

## The Greatest Broadcast

(Concluded from page 5.)

made an interesting summary. He said that a King's voice had been heard for the first time in America over the radio. In the Royal Gallery of the House of Lords, London, a gathering met, and at 6 o'clock (American time) the people in America heard King George speaking. This was a history-making body of delegates attending the Naval Conference of the Five Powers—the British Empire, the United States of America, France, Italy and Japan. The National Broadcasting Company was very happy to have brought this opening of the Naval Conference before listeners in America. After His Majesty King George the Fifth had spoken, the next speaker was Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, after his election as chairman of the Conference. The announcer then outlined the order of the speakers, and concluded by saying that the National Broadcasting Company had been able to bring this important Conference before American listeners through the co-operation of the Broadcasting Corporation, the official broadcasting authority in Great Britain. It was further their intention to continue giving listeners news of the Conference daily by a broadcast from 1 to 1.15 p.m., standard time. On Wednesday at 1.15 p.m., standard time, they would hear Sir John Reeth, Director of the British Broadcasting Corporation. In addition, the National Broadcasting Company had its own representative attending the Conference, and he would introduce various speakers to American listeners at certain times. Amongst these would be Mr. Ramsay MacDonald. Announcements would be made from day to day, and a complete summary given of Conference proceedings.

### Newspaper Comments.

THE following extracts are taken from the reports published in the city newspapers:—

"Christchurch Times."—New Zealand scored heavily over Australia in the rebroadcast of the short-wave transmissions of the Naval Conference

speeches. Station 3YA was the first on the air with the rebroadcast, turning on the weather report for the British Isles from shortly after 10.30. At 10.43 4YA, Dunedin, came on, but struggling and static were heavy. At 10.59 all four New Zealand stations were on the rebroadcast of 5SW. Surging was very heavy, and strong Morse code transmission interfered with 3YA's reception. At 11.10, 4QG, Brisbane, announced that although arrangements had been made for a land line relay of Sydney's reception of 5SW, so far nothing had come through. From then on, the four New Zealand broadcast stations and 3ZU succeeded in receiving fairly clear reception of His Majesty's speech.

On the whole, reception was patchy, first one and then another station taking the palm for steadiness and clarity of rebroadcast. It was not until 11.26—after the King had concluded his speech—that 2FC and 4QG succeeded in picking up 5SW, and even then their rebroadcast was not as good as that of any of the New Zealand stations. Of the five New Zealand stations heard, 3YA must be credited with providing its listeners with the best rebroadcast of the speeches.

"Christchurch Sun."—As far as distance from the central broadcasting station at Chelmsford, England, is concerned, New Zealand is not well placed, being at the farthest point away from Great Britain on the opposite side of the globe. The difficulties in the way of good reception were therefore as great as it is possible for them to be, but notwithstanding these difficulties, the rebroadcast was very successful, probably the most successful rebroadcast in New Zealand of a short-wave station, distant many thousand miles away from this Dominion.

In common with all long-distance short-wave reception, high frequency fading was noticeable, but not to any serious extent. The worst interference came from static, and in a lesser degree from spark and continuous wave Morse signals. The voices of the various speakers who were delivering their addresses in London were loud, and considering the technical difficulties, they could be followed with a large amount of continuity. The King's voice was strong, without any suggestion of loss of vigour from his illness of last year.

"Christchurch Press."—From radio broadcasting station 3YA a "Press" reporter heard the reception of the speeches at the opening of the Naval Conference in the House of Lords, London, relayed from station GLY, Dorchester. It was probably one of the most remarkable examples of the annihilation of distance by wireless mankind has ever known, and at times it was almost unbelievable that the speeches were coming in from a point ten thousand miles away. Again at times, however, it seemed that they were coming from fully that distance. The King's speech came through moderately well, although there was a certain amount of distortion which robbed some of his statements of all meaning to the listeners. His Majesty spoke in a strong, clear voice, without hesitation, and his speech was very brief.

