

Broadcast League.

BARCALDINE BRANCH.

A meeting of the Barcaldine Broadcast League was held at the Paris Cafe on Tuesday, 24th inst., there being present:—Messrs. R. M. Quinn, G. H. Meacham, N. F. Spence, W. G. Nicholls, B. Norgett, and the Secretary (Mr. J. Moscrip). The Secretary apologised for the absence of the President, Mr. C. F. Hobler. Mr. Quinn was voted to the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The inward correspondence included a very interesting report of the operations of the Longreach Broadcast League from the Secretary, Mr. C. Crowley. Mr. Crowley explained that his League had no rules, as they merely regarded themselves as a temporary body which which would cease to function when their object had been attained.

During the visit of Mr. Andrews (Radio Inspector) the Chairman of the Longreach Shire Council called a public meeting at which the Inspector gave a good outline of the causes of interference and the best means of tackling it. In the course of his remarks Mr. Andrews said: "The chief difference between country and city reception was that while in the city the listener got excellent reception from local stations he could not often receive distant stations as well as they could be received in the country. Daylight reception of distant low-powered stations was very difficult as most of them were too weak to be heard where any local noises were present. He said it was possible in a country town by proper attention to cleanliness and maintenance of electrical apparatus and by fitting suppressors to all interfering motors to receive daylight signals from any station of sufficient power and within a distance of several hundred miles, but

sufficient power of several hundred miles, but unless the electrical noises could be kept down they would eventually drown all but the most powerful stations. The Postmaster-General's Department were trying as funds became available from license revenue to provide sufficiently powerful stations to provide a reasonable service. The difficulties in Australia were much greater than in Europe with its small areas and large populations or in America with its large population. The problem was made more difficult by the fact that at a certain limited area around any station the signal became distorted at night. The Department was now erecting at Townsville, Gladstone, and Dubbo three new stations of similar power to 2CO (Corowa) and 5CK (Crystalbrook) which being much nearer than these stations would be of great advantage to West Queensland. The Townsville station would be about

300 miles distant and would provide probably double the strength obtained from 5CK. Eventually it was hoped to increase Townsville to four times the initial power and Dubbo to six times. He pointed out that this would not unfortunately increase the strength of the signal four or six times however. As against this increase in the power of the stations there was a possibility of improving the position by lowering the noise level. The Postal Department was anxious to assist in this matter but had no power to enforce any regulations, as electric power supply was purely a State function. In Victoria, West Australia, and South Australia the State Governments assisted local Councils to make the necessary regulations. In Queensland, however, there were difficulties which had not yet been surmounted. It was possible that something might be done soon. It had been found in Queensland that compulsion was very rarely neces-

compulsion was very rarely necessary in the long run. No one wished to create a nuisance when the means of avoiding it was so inexpensive and simple. The suppressors now on the market enabled almost all the interference to be cleared up at a cost of a few shillings per motor, and he was advised that the local Council was prepared, as were other similar Councils in Queensland, to instal the necessary suppressors free of cost. Most motor owners were also wireless listeners and it was found that if properly approached none of them would refuse to do his share of the necessary suppression."

Mr. Crowley added that as no compulsory methods of dealing with motors that interfered with wireless reception were available to them, and that any Legislative action would not be retrospective and consequently all those motors and fans now in use would not be affected, he suggested that the quickest and most effective way of handling the matter would be to raise the money themselves, the Council having already indicated that it would fit the suppressors free of cost and use its buying power to obtain the suppressors cheaply. All present at the meeting then formed themselves into an Association to go into the matter of fitting suppressors and otherwise dealing with the interference problem. The membership fee was fixed at 2/6 and several present gave substantial donations.—The Secretary (Mr. Moscrip) reported on the progress of the installation of suppressors, 21 people subscribing £4/17/, and at the present time, apart from the Power House, about 35 had been installed but had not been tested.

It was resolved to obtain a list of motors in town, including blowers, fans, &c., and that the League approach the Shire Council for assistance and then hold another meeting.

It was resolved that the membership fee to the Barcaldine League be 2/6.