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Settlement Announced in Patents Claim

General Satisfaction at Removal of Cloud



WE are glad to be able to make the following authoritative announcement:—An agreement was recently concluded between the Government and the Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Limited, relative to the latter's claims for recognition of its patent rights over apparatus used in the Government wireless stations and in broadcasting stations. Although the company notified the Government when the various stations were being established that its patents were being made use of, the actual claim was not investigated until a few months ago, when the company's managing-director, Mr. E. T. Fisk, visited New Zealand. Protracted negotiations took place, and Cabinet authority to conclude the agreement was given on October 25 last. The agreement was signed on the 30th idem, and payment of a sum amounting to £10,852 was made to the company on November 10. This amount covers any liability to the company incurred by the Government in the past.

THE agreement provides for payment for use of the company's patents in broadcasting apparatus on practically the same basis as in Australia, that is, at the rate of 3s. per listener per annum, and the agreement is to expire on October 31, 1932. In recognition of this payment, the Government is free to make use of the Amalgamated Wireless Company's patents for broadcasting purposes. It is not intended that

THE announcement that a settlement has been reached between the Government and the Amalgamated Wireless Company of Australasia, Limited, in respect of the patents held by that company on apparatus being used in connection with radio in New Zealand, was received by the trade with a general expression of relief. Cautious elements of the trade, however, point out that, while they are relieved, they are not yet ready to express complete satisfaction, pending the outcome of a conference to be held between the Post and Telegraph Department and the radio trade. That conference, it is anticipated, will determine the question as to what part (if any) traders will be required

to bear in the restrictive payment which has been made by the Government to the Amalgamated Wireless interests.

From the general point of view of radio, however, it is eminently desirable that finality should have been reached in the position, which unquestionably has been a cloud over the trading activities of all dealers in recent years.

History of the Claims.

AT this juncture a brief statement of the history of the patent position will undoubtedly prove of interest to all concerned in a very involved position. The Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Limited was formed in 1913 as the

the annual fee of 30s. now paid by listeners should be increased at present.

As soon as the Government was satisfied with the bona fides of the claim of the company, every effort was made to conclude a satisfactory agreement so that the present use of broadcasting should not be interfered with.

THE Government has also been successful in concluding an arrangement regarding the patent rights in apparatus used in its commercial wireless stations on a basis satisfactory to both the Government and the Amalgamated Wireless Company. Although these commercial stations have been in operation since approximately 1910, no patent fees have so far been paid; but the agreement now reached will provide for a payment for a term up to October, 1932.

THERE has been considerable uneasiness among dealers in radio apparatus for a long time, as the Amalgamated Wireless Company had made clear its intention to claim patent rights on sets which infringed its patents. The agreements concluded provide for the Post and Telegraph Department to grant licenses to dealers to deal in patents held by the Amalgamated Wireless Company—without risk of an action for damages. It is the intention of the Department to confer with the Radio Dealers' Association at the earliest convenient date.

result of an amalgamation between the Australasian Wireless Company Limited and the Marconi interests in Australia and New Zealand.

The Australasia Wireless Company, Limited, represented the Telefunken interests and was formed for the purpose of trading in wireless apparatus and very largely represented the interests of Australische Metallische Gesellschaft who held the rights for the Telefunken system by virtue of an arrangement with the Allgemeine Elektrische Gesellschaft, of Germany, who manufactured Telefunken apparatus.

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