

W.I.A. Still Flourishing in Tassie

Seventh District W.I.A. ANNUAL MEETING

THE Annual Dinner and Meeting of the Wireless Institute of Australia (Tasmania Division) was held at Launceston on the 28th July last, the following members being present:—Messrs. T. K. Jebb (in chair), L. J. Crooks (7BQ), M. Graver, R. S. Hope (7RS), L. R. Jensen (7LJ), J. C. Newton, C. Scott (7CS), E. C. Sheldrick (7BT), A. C. Smith (7AB), W. T. Watkins (7DX), C. A. Walch (7CW), T. C. Kitto, T. W. Boyce, P. O. Fysh (7PF), D. M. Richardson, J. V. Sheldrick, J. Spillane, G. S. Geard, F. W. Medhurst (7AH), G. C. McKinlay, and J. Flounders, also Mr. Sid Laws, late Manager of 7ZL, Hobart.

The minutes of the previous annual meeting were read and confirmed. The balance-sheet showed that the Institute funds were in a very sound condition. There being ten nominations for the positions of members of Executive Council, of which only seven are required, a ballot had to be taken. C. A. Walch and L. R. Jensen were appointed scrutineers, and carried out the business as if they had been at it all their lives.

The vote resulted in the following officers being elected for the ensuing year:—Mr. P. O. Fysh, Chairman; C. Scott, Hon. Secretary; Messrs. W. T. Watkins, F. W. Medhurst, E. C. Sheldrick, and T. K. Jebb being elected as members of the Executive Council, in addition to the Chairman and Secretary.

By the time these notes have reached the various States the Annual Convention will be going full steam ahead at Hobart. Launceston is the headquarters of the Tasmanian Division, but on account of more hams being in the southern end, and the northern members seeing a good chance to get away from their home town for a few days, it was decided to hold the Convention in Hobart. There should be a great gathering of hams there. I understand there are three coming from Victoria and 5BY from South Australia. The hams from Launceston who will be present, are 7AB, 7CS, 7BQ, 7BF. Several important items are set down for discussion, and most likely will take the most part of a week. Our dear old father of Radio in Tasmania, 7AH, F. W. Hedhurst, has the entertainment arrangements well in hand, and "Pop" knows how to look after visitors. By the way, "Pop" has a room full of real wireless junk at his home, so I think AH had better keep that room locked during the convention.

The Launceston hams had a very busy time on the 28th and 29th of July last, the occasion being the visit of Watty, Crosby, Lon and Pop's visit to Launceston to attend the annual meeting of the W.I.A. Crosby brought with him a very nice crystal to install at 7CS.

On the afternoon they arrived CW and CS rigged up the crystal oscillator with "B" eliminator for H.T. supply, and she worked O.K. right from the start, but on the Sunday morning, when 7DX had had his breakfast at 7 cork esss, DX said: "I think we will build a complete transmitter and see how she perks." CS dug up an old transmitter frame and found some spare pieces of ebonite for panel; then CW arrived, and he started into the building operations with a will; then 7LJ arrived on the scene and asked if he could help. He was

at once handed a hack saw (the blade of which Crosby said was at least twelve months old and as blunt as old Harry), and told to cut some narrow strips of ebonite to hold the coils in place. Lon did a lot of grunting, and after about an hour had managed to cut three strips of 1 inch by 6 inches out of a panel about 2 feet square. Later on 7AH arrived on the scene with 7BQ, and both did a lot of superintending and giving a lot of cheek to the hard workers. Of course, CS was the overseer and did not have to do anything. At 1 o'clock the complete transmitter was finished, but as the dinner bell had gone all hands had to QRT until this was over. Back to the shack again about half past one and hooked up the transmitter with one "B" eliminator for both crystal oscillator and amplifier valves. By the way, two 201A valves were used, and these perked O.K. first go, although not a sign of any juice whatever in the aerial circuit. Watty took hold of the key and called CQ, and was at once answered by 7HL, of Hobart, who gave a report of R9 pure DC. Not too bad at all for a first adjustment. This station was worked right up till 2.30 p.m. in the afternoon, when all the "workmen" had to run for their lives to catch the motor to return to Hobart. On the Sunday night old Cork Esss had a go and worked 6SA, who gave him R4 to 6. Since then all States have been worked, reports being R6 to 8 with an input of about 6 watts. Since DX went back to Hobart he has been QSO CS every day at 1.30 p.m. for half an hour. By the time these notes appear in print 7CS will be on much higher power and will welcome reports. Old 7BQ will not be long now before he is on crystal control, and it is the hope of all that within the next couple of months every transmitter in Tasmania will be crystal controlled. Watty has suggested a heading for our QSL cards, viz., "THE LAND OF A B C"—Apples, Beer and Crystals. Owing to the owner of a crystal set in Launceston complaining that 7CS spoilt her reception of 3LO and 3AR on her crystal set when he was transmitting on 226 metres, he has been notified that transmissions during broadcasting hours must cease. The undoubted word of one crystal set owner 200 miles away from a broadcast station, no inquiry whatever having been made, has robbed dozens of other crystal set owners in the town who cannot get 3LO from hearing anything at all now, except when 7BQ or 7RS starts up. The life of a ham is hard. Nuf sed; more next month.

