

# Radio's Influence for World Peace



**W**HAT it is the unknown which men fear—the distant place which is uncharted and legendary, the noise in the silence of the night which may be anything or nothing, and, on a wider plane, the man in another country whose language, customs and ideas are strange. Ignorance is invariably at the root of fear and distrust.

Behind most of the suspicion with which foreigners were formerly regarded lay a lack of the realisation that they are ordinary human beings like ourselves; their remoteness, owing to crudity of communications between one country and another, sometimes gave them an unreal quality which for some people held a terror which would readily vent itself in war.

To the Englishman, a Frenchman was not just another human being like himself, but almost a mythical sort of caricature of a human being—a name, not a reality; someone of whom every Englishman was just a little suspicious. The same was true of the German and the Italian, the Dane and the Spaniard, and so on. Until wireless came on the scene.

The one great element which was necessary to break down the barrier of mistrust which existed, through ignorance, between the ordinary people of one country and the ordinary people of another was some daily means of communication with each other. Wireless, as if by a miracle, provided that daily communication, that mutual interchange of entertainment and opinion, and that free contact of one national mind on another which may do more to assure the future peace of the world than all the schemings of the politicians and diplomats.

For wireless make the whole world kin because it brings to every man an intense realisation, perhaps for the first time, of the essential humanity of other men the world over in spite of a hundred and one superficial differences.

A very striking statement was once made by Mr. Stanley Baldwin, when Prime Minister, at an Albert Hall gathering of the League of Nations' Union. Dealing with wireless and world peace, he described very realistically how, coming down to breakfast

**A**N important benefit that the invention and subsequent adaption of radio broadcasting has conferred on mankind is its great influence in establishing a firmer understanding among the many and varied nations that compose the world of to-day. A mutually wider conception of the greatly differing outlooks of the cosmopolitan peoples of the earth would establish among them a friendship, or at least a tolerance, which would accomplish more in the direction of a world-wide peace than anything else. The accompanying article by Brigadier-General Crozier (published by "Modern Wireless") discusses fully the question of the important influence radio has in establishing universal peace. A growing desire is apparent in this country for radio to be used for dissemination of political addresses of outstanding calibre for instructional purposes.

one morning, and having to wait, he wireless; they want entertainment, and tuned in his wireless set to Berlin! there is much justice in this point of view. But in any broadcast programme there is almost always some shred of wisdom to be picked up, perhaps almost unconsciously.

## Breaking down Boundaries.

**T**HERE was a time not long since when, except to the travelled minority, Berlin was but a name learned by heart at school during a somewhat dull geography lesson, or casually mentioned now and again in the Press. People knew that men called Germans existed, but their reality and their humanity had never been forced on to the consciousness of the majority. Probably they had never heard a German voice.

To-day there must be thousands upon thousands of listeners who tune-in Berlin day after day—for whom Berlin has become, not a name, but a reality.

It is the same with Paris, Rome, and any great capital you care to mention. People are dancing to music made by men and women in these places which before they may hardly have realised as having a concrete existence. They will go on dancing to this music for twenty, fifty, a hundred years—who can tell how long? Is it remotely likely that after a century or so of such listening they will ever want to fight the people of Paris, or Rome, or any other distant place?

## Educational Broadcasting.

**O**BVIOUSLY not. And wireless is doing more than entertaining people and making them conscious of foreign people as living realities. It is educating them. There is sometimes an outcry in certain quarters against the educational side of broadcasting. People say they do not want to be educated by

bled at a moment's notice when war between two States appears to be inevitable.

There was the conflict a few years ago between Greece and Bulgaria, which was settled amicably owing to the intervention of the League. In this instance wireless played a very important part in assembling the delegates quickly.

But it is in its role of unofficial propagandist for peace that wireless will do its most useful work. Into the remotest hamlets in the loneliest places, into the homes of men and women who never during a lifetime move more than a few miles away, it is bringing a new conception of the world—as a place where men may differ externally, but where they are moved by similar needs, hopes and desires. Only time can show the quiet but steady influence which it will have on the hearts of men in setting their feet in the paths of peace.

## World Radio

**A** SPECIAL aerial system, known as the Byrd antenna, has been erected at Schenectady for communication with Commander Richard Byrd's expedition now exploring the Antarctic. The aerial is highly directional, and, although it is considered doubtful whether every transmission will penetrate the heavy atmospheres abounding in the Antarctic regions, it is expected that the expedition will receive much better signals than have hitherto been possible. The programmes of WGY are at regular intervals relayed for the especial benefit of these intrepid explorers.

**T**HE manager of a privately-owned broadcasting station in America, recently received a number of letters from the surrounding listeners complaining in no uncertain terms of the quality of his programmes. As every mail brought a more numerous and uncomplimentary assortment, he, as a final resort, decided to pirate another station's programme. So one evening he tuned in to numerous stations, and, after finally selecting the best, he promptly rebroadcast it, much to the delight of the local listeners. The real owners of the entertainment objected strongly, but apparently could do nothing, so now "bootlegged" programmes are "all the go" in America.

## Quiet but Steady Influence.

**W**IRELESS has, in fact, already proved its worth in the cause of peace, for it has been found very useful to the Secretariat of the League of Nations at Geneva, in cases of emergency if the Council has to be assembled

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