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Imperial Wireless Communications



IRELESS telegraphy and telephony will presently be recognised as the greatest inventions of the age. The conquest of the Ether will have a greater effect than the conquest of the Air. The invention of "wireless" will shape future history to a greater extent than the discovery of gunpowder affected past history. Gunpowder overthrew feudalism. Wireless will unite mankind.

It is only a question of a few years before every part of the civilised world will be in instantaneous communication with every other part of the civilised world by word of mouth. Already, to-day, it is easier for the President of the United States to speak from Washington to his Ambassador in Paris or for the Prime Minister of England to speak to the Prime Minister of Canada than it was for Mr. Gladstone to speak to the Mayor of Birmingham.

If, to-day, a business man, or statesman, sitting in an office in London can talk to another in New York, Montreal or Johannesburg, and, to-morrow, in Australia or Japan, it is obvious that distances in the world are annihilated. Yet these wonders have actually happened. It is only twenty-nine years ago since Senatore Marconi sent the first message by wireless telegraphy from Cornwall to St. John's, Newfoundland; yet, despite four years' interruption by the Great War, to-day we can hear a speech as clearly across the Atlantic or from Egypt to England, and talk to each other over these immense distances with as much ease and understanding as two persons can telephone to each other from adjoining rooms in the same building.

BUT this is not all. By the latest invention the same stations can be used for speech over distances of thousands of miles between them by

beam wireless and at the same time and on the same wavelength, telegraph messages can be sent two, and even four, at a time. Thus, while the man in London is talking to the man in Montreal, four commercial messages by telegram are being sent from the same stations through the ether at the rate of hundreds of words a minute. This has been made possible by a recent invention which is not very elaborate or expensive

IT is at least a possibility that the world, in the comparatively near future, will be united as one huge empire, linked together commercially, socially, and politically by the modern marvel of wireless telephony and telegraphy. At the present day the general public are apt to think of wireless only as a wonderful means of securing entertainment and instruction. On the more serious side of Imperial and world communications, however, the effect of recent and, as yet, little known discoveries will be the most far-reaching of all. The following article, by Lieut. Commander the Hon. J. M. Kenworthy (published recently in the "Nash" magazine), reveals and discusses the supreme importance which wireless will undoubtedly assume in the near future as a means of Imperial communication.

and which can be easily adjusted to the existing wireless installations at the proposed stations.

The clearness with which speech can be heard over these immense distances is uncanny. As soon as one speaker pauses in his conversation an automatic regulator switches over and permits the reply. If the two parties to the conversation try to speak at the same time the result is jamming. But equal confusion results if two people try to talk at the same time on the ordinary short-distance telephone! As soon as they stop one can begin again and the words come through as clearly as before. And by the directional beam system of wireless telegraphy almost complete secrecy can be preserved.

FRANCE, Germany, Japan, India, the South American Republics—all can communicate with each other in this way now; and presently the whole world will be encircled. This wonderful and magical development of the great invention of wireless telephony will bring about far-reaching and inevitable results.

First, let us take commerce. Remember we are only on the threshold of the uses of the wireless telephone. As is so often the case, the inventor has outstripped the public understanding. Neither the business man nor the journalist nor the statesman nor the diplomat has yet grasped the possibilities. We all use telephones within the frontiers of our own countries. We have hardly begun to use the existing facilities for communicating with overseas nations. The long-distance wireless telephone is, at present, an expensive means of communication. So was Edison's early invention of the telephone. It has been cheapened by use, and so will the beam wireless be, especially, as I have stated above, now that it can be used for the double purpose of speech

and telegraphic signalling. As the business world, which will probably lead in this matter, grasps the possibilities, commerce will be facilitated, international trade will increase, and international economic interests be enhanced.

Commercial "arrangements," cartels and trusts, between merchants and manufacturers engaged in the same line of business in different countries will be facilitated. This will be the future tendency of international trade and enterprise in any case. The unregulated international trust may have dangers for the general public in the future; but it is bound to come, and certain advantages should come with it. For the more international business is developed and

—Continued on page 2.