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National Emergency

IT can hardly be necessary to remind readers that an emergency for the Nation is an emergency for every publication issued to the Nation. We have delayed the writing of this article, not merely to the eleventh hour but to the twelfth, in the hope that we might then have knowledge instead of conjecture on which to base our comments. The hour has struck and we are at war.

There is, however, one feature of the situation that makes it different from any other in human history. It has happened before that nations have resorted to arms to save the face or satisfy the ambition of individuals. It has happened in our own lives that reason has failed over half the world to restrain passion and violence. It has never happened before that the whole world has heard all the charges and counter-charges, protests and appeals, day by day and quite recently hour by hour. Time will show whether this has been a blessing or a curse. At present we do not know. We do know that it is something new in human experience.

It would appear, too, that men of our own race and language will continue to have that experience. It has not been suggested by any British government that we must close either our eyes or our ears. Whatever lies ahead of us, we shall retain the liberty of free men to know where we are going. May those who have told us so far retain their present honesty and restraint.

STATE OF EMERGENCY EFFECT UPON BROADCASTING

UNDER the state of emergency proclaimed to exist in New Zealand, regulations were issued last Friday to deal with

Censorship and Publicity,

Naval, Army and Air Force Mobilisation,

Shipping Control and Price Stabilisation

Price stabilisation became operative immediately but it was announced on Friday that the others would become effective only if and when circumstances required it.

The chief emergency regulations which affect the sphere of broadcasting are those dealing with the cancellation of the licences of all amateur radio transmitting stations and with censorship and publicity. Ordinary radio listening-sets are not affected.

Amateur Transmitting Illegal

Cancellation of the licences of all amateur radio transmitting stations, under Regulation 25 of the Radio Regulations has been announced by the Postmaster-General (Hon.

EFFECT ON PUBLISHED PROGRAMMES

Readers will understand that because of the world situation the radio programmes scheduled in this issue may be considerably revised. They were correct as we went to Press and any last-minute alterations will be announced over the air. In the meantime, a twenty-four hours' continuous service is being maintained in order to give the public all the news from Europe as it is available. This service will be maintained as long as the situation calls for it.

F. Jones). The Minister said that all licences in respect of amateur radio transmitting stations were revoked, and henceforth it would be unlawful for any signals whatever to be transmitted from such stations.

Licence-holders are required to surrender their licences forthwith, and to dismantle their stations in order to render them incapable of emitting radio signals," said Mr. Jones. "Any licence-holder who fails to comply with the regulation is liable on conviction to a fine of £500, and the fine may also be levied on any licence-holder who does not surrender his licence to the Director-General of the General Post Office, Wellington."

Ordinary Radio Sets Not Affected

Regulation 26 of the Radio Regulations provides that the Minister may, when it is expedient in the public interest, assume control of and operate any amateur receiving station. There is no restriction on ordinary radio listening sets.

Censorship and Publicity

The emergency regulations provide for the appointment of a Director of Publicity to exercise control over published matter. It is to be illegal for any unauthorised person to have in his possession any information on the following matters: The number, description, armament equipment, disposition, movements or condition of the units of the army, navy or air force, or of any British or allied merchant vessels. Press censorship is also applied to information of this nature, and to the possession or publication of photographs or subversive reports dealing with similar subjects. "Subversive reports" include reports likely to prejudice recruiting or training of the forces, and reports likely to undermine public confidence in banking or currency. These restrictions are applied to periodical as well as daily publications.

Appointment of Officials

The appointment has been made of Mr. J. T. Paul as Director of Publicity under the censorship and publicity emergency regulations, with Mr. J. H. Hall as Deputy-Director of Publicity. Mr. G. McNamara has been appointed Controller of Censorship, although it is understood that the latter will not be in charge of the press censorship which is to come under the Director of Publicity.