New Zealand and Australia Linked by Telephone

(Continued from Front Page.)

communication first between Australia and England, and latterly between New Zealand and England, had been brought about.

On behalf of the Government, Mr. W. A. Veitch said that the occasion was important, not only as a technical accomplishment, but as a link which made for harmony, peace and good will among the nations of the world. In these days when we were accustomed to scientific achievements we could not fail to be impressed by this last accomplishment. Britain had developed her power because she controlled communications and she was still the greatest nation because she was quick to realise the value of the new scientific link that radio was pro-

"If we looked upon the achievements of our Empire in that light we may well give vent to our imagination as to what such a nation, inspired with such high ideals, may achieve in using the amazing inventions of our scientific and technical inen. We began to-day by sending kindly messages of goodwill to our brothers across the Tasman Sea, and I venture to say that as the years go by, this method of communication, which carries with it

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and New Zealand would be component parts.

From the Parliament Buildings the first official radio telephone conversation took place. It was a Maori greeting from Sir Apirana Ngata followed by a remark that he hoped the Australians could understand Maori. Ransom is away from duty just now, and I am taking his place," said Sir Apirana. "We send you greetings from New Zealand, and we are cognisant of the importance of this occasion and this official opening of com-munication by radiophone. You are munication by radiophone. You are having a hard time over there and so are we, but I think we shall manage Greetings to you. to pull through. good-bye.

Mr. Fenton, Acting-Prime Minister of Australia, returned Sir Apirana's greetings, and remarked that he was equally pleased to be able to take a part in what was probably the most important event that has been celebrated across the Tasman. The two countries had a great deal in common and the telephone link would be a further asset to the promotion of goodwill. He hoped that ministerial visits between the two countries would be more common. Personally he was more common. Personally he was sure he would derive great commercial

the sound of the human voice, will and social benefit from the new serultimately become a great organisa vice. Referring to the hard times in Australia, he said he was quite satisfied that they would pull through satisfactorily. No doubt New Zealanders were doing their best to produce plenty of butter, cheese and lamb and other important products. They were doing that in Australia and were quite sure that everything would be quite normal before long.

To Assist Trade.

MR. E. T. Fisk, managing director of Amalgamated Wireless, speaking from Sydney, sent greetings to New Zealand. New Zealand and Australia, he remarked, were isolated British communities, and it was a great pleasure to take part in the inauguration of a service which would bring them together. It was hoped that the service would assist the trading and commercial interests of the two countries and enhance their social relationship and help the Press. He congratulated the officers of the New Zealand Post and Telegraph Department and expressed friendship and goodwill as between the two outposts of the Empire. In making a resume of the development of telephone wireless he made the point that any telephone user in Australia had facilities for direct conversation with at least 50,000,000 others in Britain, Europe and America.

Mr. Kitto, who represented the Australian Postmaster-General's Department, briefly congratulated Mr. Fisk on the success which attended opening of the service, possible extensions of which in the next few years, in view of the wonderful developments that attended communications within the lifetime of a number of those present, could hardly be visualised to-

The Secretary of the Post and Telegraph Department, Mr. G. McNamara, also spoke over the wireless telephone and expressed the hope that the service would be of the fullest use to both countries.

Mr. A. Gibbs, Chief Telegraph Engineer of the Post and Telegraph Department, talking to Mr. Fisk, said that he was very pleased with the manner in which the apparatus had operated. It had given a first-class ac-

count of itself, and he hoped to extend the system so that 99 per cent. of the world's telephones would be placed at the service of New Zealand subscribers.

Although after these speeches the formalities were at an end, several of the business men present requested that calls be put through for them, and despite the difficulties attendant upon a request of this nature, M. E. H. Lawn, who was in charge of the technical aspect of the telephone, put through the call as though he was putting through a city ring. In one case the head of an organisation was called up in Sydney and when the bell rang answered it as though he was taking an ordinary local call. expressed the greatest surprise when he recognised the voice of his Zealand representative at the other

Another interesting fact in connection with the official opening was that the representatives of the Press who were taking down the speeches_did so through the telephone receiver. They were not supplied with any notes, and those who were present agreed that the reports were remarkably accurate.

The First Call.

THE commercial call, in fact, before the official opening, was made a few minutes after 2 o'clock yesterday, when Mr. A. McCutcheon, the New. Zealand Director of Western Electric Co., spoke to Mr. J. H. Barker, the managing director of the company, who had gone to Sydney to take up a simila position with the Australian Company. Mr. McCutcheon said that he felt it an honour to represent the first commercial house in the Dominion to use the trans-Tasman radiophone service. The conversation might be regarded as expensive costing £1 per minute—but there were times in business when a conversation over such a vast expanse of sea was worth it. He said that he found it necessary to speak loudly and clearly, and no difficulty was experienced in halding the two-way conversation. tainly the voice faded at times, but quickly returned to normal. It seemed inconceivable that he was talking to his principal per medium of the (Concluded on page 5.)

tion which will be used to make friends for the British Empire in all the corners of the earth."

telephone Mr. Veitch said that the dis-

tance between the two countries was the only thing between them. British people were proud of the fact that they could build together and face

common difficulties. The ideals that had inspired the sons of both Aus-tralia and New Zealand in the Great

War would not be forgotten in these

times, and that would be an inspira-

tion to establish a new Britannia on

the Southern Seas, of which Australia

Speaking to Mr. Fisk later by radio

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