

"I'll Tell the World" Says Radio

Canada has contributed more to Radio History and will benefit more from it than any other country.

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THE subject of this article—were I a parson writing to a text—might very well be "I'll tell the world." This slogan probably had no real meaning when it was originated but now it beautifully epitomizes the function of the radio broadcasting station.

At the outset, I may state, without fear of successful contradiction, my belief that more radio history has been made in Canada than in any other country of the world. As part evidence of this, it may be cited that the Marconi Company established and regularly operated the first radio-telephone broadcasting station in North America, which means that it was the first in the whole world. This station was and is still established in Montreal.

One sometimes wonders what was the reason that radio-telephonic broadcasting and all its potentialities lay pigeon-holed for some two years. It appears that it had to await the appreciation of its potentialities by the Press; they in turn, focused upon it the attention of the public and, unfortunately perhaps for Canada, this first took place in the United States.

Importance To Canada

Needless to say, the development of radio broadcasting has a greater significance for Canada than for perhaps any other country in the world and one of the most important results will be that within a few months at least half a million square miles of territory now regarded as isolated, will become an attractive territory to prospective settlers, to whom life would be impossible if they were entirely out of touch with the culture of civilization, which to so many is expressed in terms of news and music.

One needs no imagination to appreciate what the radio broadcast will mean to the farmer and to persons in isolated locations. A case came to my notice only recently where a surveyor left for the Northwest of Canada equipped with a wireless receiver for taking the broadcasted time signals to check his chronometer. He incidentally arranged with a friend having control



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of a broadcasting station, to listen in each night at a stated time for the news headlines and a little music. One can picture this lonely surveyor doing a two-step before his wireless receiver in the presence of a lonely landscape, brightened only by the fire kindled to cook his pork and beans.

The Hall Air-Jet Relay

There has recently been invented an instrument, which was largely developed in Canada, called the Hall Air-Jet Relay. By means of this instrument, in conjunction with the standard Marconi equipment, it is possible to secure a tape record of any telegraph signals which are of sufficient strength to be even indistinctly audible on a telephone receiver. It is capable of recording wireless telegraph messages at a speed much above that at which the messages can be read by ear and I have no doubt that some day it will come to be used in connection with a commercial broadcasting service of which the procedure will probably be as follows:—

At a given time each day, market reports, for instance, will be broadcasted at high speed, and the broadcasting company will lease to subscribers the necessary equipment to enable them to take advantage of the

service. Suppose the broadcast is due at 6.00 p.m. daily. At a minute or two to six, some person at each receiving station will check all the predetermined adjustments and start the tape running. Alternatively, it will be an easy matter to arrange for the automatic starting and stopping of the tape by the transmitting station. The result will be that there will be a visual record of the broadcasted information, which information will be available only to persons equipped with the necessary recorder and can be read at leisure.

Take the case of a farmer; he might be out around his farm when the message was received. For the first few days, he would decipher the message by the aid of his Morse Code Card, but any person may learn to read the Morse Code in about an hour, and consequently the farmer would not need his card after the first few days; moreover, he would be able to file away his tape record for future reference.

Attitude of Public

It is interesting to contemplate the attitude which people in different spheres of activity adopt toward the radio broadcast. They are disposed to regard it with very different feelings according to the way in which they anticipate that it will affect their present business. Newspaper men welcome it and say that it is a valuable adjunct to their business. I was discussing this the other day with two newspaper men, one of whom illustrated his point by saying there was no difference in principle, between broadcasting news headlines by radio, and broadcasting them by means of contents bills, but in the former case a far greater number of persons have their appetites whetted for further details, which they buy the paper to read. Naming a very prominent English politician, he said "supposing tomorrow we broadcasted that so-and-so was assassinated today," when his friend interpolated "and a very nice day for it too."

Telephone companies likewise are not alarmed at the possible effect of the development of the radio-telephone, nor in a general way are the