"Blackwood Calling"

DETAILS OF THE TRANSMITTER AT OA-5BR

POSSIBLY some of the greatest changes ever made at the headquarters of the Blackwood Radio Club were recently effected. A strenuous effort was put forth to place the Club's transmitter once again in the land of the living, and, after months of tireless testing, never ceasing experimental work and many, many headaches, the Club now possesses the best transmitter that ever graced its rather cold shack.

To "can the cackle" and get down to business, it might be said that the Club is very grateful to the P.M.G. Department for the assistance they gave in granting a permit to one of our members, Mr. J. Ferry, enabling him to build and test the transmitter at his own home, thus saving much time in perfecting the "perk." Of course, various types of outfits were considered, and the first endeavour was a Split Series-fed Hartley with Telefunken Modulation. Although fairly successful, this system called for a perfectly steady power supply, which, owing to line fluctuations, was not available, thus necessitating continual adjustments. Well, eventually a system was evolved, and has subsequently proved satisfactory. It is simply a Master Oscillator with the oscillator modulated. By this means it is possible to modulate the entire radiated output with a single Philips A630.

The oscillator is an ordinary UX-201A, fed, as are both the speech amplifier and modulator, with 6-V. D.C. on the filament. The plate supply for the oscillator and modulator is approximately 150-200-V. R.A.C., Raytheon rectifiers being utilised throughout.

It will be seen that modulating the oscillator and feeding the modulated RF to the power amplifier will give a uniform depth at any given input (within reason), therefore power fluctuations have no noticeable effect upon the resultant quality of the modulation, nor upon the percentage, as this is governed by the oscillated modulation portion alone. Assuming that the oscillator is modulated 80 per cent. (an easy matter considering the low power involved in that section), the outgoing "juice" will be modulated to that extent.

The big advantage of this system lies in the fact that the cost of a UX-210, speech chokes capable of carrying two UX-210's together with the upkeep of same, is saved. Only one stage of speech amplification is needed, and even then only 45-60-V. D.C. is applied to the plate through a 3½-1 interstage transformer (Thordarson); none of the customary two or three stages of resistance or double impedance coupled amplifiers are required. This alone saves a considerable amount of initial cost, upkeep and worry.

Other features are high radiation for a given input (the input, by the way, is measured in the circuit of the P.A., and can be reduced by grid bias), the necessity for only a small speech choke (in our case a re-wound audio transformer coil with 4,500 turns of No. 36 enamelled wire), and, finally, absolute steadiness of wave. So steady is our radiated wave that many reports of C.C. are received by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. O. K. Griffiths, of Waite Street, Blackwood, and unless the oscillator condenser is moved no adjustment can alter the QRH. RF chokes in both plus and minus leads prove extremely advantageous in enabling us to eliminate most of the hum. They consist of about 350 turns of No. 34 D.S.C. wire wound on 2in. diameter cardboard tubes. The P.A. inductances are space wound with a heavy gauge copper wire, while the oscillating coils consist of No. 18 D.C.C. wound on a 3in. diameter bakelite tube.

A magnetic pick-up and an electromagnetic "mic" complete the outfit, which is now probably one of the best modulated of the OA-5's.

Anyone hearing our tests PLEASE QSL to the Secretary of the Blackwood Radio Club, Box 24, Blackwood.