

- (c) Fees have been fixed for broadcasting-station licenses. (It is considered reasonable that licensees should pay a fee.)
- (d) Provision has been made for "multiple" receiving-station licenses to meet the requirements of hotels, clubs, &c., in which numbers of receiving-points are required. (This is a new provision.)
- (e) Provision is made for licenses for private commercial stations; that is, for the exchange of correspondence for commercial purposes between fixed non-Government stations. (This also is a new provision.)

The combining of the regulations in one comprehensive volume is found to be a great convenience to all concerned, and a facility in the handling generally of radio and related subjects.

BROADCASTING SERVICE.

The broadcasting service continues to be efficiently controlled by the New Zealand Broadcasting Board under the provisions of the Broadcasting Act of 1931. The operations of the Board for its first year of control (1932) form the subject of a report which will be presented separately to Parliament.

Shortly after taking control on the 1st January, 1932, the Board appointed a commission (Mr. A. Gibbs, Chief Telegraph Engineer of the Post and Telegraph Department, and Dr. M. A. F. Barnett, of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research) to report on the best available means of providing an efficient broadcasting service for all localities throughout New Zealand. As a result of the Commission's recommendations, the Board is already erecting near Christchurch a modern broadcasting station complete with new transmitter to replace the existing station; it is expected that the new station will be operating towards the end of 1933. In Wellington, an auxiliary station has been provided for emergency purposes. This station (2YC) transmits dinner music on week days between 7 and 8 p.m. upon a frequency of 1,010 kilocycles, providing listeners with an alternative to 2YA's 7 to 8 p.m. news and reports session. In addition, proposals are in train for the erection at Auckland of a modern station complete with new transmitter; and it is also intended to provide a new transmitter at Dunedin.

Arising from the Commission's recommendations, the Board is subsidizing eight private broadcasting stations which operate in areas not deemed to be adequately served by the Board's stations.

ADVISORY COUNCIL.

The following gentlemen have been reappointed for a period of one year to the Advisory Council provided for in the Broadcasting Act: Mr. A. B. Chappell, Auckland, Mr. J. S. Anchor, Hamilton, Mr. F. T. Davis, New Plymouth, Mr. W. A. Waters, Palmerston North, Mr. J. H. Owen, Wellington, Mr. C. R. Russell, Christchurch, Mr. H. Booth, Dunedin, Mr. A. W. Jones, Invercargill.

GROWTH OF RECEIVING LICENSES.

The number of radio-receiving licenses in force on the 31st March was 93,489. Of these, 38,492 were held in the Wellington Engineering District, 27,241 in the Auckland District, 15,727 in the Canterbury District, and 12,029 in the Otago District. Included in the total are 272 licenses issued free to blind persons. The figures represent a gain of 18,500 listeners in twelve months—a most satisfactory increase indeed.

Because of existing conditions, listeners have been provided with the facility of paying their license fees in half-yearly instalments. This no doubt has been appreciated by many people who find it a hardship to pay the full license fee at the beginning of the year.

OPERATION OF UNLICENSED SETS.

The Department's Inspectors have been active in detecting the operation of radio-receiving apparatus which is not licensed. During the year, 929 persons were convicted of operating unlicensed sets, the fines inflicted totalling £748 5s. 6d.

ELECTRICAL INTERFERENCE WITH RADIO RECEPTION.

With the increasing number of radio-broadcast listeners in New Zealand, the number of complaints of interference caused by the operation of electrical apparatus of various types has also increased. Since the inception of broadcasting, the Department has undertaken the duty of locating and endeavouring to eliminate interference at its source, but the increase in the number of cases reported of late has necessitated the reorganization of this section of the radio branch.

Additional battery-operated receivers of the portable type have been supplied to Radio Inspectors, and further officers have been trained in the detection and elimination of electrical interference. Where necessary motor-vehicles have been made available for the use of Radio Inspectors, thus enabling a more expeditious service to be given. Additional statutory power to require owners of interfering equipment to take the necessary remedial measures is desirable, and legislation for this purpose is proposed.