

New Horizons of Art and Entertainment

(continued from previous page)

the future. Already lessons in cooking, dressmaking, physical culture and first-aid have been telecast. Industrial processes, scientific experiments, languages, drawing, nursing, modern farming, and a hundred other things which people wish to learn, may be taught by television courses, broadcast to many classes and homes at the same time.

To the reporting of news and sports the television of the post-war world will bring a new element, that of immediacy. Newspapers, newsreels, and sound radio now provide excellent on-the-scene reports of all that is newsworthy. The one thing they cannot do, however, is to show the news in action when and as it happens, while the outcome of the event is still in doubt. Television can supply the essence of drama—spectator suspense—in reporting an athletic contest, a fire, a flood, or perhaps even a battle.

News events worthy of pictorial coverage are happening every day in the United States, in Europe, in Russia, in North Africa, and the Far East. The sources are as unlimited as human beings themselves. Already television is freed from the limits of a broadcasting studio. It has the mobile and portable equipment to report "spot" news, or some unscheduled happening, as well as events which are known to be developing.

These mobile camera units vary in size from rather large installations, which are transported in big vans, to relatively small "suitcase" instruments that can be carried in an ordinary automobile. And television will not always be earthbound. Before the war, it was successfully installed in aeroplanes, and experiments in sending and receiving were carried out. When this development is perfected, huge spectacles, major disasters, occurring anywhere, may be reached by plane from nearby centres and transmitted to peoples' homes from telecast aeroplanes.

Already these new tools have been developed for telecasting as soon as peace comes: electronic cameras capable of translating moving or stationary

images from light waves into electrical impulses; television transmitters, which broadcast these impulses on ultra-high-frequency radio waves; and television receivers with antennae which can pick up these broadcast signals and re-translate them into pictures of great clarity and detail. Television radio relay systems and coaxial cables can now be used to establish television networks regionally, and in the future nationally and internationally.

Neighbours the World Over

When this happens, distance will have been conquered. The peoples of Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas, will be neighbours, and the pleasures, sorrows, and pressing problems of one will be shared by all.

The big task at the end of the war will be to make television service available to the public as widely and as rapidly as possible. Some idea of the number of stations required to serve the United States alone may be obtained from the fact that more than 920 radio stations now operate in the sound-broadcasting field. In time, American television stations may exceed that number, because their area of individual coverage is not so great. As transmitting stations make their appearance in each city, television receivers for the home will appear in the shop windows of the local merchants.

And so a great industry awaits us in the post-war world. The operation of television studios, mobile units and programme departments, will call for



The BBC's television cameras overlook Horse Guards' Parade for the ceremony of Trooping the Colour

technicians, cameramen, stage designers, production men, lighting experts, directors and writers. The need for dramatic talent will be almost limitless. With calls in all parts of the country for entertainment telecasts, dramatic groups may be expected to materialise in many centres, instead of gravitating to the theatre and to motion-picture studios, as now.

In the manufacture of equipment and in financial and business management the new television industry will also offer great opportunities. In recent years, radio without television achieved the status of a 1,000,000,000-dollar industry in the United States, providing employment for 400,000 persons. Post-war television has the potentiality of substantially increasing these figures.

The public will not long be denied a new service which will add so much education, information and entertainment to the every-day life of human beings.

BBC Engineers in the Forces

THE BBC Engineering Division has had to face a serious staff problem since the war began. Four hundred and seventeen of the engineering staff are now in the fighting services: 90 in the Navy, 150 in the Army, 174 in the R.A.F., and three in the Royal Marines. Those in the Navy include a Commander; of 56 officers in the Army, 12 hold field rank. In the R.A.F. BBC engineers include a Group-Captain, and of 77 holding commissions, 37 are of the rank of Flight-Lieutenant and above. In the Royal Marines they are represented, among others, by a Brigadier.



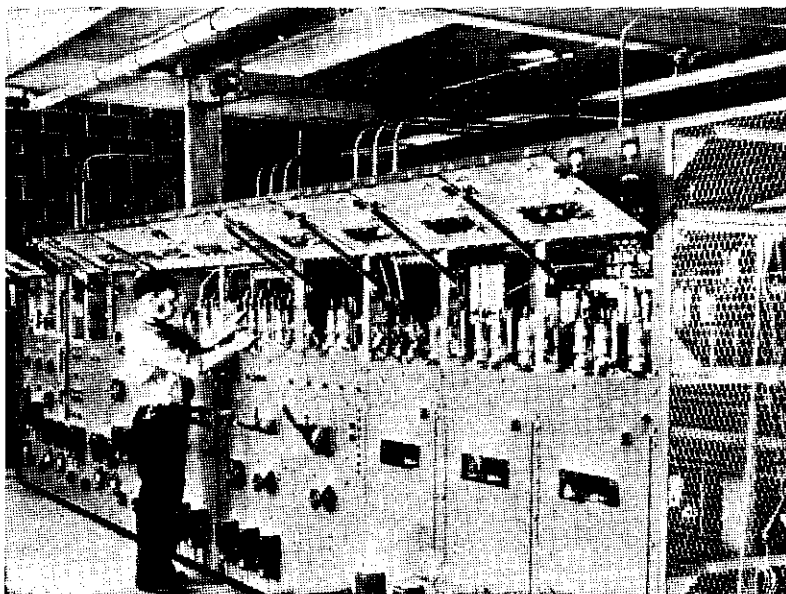
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Television broadcasting stations like Station WRGB in the mountains of New York State will some day make the people of all countries feel that they are neighbours