"Evening Post" (Wellington).—If the proceedings of the Naval Conference are in any way as successful in their ultimate result as the broadcast of the opening speeches from London last night, then considerable progress will have been made in the endeavour to limit competition in naval arma-

ments between the leading nations. This applies particularly, however, to the direct reception of the speeches by owners of short-wave sets, for the rebroadcast carried out by station 2YA was marred at times by a considerable amount of extraneous noise. Despite this unwelcome interruption, however, those people whose sets were tuned to 2YA's wave-length were able to follow the speeches, although His Majesty's voice was not heard to the best advantage. The concluding speakers, amongst whom were Mr. T. M. Wilford (High Commissioner for New Zealand) were heard very clearly.

"Evening Star" (Dunedin).—His Majesty the King literally spoke to the whole world in opening the Naval Conference, and then followed the speeches of the world's most eminent statesmen—truly a unique and historic radio performance. In New Zealand, as in many other countries, the remarkable possibilities of radio were strikingly exemplified by the reception of the broadcast.

"Otago Daily Times."—From a radio point of view the reception at station 4YA last evening was exceedingly interesting, and hundreds of listeners in the city must have been greatly impressed by the manner in which the voices of speakers 16,000 miles distant were transmitted; but it was impossible to secure a connected version of the speeches owing to the interruptions due to static. When His Majesty delivered his address conditions were at their worst so far as Dunedin was concerned, but shortly after 11.30 things improved considerably, until by the time the French and Italian delegates faced the microphone the reception was remarkably good. Local listeners, for the most part, would find these speeches unintelligible, as the speakers used their native tongues.

"New Zealand Herald."—The transmission was picked up and rebroadcast by all the principal Australian and New Zealand stations. The first part of it, including His Majesty's speech, unfortunately suffered a good deal of interference, and only isolated phrases could be made out. However, the King's concluding words were distinct. Reception improved as Mr. Ramsay MacDonald was speaking, and the later addresses were almost word-perfect.

The ceremony was followed with interest by radio enthusiasts in Auckland. Many owners of valve sets listened in to rebroadcasts from the Australian stations, while splendid results were obtained on both valve sets and crystal sets tuned in to 1YA. The reception is one of the most successful rebroadcasts on short-wave ever received in New Zealand. The last rebroadcast of any importance from 5SW was that of the Armistice Day ceremony at the Cenotaph, London, on November 11. On that occasion, owing to the large amount of static, only fragments of the service were picked up in New Zealand. The local station and the Melbourne and Sydney stations did not rebroadcast the ceremony.

### Listeners' Appreciation.

THE appreciation of listeners is well expressed in the following letter to 3YA from a Christchurch correspondent:—"Once again I congratulate you on your splendid rebroadcast of the proceedings in London yesterday in connection with the Naval Conference. There are from time to time people who complain of your programmes, and it always makes me feel sorry when I think of all the great and wonderful things we have been privileged to listen to through your efforts. Anything that is of interest in the world is put at our disposal, and I suppose most people take it as a matter of course. I, for one, am deeply grateful for the privilege of listening to wonderful events, and it seemed to me particularly wonderful to be able to hear the voice of the King and all those great men in London yesterday, and I thank you for the trouble in connection with it. It was quite the best rebroadcast I have listened to, particularly after midnight, when, I should say, reception became almost as perfect as possible. Hoping we may hear many more of these rebroadcasts, and wishing you every success in your efforts."

## Radio in the Arctic

THE great value of radio in the Arctic was demonstrated by the discovery of the lost party of explorers, headed by Professor McAlpine, and is emphasised by Mr. A. M. Narraway, Assistant Surveyor-General of the Canadian Government, who had been assigned to assist in the search. All through the search for the lost men the radio communication kept open between the far northern points had been largely instrumental in bringing success to the search venture. Thousands of miles of communication were maintained through the vigilance of the Department of Marine and Fisheries. Conditions at times were terrible, but there was never a complete break in the service. The stations were operated with a minimum of spare parts, which could be carried in only at widely separated periods. They were kept going with low power. In spite of this they had shown that, even up the Arctic Circle and beyond, the whole country could be held together by fast and certain means of communication. "This communication has been made possible largely through the devotion of Lieutenant-Commander C. P. Edwards, chief of the Radio Branch of the Department of Marine and Fisheries. I am saying this," Mr. Narraway declared, "because I know that Commander Edwards has at times worked night and day personally to see that there was no breach in our communication with the north."

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