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Thinks Local Broadcasting Station Would be a Benefit

But for the Present, Radio Fans Generally Might Not Welcome Such a Station in North. Pioneer of Radio in This North Writes Very Interesting Letter on the Question of a Broadcasting Station for the North.

The following letter received this week is self-explanatory, and well worth reading and consideration:—
Sandy Falls, Ont., Feb. 14th 1927
The Editor, Porcupine Advance,
Timmins, Ontario.

Dear Sir:—I noticed with much interest your remarks in the last issue of The Advance in reference to a radio broadcasting station for the North and in response to your request I beg to submit my opinion on the matter.

Before I proceed, let it be understood that, contrary to general opinion, Station 3 G.G. of Sandy Falls is NOT a broadcasting station. This station operates in strict compliance with the radio laws covering its Government Licenses as an "Amateur Radio Transmitting Station" and designed to "carry on communication and experiments in the radio art with any other radio amateur station within range," on definitely specified wave lengths well removed from the commercial broadcasting wave zones.

Sandy Falls station works from point to point only, with the exception of the Official Radio Relay League broadcasts (which are of about fifteen minutes duration every Saturday night) and contain matter only of experimental interest to radio amateurs who take part in the continual tests being carried on with the Army and Navy Departments of the various governments throughout the world.

Only during a period of public peril through storms, floods, fire, earthquake and such like emergencies would any amateur radio station like 3 G.G. be allowed to broadcast to the public at large, and then only on the authority of some public official like the Mayor or Chief of Police.

There! That ought to be clear. Now to get along with the real matter in hand.

On the whole I do not think the present owners of radio sets will be any too well pleased if a radio broadcasting station of the usual type and power is located in the district, especially so, if the same is operated on a regular daily schedule.

The conditions at present throughout the North, from a listener's point of view, while being far from ideal, yet furnish complete immunity from local station interference.

This advantage of being located several hundred miles from a broadcasting station of any real size can never be fully appreciated until one has listened in on a radio located in the midst of half a dozen big stations which are all going full blast within a radius of ten miles.

It is strange, but nevertheless true, that very few radio listeners anywhere on earth, ever care to listen for long to their "local station"; that is,—if they can get away from it.

Contrary to the T. Eaton Co. and the "home town" merchant situation, the question of price is absent here, as all radio programmes are free,—yet the home station is not supported. Nearly all of its fan mail carrying encouraging praise and helpful comments comes from everywhere but the "home town!"

Every broadcasting station in existence has hosts of unwilling listeners each evening whose pet ambition is to shoulder off the "local offering" in order to "shop around" the more distant cities.

This instinct to "shop around the dial and visit" is inherent in every human, and where a radio set is concerned it usually infects the fingers of the owner with a disease similar to "the seven years' itch." Consequen-

ly, should a radio broadcasting station sit down in our midst with a nightly programme, I am afraid that many of the present radio owners will find considerable difficulty in eliminating the local station at will.

This will be especially true of those radio listeners who now complain that 3 G.G. of Sandy Falls cannot be tuned out. Such a condition points to the use of a radio receiver which tunes too broadly.

At a distance of six miles 3 G.G. should be tuned out with ease on any good set; in fact radio sets of standard make are on sale in Timmins, (dealers name on request) upon which 3 G.G. can be found only on one single mark on the dial, and NOWHERE ELSE.

I do not believe that the advent of a "local" radio broadcasting station will trouble the owners of highly selective radio sets very much in the way of "mushing" outside programmes, but those radio listeners who find trouble in clearing 3 G.G. from their dials (with his extremely low power of 10 watts) can expect that a radio broadcasting station located within 50 miles and equipped with the usual 500 watts of power will be smeared over the major portion of their dials every time that a station is operating.

Even under such conditions, if the "local" station furnishes programmes of a high order, judiciously selected and varied to avoid monotony, on a par with the quality usually received from Pittsburgh, Schenectady, etc., I cannot for the life of me see why anyone should grumble, but—as I said before—"Distant fields were ever green."

A snuffling unintelligible whine that sounds like "something from somewhere in Cuba" is far sweeter to the "distance hound" than the most exquisite rendering of Beethoven by his business neighbour who shares with him the local burden of municipal affairs. It was ever thus. On the other hand, if a census was taken there is no doubt that those who at present own radio sets are in the minority, that is, taking the population of the North as a whole.

This condition is somewhat due to the fact that no radio broadcasting station of any consequence is located within 350 miles of Timmins. A person must buy a fairly expensive set in order to insure anything like regular reception, and there are often many occasions when even the Rolls Royce type of radio receiver acts indifferently under adverse and low receptivity conditions.

It is obvious that a comparatively nearby broadcasting station with a good programme would be a life saver on those evenings when most of all of the outside stations are arriving here very weak and the worse for wear after a hard trip through "muggy air."

Such an installation would also create a large demand for a cheap radio set of one or two tubes. The market for loud speakers would receive quite a boost as well, as the new broadcasting station would easily drive a loud speaker through two or three tubes of the dry cell type from a distance of 50 miles or so practically the year round.

