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—AND—

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WHAT RADIO MEANS TO THE EMPIRE.

LAST week we had a glimpse of the telephone service to England.

Its distinct success, although too much cannot be placed upon this achievement, has led us to expect that in the very near future a commercial telephone service will operate between ourselves and Great Britain, taking in of course Australia and probably Canada. It is likely, too, that in a very few months a telephonic service will be available to the principal European countries and the United States. To anyone who has followed the very rapid development of the trans-Atlantic service, it has been evident that such a service must eventually link ourselves with the rest of the world. Furthermore we understand that when the service is open to the public the rate will not be very high. Such factors as the time difference must always largely enter into the practicability of such a service and atmospheric conditions may cause trouble for quite a long time yet. Eventually they must be overcome. In the trans-Atlantic service the voices are garbled beyond recognition when they go on the air, and the only instrument that can straighten them is the official receiver at the other end. This must ultimately be resorted to on our service, for it is the only sure means of maintaining secrecy. However, it is too early to discuss the technical arrangements of the new service as until it is definitely open little information can be had.

EMPIRE broadcasting, like the wireless telephone, must come. The last time we raised the question the suggestion had been turned down definitely by the Imperial Conference on the grounds of technical and financial difficulties. At the same time we were able to

publish an article which searchingly questioned the technical aspect of the refusal. From English publications just to hand it appears that they, too, discountenance the technical aspect and turn attention to the finance. In a nutshell, the position is that the British Government does not want to handicap its listeners with the expenses of a station that will be of use mainly to the Dominions. Though its value is being strongly testified to by such men as Sir John Reith, chairman of the British Broadcasting Corporation, it is felt, naturally enough, that the Dominions should share the expenses of the project. In fact, the B.B.C. unanimously supported the project when it was due to come before the conference. It was expected that something should be done. But it wasn't.

It appears that prior to the conference the British authorities asked Australia what measure of financial support she was prepared to bear. The amount mentioned was too small, and at that the matter rests. Everyone seems to be confident that matters will right themselves and that time will see the establishment of a worthy Empire broadcasting station; everyone agrees that it will be one of the greatest Bonds of Empire possible; yet no one seems to be doing anything. A small country like Holland has provided an excellent service for not only its colonies but all the world. They even provide an announcer who speaks in seven languages, and yet the greatest Empire the world has known hesitates. Perhaps we shall have to wait for private enterprise to show the way.

Dutch Radio Upheaval

Listeners Demand Their Rights

A MONSTER demonstration by radio enthusiasts to demand their rights took place at The Hague on September 6 last. Dutch programmes are run by five associations, and the hours of their respective broadcasts have been determined by the Minister of Public Works. The strongest of these associations is an organisation known as the Radio Association, a group of wireless enthusiasts without religious or political tendencies, their weekly organ, "The Radio Messenger," having a circulation of 230,000.

Holland is a country of multiple religious sects and innumerable political groups. The Governor of The Hague is strongly influenced by religious inclinations, and a new statute passed on May 15, which came into operation on July 1 last, introduced a new broadcasting time-table. The three religious associations who transmit programmes under this time-table are favoured to the detriment of the other two, one being the Radio Association. Although this organisation is the most powerful, its hours of broadcasting were cut to within half of the time permitted before the new statute. Listeners would not have been so perturbed had not the programmes suffered by the change, but in place of the popular concerts and classical music supplied by the Radio Association, an unbroken series of religious lectures and services were put on the air by the favoured three.

Dissatisfaction grew, and letters of indignation were received from all over Europe, one coming even from India. A petition was submitted on September 1 to the Queen containing 460,000 signatures of persons over the age of 18 years. Then a leaflet was circulated, calling upon 50,000 listeners to form a deputation to The Hague. To the immense surprise of the Radio Association this appeal was answered by 140,000 people. Police could not

Diver Talks to Aviator

Novel Broadcast

THOUSANDS of radio listeners in America were able to tune in recently to a two-way conversation between a diver standing on the floor of the Pacific, off the coast of Los Angeles, and an aviator flying above the ocean. The diver described to the pilot the floor of the ocean, and was himself entertained by the pilot's commentary on the beauties of the ocean.

The novel conversation was picked up by a yacht cruising nearby, and transmitted on short-wave to a powerful station, which in turn relayed the event over a nation-wide broadcasting system.

cope with the overwhelming horde of people and vehicles, bearing flags with a device of concentric circles to represent waves.

The demonstration was a striking illustration of the power of the Radio Association when brought into conflict with the Programme Commission. When the Radio Association and the Socialist Society, contrary to instructions, endeavoured to broadcast international and political conferences, the censor intervened in every case, on one occasion taking drastic action to ensure compliance with its demands. Ultimately the two societies amalgamated in their stand for impartiality in broadcasting, and the struggle still continues.



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