

The Greatest Broadcast of History

World Hears Opening of Historical Naval Conference for Limitation of Armaments

THE largest radio audience in history listened to the world-wide broadcast of the proceedings attending the opening of the 1930 Naval Conference in London on Tuesday last. The Conference opened in the Royal Gallery of the House of Lords in the presence of a memorable gathering of 30 delegates, a large body of naval experts and secretaries, and a most comprehensive gathering of approximately 400 journalists representative of the eyes and ears of the civilised world. More important perhaps than the journalists was the presence of a silver and gold microphone, for, through that wonderful instrument, practically the whole of the intelligentsia of the civilised world had the privilege of listening to the proceedings. The significance of the event as the forerunner of the new diplomacy, of frank meetings between peoples, and discussion of their points of view, cannot be overlooked.

Conditions in New Zealand for the reception of the broadcast were good, and the effort to give New Zealand listeners access to the proceedings of the Conference was successful to an exceptional degree. The broadcast will take rank as the most successful sustained overseas effort yet made.



HE miracle of wireless was again demonstrated on Tuesday, January 21, when New Zealanders heard the voice of His Majesty, King George, speaking at the opening of the Conference on Naval Disarmament. It was the most successful rebroadcast of a transmission from Britain yet carried out by the YA stations.

The reception throughout New Zealand was good from the outset, and steadily improved until the final announcement, by which time the rebroadcast was well-nigh perfect, so that it was difficult to realise that the speakers were 11,000 miles away, and not in the local studio. There was some surging and fading, and Morse caused much interference, somewhat marring the first speeches, but the majority of what was said could be intelligibly followed. The final speeches were perfectly clear, and Mr. Wilford's voice sounded as clearly as though he were still in the Dominion.

Great importance is being placed on this international conference, as was demonstrated by the arrangements made for world-wide broadcasting, but as far as the people of the British Dominions overseas were concerned, their interest in the opening ceremony centred in the fact that they would have the opportunity of hearing the voice of His Majesty the King. King George's voice came through clearly, although atmospheric interference was troublesome to listeners who desired to hear every word that was said. The broadcasting arrangements in connection with the occasion were most extensive, being on easily the greatest scale yet attempted. To King George goes the honour of being the first to make a world-wide broadcast speech to an audience of probably 100,000,000 people.

The speeches were relayed throughout Britain, and broadcast by all the British Broadcasting Corporation stations. The Canadian Beam Wireless Service and the Trans-Atlantic Telephone Services carried the Conference proceedings to Canada and U.S.A. From the London station of the British Broadcasting Corporation, the speech was relayed by telephone to France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Hungary, Austria and

Czecho-Slovakia. Belgium and Holland received it from Daventry and rebroadcast it. Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Finland, and the National Broadcasting Company of the United States were served by a wireless relay from the 5SW experimental short-wave transmitter at Chelmsford. The Columbian chain of broadcasting stations in the United States used the Rugby Trans-Atlantic telephone service.

addresses lasted from 11 p.m. until 1 a.m., New Zealand time. The results were far better than anything previously attempted, and demonstrated an advance in overseas rebroadcast, exceeding the greatest expectations. The speeches were wonderfully audible, and although some surging was apparent at the commencement, this disappeared towards midnight, and subse-

station, demonstrated that a clear and distinct rebroadcast from England through the Broadcasting Company's stations is not only practicable, but also an accomplished fact. The result of the rebroadcast is being communicated to the authorities in London, and listeners can look forward to receiving news of further transmissions at an early date from the Homeland, to be rebroadcast through the local stations.

The King's Voice.

WHEN His Majesty the King began to speak expectation was on tip-toe to judge the effectiveness of the effort. Keen pleasure was felt as it became apparent that the extensive preparations made by all stations for the utmost efficiency, combined with suitable atmospheric conditions, were permitting a satisfactory standard of reception.

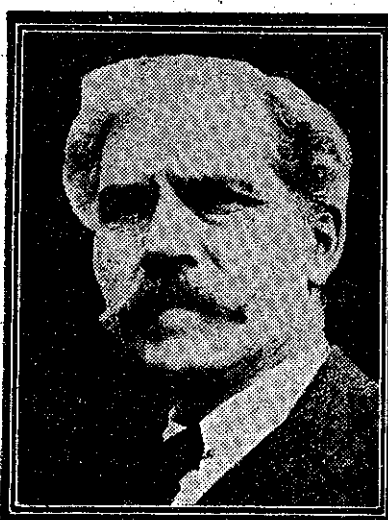
In sturdy, dignified and measured tones His Majesty spoke, extending greetings to all assembled delegates, and expressing the keenest interest in the purpose for which they were gathered together. The purpose of the Conference was not for nationalistic or selfish purposes, but for noble inspiration and resolve for the betterment of mankind. "I feel sure," he said, "that the delegates from the countries of Europe and the United States of America in their conference together will confer a great and lasting benefit, not only upon the country which each of them represents, but upon mankind in general. I earnestly trust that the results of this Conference will lead immediately to the relief of the heavy burdens of armaments now weighing upon the peoples of the world, and thus, by facilitating the work of the League of Nations upon disarmament, may lead to a general Disarmament Conference, which will deal with these problems in even a more comprehensive manner. I shall follow your deliberations with the closest interest and attention."

The Chairman Elected.

FOLLOWED a silence while His Majesty left the Gallery of the House of Lords, after which the Conference proceeded with its business.



HIS MAJESTY THE KING.



RT. HON. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD.

"It has been prophesied that some day we would be able to sit in our homes in New Zealand and hear the King speaking in London. This is no longer a prophecy," commented the general manager of the Broadcasting Company, referring to the success of the rebroadcast the previous evening.

"Last night, from 11 o'clock, New Zealand listened to His Majesty King George V, speaking from the Royal Gallery on the occasion of the opening of the Naval Conference in London, also to speeches of delegates of the five Powers represented, and presided over by the Prime Minister of Great Britain, the Rt. Hon. J. Ramsay MacDonald, broadcast by G5SW, Chelmsford, and rebroadcast by the radio broadcasting stations at Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin. The

speeches were strong and clear.

"The speech of the Hon. T. M. Wilford came through 3YA, Christchurch, particularly clearly, and every word was heard without the slightest distortion, or difficulty in hearing. At the conclusion of the relay the announcer at G5SW spoke from the station, and his announcements were just as clear and distinct as if he were speaking from the studio at the New Zealand end, instead of 11,000 miles away. The speeches were followed by some musical items relayed from the Piccadilly Hotel, and these were also received with great clarity until the station closed down.

"The broadcast, which we understand was made per medium of the new transmitter at the Chelmsford