It would also make reception throughout the day the general rule instead of the exception as at present on the best of sets, thus adding a welcome addition to the present "after dark" service, and materially increasing the usefulness of the radio sets now in use in the North many of which are forced into idleness for days at a time due to adverse conditions during the summer months.

To my mind those who would be most benefitted by such an innovation would be the farmers and settlers, and all those persons who are living remote from the town or cities.

Under the present conditions such persons are virtually barred from ever owning a radio set necessary for average good reception due to the lack of battery charging facilities, or any source of electric power.

However, should a radio broadcasting station locate at a comparatively short distance, a small inexpensive radio set operated by dry cells is all that will be required to bring in daily the latest news and lilted music from a laughing world to thousands of otherwise isolated homes, and from a religious viewpoint a Sunday service would be distinctly helpful and of great spiritual value.

I firmly believe that present owners of radio sets, who like to listen for "distance" once in a while, will be magnanimous enough to tolerate a little "interference" from the local station whose service confers such wonderful benefit on our fellow men who live "far from the madding crowd."

To sum up, I think that providing the programmes are real good, a local or near-by broadcasting station (assuming a policy of the greatest good to the greatest number) would fill a much needed want here in the North.

Should such a station come into existence in the near future I would much like to corral the programme director for a few moments before he or she opens for business and offer the following advice:—
Whatever you do, try and steer clear of the mistakes of nearly every other programme director who has gone before you.
When you serve your prospective radio audience don't overlook the "man in the house."
Use judgment in the selection of your programmes.
Soft pedal a little on the jazz and the love-lorn tinny tenor.
The people that stuff appeals to are usually not old enough to buy radio sets,—or anything else.
"If you have anything to sell, even if it's only good will, for the love of Mike remember the guy who bought the darned radio—who 'buys everything—the semi-bald goof' who sits there in his slippers,—just simply aching to hear you announce something of interest to him,—in other words,—POP.
"Drop the saxophone for a few minutes now and again and say something fresh to Pop—Pop, the money getter,—the backbone of the world!"
M. J. CAVENEY.

WRITER DEFENDS NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS HERE

"Not Too Many." Practically All Doing Good Work and Worthy of Support by the Public

The Editor, Porcupine Advance, Timmins.

Dear Sir:—It has been rather freely commented in this town and immediate neighbourhood that there are too many clubs, associations, and organizations operating here, and that any attempt to form and keep alive any new society is practically foredoomed to failure. This kind of remark—ofte-times made by the unthinking—is being refuted, most obviously so, by the newest organization to be established here, and again was given the lie direct in the case of a recent successful formation of a new Football Club which I believe will give credit not only to clean sport but to the "Land of Burns."

No one can truthfully gainsay the fact that all the clubs and societies—practically without exception—already in operation here have high ideals, principles, and objects to work for, and to the intelligent and observant resident of Timmins it is also fairly obvious that the good work of the various organizations is being carried out. It is clear even to the writer, comparatively a newcomer to this town that the good done by such societies as the Children's Aid Society, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the St. John Ambulance Brigade, to mention only a few whose work is clearly indicated in their respective titles and I repeat that their excellent work is only limited to their income. Again, who has not heard of the Charity Turkey Stag, that annual amazing affair, a masterpiece of splendid organization, indicating plainly the versatile ability of one who is called "Lap," the proceeds of which are directly given to the poor and needy, irrespective of their colour, creed, nationality, or cause of their being in want.

Further, there is the work carried on by the K.C., (no need to indicate what these initials stand for) for the "Underprivileged Child," "Open Spaces"—just two instances only of the quiet, unobtrusive, but effectively good work carried on by those who occupy the seats of the high and mighty in this community.

And so one would go on almost indefinitely mentioning one club after another and specifying their good works—whether for the cause of sweet charity or of clean and wholesome sport, and in each and every case offering a direct refutation of the statement that there are too many clubs, etc., in this particular neighbourhood I am of opinion that there is still room for organizations and societies for the best efforts of their members; but that opinion I would qualify to a limited extent in that the present established societies and organizations should be accorded greater support, both in increased membership and financially, for the ultimate good of the Town of Timmins and of this North Land, in whose great future I have every confidence.

Yours truly,
- T. F.

We always say that a man met with an accident, when about half the time he went out of his way hunting for it.

ANKERITE INCREASING TONNAGE AND GRADE OF ORE

A correspondent of The Mail & Empire last week said:—"The Ankerite is making a strong bid for success in Deloro Township. Treating ore of \$7 per ton and from 100 to 150 tons of ore daily has given a demonstration of uniform value in the ore. By increasing immediately to 200 tons daily, and regulating the grade of ore at \$8 per ton, it is believed the enterprise can produce sufficient gold to pay all costs and to also provide a moderate amount with which to further extend the scope of development. The property enjoys careful and competent management, and the final outcome promises to have an important bearing on the future of that part of the Porcupine field lying south of Dome Mines."

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