Trusting you can supply me with the information regarding these stations. [Can any enthusiasts supply this information?—Ed.]

HELLO, LONDON!

TRANSATLANTIC RADIO TELEPHONE

IN GENERAL USE NOW.

After little more than six months of service, the trans-Atlantic telephone has been transformed from a curiosity to an every-day necessity. The novelty has worn away. It has been accepted by business men as part of the routine equipment of their office life, and to-day "Hello, London," is spoken as casually as the young flapper calling her friend in Hoboken.

Although figures of the actual number of calls are not available, telephone company officials report that the trans-Atlantic service from all points in the United States is in general use for transacting both business and social affairs, and though occasionally the conversations have been bothered by static, the service compares favourably with long-distance calls within the United States.

Under normal conditions it is now possible for a person in any part of the United States to telephone directly from his home or place of business to any point in England, Scotland, and Wales, and the time for completing the call is usually little longer than for completing a call to New York.

NOT A PLAYTHING NOW.

"The novelty is all gone now," said T. T. Cook, who keeps tab for the American Telephone and Telegraph on the trans-Atlantic service records. "No one looks on the America-to-England telephone as a plaything any longer, and there are few complaints."

"Of course there are spots when connections aren't so good, but that is because of static conditions, and those conditions have been greatly overcome in the last few months. In general, the service may be said to be on a regular working basis, working satisfactorily, and it is used by everyone who wants to transact some affair in a hurry."

Records of the telephone company show that the trans-Atlantic phone has been put to a variety of uses. A group of British florists, wishing to dispatch their regards to Mrs. Coolidge, sent a basket of roses by phone. A prominent man of the south, who has been under the care of a physician in Paris, had a relapse when he returned to New Orleans. The French doctor was consulted by phone, and prescribed for the patient thousands of miles away.

TELEPHONES "SONG HIT."

Musicians have used it to send new "hits" across the sea. A new song was sung into the United States end of the radiophone, while in London a bandmaster took down words and harmonies, and twenty-five minutes later the song was in rehearsal in London.

It has also been popular with prominent men who wish to talk with some one in a hurry. It has been used by David Lloyd George, war-time Prime Minister of Great Britain; Sir Thomas Lipton, Lady Astor, Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover, Governor Al. Smith, Mayor Walker of New York, the Lord Mayor of London, the president of the cotton exchanges in New Orleans and Liverpool, John McCormack, Sinclair Lewis, and the Prince of Wales.

In business, records of the phone company show the trans-Atlantic phone has been used to complete every variety of transaction. Large operations in stocks and bonds, rubber and sugar. An American firm for example, placed an order for 3,000,000 yards of English broadcloth.

TRANSOCEAN PROPERTY.

Another unusual case involved the lease of a Brooklyn hotel. To conclude the transaction it was necessary to secure the consent of the former leaseholder's widow, living in Paris. This was done by telephoning London, and

SPORTING

NEXT WEEK'S FIXTURES

RUGBY AND TROTTING

Wednesday, September 14.—Canterbury v. South Canterbury, 3YA.
Saturday, September 17.—Canterbury v. Otago, 3YA.
Saturday, September 17.—Auckland v. Wellington, 1YA.
Saturday, September 17.—Wellington Trotting Club's Meeting, Hutt Racecourse, 2YA.

COMING FEATURES

THE WINTERLESS NORTHLAND.

A coming feature from 2YA will be the lecturette to be delivered by Colonel Allen Bell, M.P. (Bay of Islands), on Monday, September 19. Colonel Bell will discourse on the beauties and potentialities of that territory lying between Auckland City and the North Cape and Spirits Bay, now generally known as "The Winterless Northland."

A later lecturette will be "To the Winterless Northland on Wings." Colonel Bell is a vigorous personality and a forceful speaker, and his addresses will be interesting.

RADIO LECTURES AT 3YA.

Commencing on Monday, September 26, lectures on radio are to be given regularly at 3YA on the second and fourth Mondays of every month. These talks will be given by Mr. C. R. Russell, B.Sc., the well-known Christchurch authority on radio.

SHARPER TUNING

FOR BROADCAST STATIONS.

Sharper tuning of broadcast stations is a long-felt want, to enable listeners to enjoy a programme without interference from another station. Mr. Hugo Gernsback, editor of the New York "Radio News," says: "Recently one of our great radio manufacturing corporations made the announcement that it is now possible, by means of a new method called 'frequency modulation,' to make the transmission of a radio station so sharp that it will be possible to have many more broadcast stations operating, in the vicinity of each other, than hitherto; and thus to do away with practically all station interference. This seems a step in the right direction, and, if sets can be built that will tune sharply enough, the radio millennium, so long expected, may, after all, come about at a not-too-distant future."

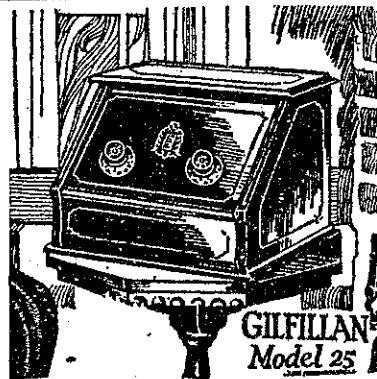
THE FIVE-VALVE NEUTRODYNE

From Mr. Preston Billing's diagram of a five-valve neutrodyne given in last week's issue, the grid leak and condenser were omitted. They should be placed above the 200A detector valve in the lead, from the grid of the valve and before the junction of leads to the coil and condenser respectively to the left of valve.

having an intermediary hold open a line to Paris and relay the conversation.

"It is difficult to say just how many calls are made on this service," says Mr. Cook, "because they come now from such a scattered area all over the country from one end to the other, but it is coming more and more into general use, and now may be safely said to be a part of the routine service of the telephone subscriber."

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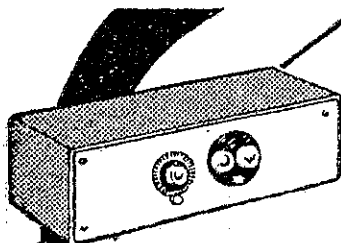
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