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RE3

## Imperial Communications Radio in the Antarctic

(Continued from front page.)

interlocked, the clearer will be the realisation of the disruptive effects of war or even of strained relations between peoples. In this direction, therefore, wireless communications will tend to cement world peace.

Another effect will be the facilitation of the transmission of news. As peoples get to know and understand each other better, the old international antagonisms, fears, and suspicions will gradually fade and pass. Broadcasting is sure to have an effect on the language of the world. It is impossible to resist the conclusion, and the more the subject is studied the firmer that conclusion becomes, that English will become the universal world language for all purposes, as it practically is for commerce and finance to-day. An international language is badly needed in any case, and will become essential in the future.

Politically the effect must be very great also. In a very short time from now the British Prime Minister, from his room in Downing Street, will be able to sit at his desk and telephone to his fellow colleagues in the British Dominions with perfect ease, clarity, and secrecy. His spoken words, transmitted by land-line to one of the powerful wireless stations, will be heard by his colleagues in Canberra and in Wellington. Their speech will be heard as clearly in London or in each other's capitals.

Radiovision will be the next step. Some of the best brains in the world have been working to perfect the transmission of living pictures by wireless. As the British Postmaster-General stated in his written opinion of the recent radiovision demonstrations witnessed by him, "the experiment represented a noteworthy scientific achievement." In his words, "the demonstration showed that the system was capable of producing with sufficient clearness to be recognised the features and movements of persons posed for the purpose at the transmitting point." Though radiovision is admittedly still in its experimental state, and though the images when received are, as yet, imperfect, yet who would have believed it possible, even twenty years ago, to have actually transmitted by wireless telegraphy the moving and living picture of an actual person? It may be that some years will elapse before actual events can be reproduced over great distances by wireless, but that it will be accomplished one day is a certainty.

Who can set limits to the ultimate results of this annihilation of distance and the bringing together of all parts of the globe within speaking distance? The human race will soon be one unit. And that the ultimate effects will be for great good, no one of vision and faith can doubt.

## Broadcasts for the Byrd Expedition

IN the lonely wastes of the Antarctic, a small company of sixty men, comprising the well-known Byrd Expedition, are solely dependent while in their voluntary two-year exile upon radio as a means of securing news and entertainment from the world they have temporarily forsaken.

In order to ensure passable reception at least for the expedition, the engineers of station WGY, Schenectady, spent many months in designing and perfecting a special transmitting aerial known as the "Byrd antenna." This has been used in every special broadcast to Commander Byrd and his party, and, so far, every programme has been clearly received. The first transmission took place on March 23, and within fifteen minutes after the conclusion of the programme word came in code from WFA (Byrd's station) that the entire programme had been received through loudspeakers.

The aerial is of the horizontal "checker-board" type, and is one among a dozen that sway above a 54-acre field occupied by the transmitter laboratory at South Schenectady, New York. They hang from steel masts 150ft. to 300ft. high, from plain wooden masts, and from masts with crossbars. This new aerial is really twelve in one, consisting of two sections of a checkerboard, each section made up of three squares. One section is used as a reflector. Only the horizontal wires function as an aerial, the vertical wires affording support or power transmission to the radiating wires. This is said to increase by ten times the directional power of W2XAF, the short-wave radio station of WGY, on which the "Byrd antenna" is used. In other words, increase in the directional power would make a 20 kw. station the equivalent of one of 200 kw. in effectiveness in one direction.

A number of special programmes have been prepared and transmitted for the particular benefit of Commander Byrd's party. One such was recently arranged, and included artists and speakers who had gathered together from places so far apart as Chicago and Atlantic City by motor, aeroplane, and train.

In acknowledgement of the special programme, Commander Byrd dispatched a message of thanks for the programme, and stated that every word came through clearly.

Greatest of all, have these intrepid explorers cause to be thankful for the invention of radio, which is solely responsible for materially reducing their sense of isolation and loneliness.

## Restricted Radio

ON the shelf of every Radio Listener should be found the

## RADIO LISTENERS' GUIDE

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A CAMPAIGN has been commenced in several districts in France against noisy loudspeakers. At one small village in the South of France, an article of French law has been invoked whereby it is an offence to create a "nocturnal uproar," even inside a house, if it is audible in the street. A by-law has already been created in several French towns forbidding "open window" loudspeakers after 10 p.m.