

BIG THEATRICAL INTERESTS LINKED WITH 3XY

Question of Available Frequencies

IT has been learned that big theatrical interests are linked with the project of establishing a new station in Melbourne, 3XY. It was announced a few weeks ago that a licence had been granted to a Company registered as 3XY Pty. Ltd. and that it represented the National Party. It has since been learned that this company in all probability will submit to theatrical interests with which Mr. F. T. Thring is connected. It is also believed that Mr. Doyle of Sydney theatrical interests is also associated with the project but confirmation has not been established when we go to press.

The allocation of a new broadcasting licence in Melbourne and the establishment of a new national station will require the certain adjustment of existing wavelengths, this adjustment taking place before very long—it is understood, before 3XY comes on the air.

The granting of the new licence and the reallocation of the wavelengths of certain Australian stations recall the very interesting history of station 3AK Melbourne.

Political Pull?

3AK, owned and operated by Melbourne Broadcasters Pty. Ltd. (Mr. C. F. Palmer) still operates on 200 metres with 50 watts output and is restricted in hours. In the hurly-burly of allocating wavelengths and powers to the "B" Stations four years ago 3AK, apparently the last Melbourne application to be filed, was allegedly given the last wavelength, thereby closing the door to further applications. But 3AK was restricted in hours of operation and in power, and although the other stations were progressively allowed extensions in each department, 3AK has remained in its original position. Over the past four years a long series of letters has passed between the station and the Department. 3AK although paying the same licence fees as the other stations has made repeated requests to be allowed to extend both time and power, but in every case the giving of a direct answer has been postponed and always the position has been one that "will be investigated" or "will be dealt with in the near future."

And now very much to the surprise of everybody who understood the situation and believed that 3AK had the only available wavelength in Melbourne city, a new licence has been granted. When the reshuffle of wavelengths and conditions takes place 3AK expects that it will be placed upon the footing for which it has fought so long. The station has no political influence and must fight its battle on its own merits. Hence it looks forward to fair treatment of its rights to which it has clung under such difficult conditions for so long.

Melbourne Broadcasters await with interest the next move by the Postmaster-General's Department or 3XY.

Sweeping Broadcast Changes

Federal Communications Commission of U.S.A. Adopts Policy Looking To More Stations, Higher Power, Increased Hours As Quota System Is Revised.

SINCE the recent establishment of the Federal Communications Commission in America, very close investigations have been made in regard to the broadcasting situation, and last month (October 10) a very sweeping change in the system of allocating broadcasting facilities, new Quota Regulations were adopted, new policies established respecting the licensing of more local stations and the use of higher powers on regional channels, which will open the way to substantially increased facilities generally throughout the country.

In revising the Quota System which has been a source of curious controversy since its adoption by the former Radio Commission four years ago, the F.C.C. set up what amounts to two distinct Quota Systems—one covering Day Quotas and the other Night Quotas. The same basic principle of allocating according to Quotas based on State populations will be adhered to, but additional daytime facilities are set up in all but a dozen States. This is interpreted to mean that additional stations and more power and time for existing stations will be possible in some 36 States, adding considerably to the service and coverage capacity of broadcasting as a whole.

Simultaneously the F.C.C. adopted a new regulation clearing the way for the licensing of additional 100 watt local stations in conformity with the provision in Communications Act of 1934, without charging such new stations to State Quotas.

It also adopted a modification of existing regulations under which a limitation of 2,500 watts in daytime power on regional stations is discarded, and the maximum is placed at 5,000 watts.

SUICIDE REPORTED

It is reported from U.S.A. that George F. McClelland, former Vice-President and General Manager of the National Broadcasting Company, shot and killed himself in his New York office on the night of October 12.

He was 39 years old and one of the pioneers of the broadcasting industry. Police say they were unable to decipher a note he had left because it was so blood-soaked.

"Mac" as he was well known throughout the industry, announced shortly after he had left the N.B.C. that he would undertake a new network project. Although nothing came of his plans, which he discussed with high radio and publishing officials on the Pacific Coast last winter, he declined at least one big offer to join a leading agency as an account executive.

N.B.C. AFTER WMAQ.

It is understood that negotiations are in progress for the acquisition by the National Broadcasting Company of the half interest in WMAQ, Chicago clear channel station now held by the Chicago "Daily News," at a price understood to be in the neighbourhood of about £100,000.

Confirmation of the arrangement was expected prior to November 1st or exactly three years from the date on which N.B.C. acquired 50% interest and programme control of WMAQ from Colonel Frank Knox, publisher of the newspaper.

PERCY GRAINGER'S LECTURES

Notable Recitals in Melbourne

Following his broadcast season of recitals in Sydney and Tasmania, Percy Grainger, the famous Australian composer-pianist, will begin his series of 12 lectures on music, in Melbourne, in the National programme of 3LO on December 4th from 9.15 p.m. These lectures which are arousing widespread interest in Australian musical circles not only on account of the eminence of the lecturer, but through the original manner of their presentation and the wealth of research which they may be expected to reveal.

In his opening lecture on December 4th his subject will be "The Universalist Attitude Towards Music." He will strike an entirely original note in not separating European from Asiatic, folk songs from art music, or classical from popular works, and he will show how, throughout the civilised and uncivilised world, at all stages of its history, music has been a universal language of the emotions, so that to-day though ultra-modern registers may be poles apart from unsophisticated savagery, the links may be joined to form a musical chain binding all the stages of mankind.

On December 6th in the National programme of 3LO from 9.15 p.m. Mr. Grainger will discuss "Scales in the Past, the Present and the Future," with illustrations from Purcell's and Sandby's Quartettes, Thomas Tomkins' Fantasy for strings, and Excerpts from Brockway's "Lonesome Tunes," and "Twenty Kentucky Mountain Songs."

DIGGERS!

One of the most pleasing contributions to 2UW's programmes is that by Vernon Sellars and entitled "The Digger's Session." In Vernon's own breezy and cheerful manner he tells tales of days at the Front, stories of soldiers in hospital and in Blighty. He has an endless stock of them, and many of them are his own personal reminiscences. These little sketches are interspersed with news items from the various Returned Soldiers and Sailors' institutions and societies—the whole session welded together by stirring martial music. No digger who is able to listen in at 9 p.m. each morning can afford to miss this session which will keep him in contact with all that's doing in the returned soldier world.

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3AW FETE

Organised by the Chums Chatterbox Corner

ONCE again 3AW is demonstrating the effectiveness of appeals broadcast through the children's session. A fete organised by 150 women will be held at the Town Hall, Melbourne, on the 9th and 10th of December and indications are that it will be eminently successful. The proceeds will go to the Children's and Eye and Ear Hospitals.

On July 27 Nancy Lee, who conducts the Chums Chatterbox Corner broadcast an appeal for volunteers to organise a grand fete at Christmastime. Over 150 women answered the appeal and met to form the gigantic committee which has worked incessantly since that date. Meetings have been held every fortnight and as evidence of the interest manifest no less than 120 women attended the meeting, some from as far distant as Frankston and Belgrave.

£275 has already been raised in small sums. This is being augmented by donations made by advertisers from 3AW and prominent business firms. Altogether 300 letters were sent out to business houses and 200 have come back with either donations in cash or in goods which will be sold on the various stalls at the fete.

Altogether 17 stalls have been provided together with a large number of side shows. One of the stalls arranged by the Belgrave women will have a unique bush setting complete with native animals. There will be competitions for the members of the Chums Chatterbox Corner.

The 3AW Chums Chatterbox Corner which comprises 33,000 members is

claimed to be the most successful in Australia. It represents only two years' work by Nancy Lee who is one of the most popular announcers in Melbourne. Appeals are made for members of the Corner who send a 2d. stamp for a badge and another for a reply. Up to date many successful functions have been conducted on behalf of the Corner.

The organisation of the Christmas fete has been undertaken by Mrs. Hodgins who is acting in the capacity of Honorary Secretary.

A Lady's Thought On Royal Wedding

IT is hard to find words to describe what is probably the most wonderful event in the history of radio broadcasting—the Royal Wedding. To think that we, in Australia, could sit at home and, by the mere pressing of an electric switch and a few adjustments to a wireless set, hear an event of such National importance, is almost too wonderful to be true, almost beyond comprehension.

A wedding, at any time, raises one above the ordinary things of life for a brief space of time, but a wedding such as this was most wonderful to listen to. As the voice of the describer was heard, telling of the marvellous scenes taking place—as though listeners were actually present, a word picture must have come before their eyes, to inspire in them a feeling of loyalty and love for these two young people who were taking such a big step in their lives.

The bell-like tones of the choir voices, ringing through Westminster Abbey, carried their message over land and sea

through space, and surely must have reached the hearts of all British subjects—and in fact all people of the world.

When the voices of Prince George and Princess Marina were heard pronouncing the wonderful and inspiring words of the marriage ceremony, many tears were probably shed by the more emotional—especially those whose home is really in England, and whose heart will never be anywhere else.

As the bride and bridegroom walked out to their coach, bells pealed—people cheered and clapped—and in the hearts of everybody was a great joy for the happiness this couple would share.

When one thinks that it was only made possible for the people of the world to hear this by the efforts of those who perfected radio broadcasting, it makes one want to go down on one's knees and thank them for this most wonderful of all inventions.

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