

## MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

HOUSE OF COMMONS, ROOM 429,

OTTAWA, March 3, 1939.

The special committee on radio broadcasting met at 11 a.m. The chairman, Mr. A. L. Beaubien, presided.

Gentlemen, as Mr. Brockington did not finish his outline yesterday, is it the pleasure of the committee that he should proceed now?

Hon. Mr. LAWSON: Mr. Chairman, before Mr. Brockington proceeds, in order to maintain continuity because he was discussing television yesterday, I assume, Mr. Brockington, that all you had to say yesterday with respect to television relates to wireless television, not to wired television?

L. W. BROCKINGTON, K.C., Chairman of the Board of Governors, recalled.

The WITNESS: May I answer that question at the end? I should like to look up what I said. To some extent I gave information from a memorandum prepared by technical experts, and I should like to check my own memory, sir.

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, when you adjourned yesterday I had just surveyed, as far as I was able to do in the brief time at my disposal, the present position with respect to television. I think I indicated that it was at the moment largely in an experimental stage, and also that it was in a very expensive stage; that the policy of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, while doing nothing to impede scientific research, was to retain for the state, at the moment at least and probably always, the franchise for television. I also stated yesterday that after consultation with the BBC on a former occasion and with officials of American radio stations on a recent occasion, we have felt it was the part of wisdom for Canada, enjoying as it does a favourable position between two rich English-speaking civilizations, to found its policy for the moment upon the determination to reap the results of the experience of the United States and of England rather than to share the costs of their experiments.

I now propose to deal with facsimile. Facsimile may be briefly described as the transmission by means of radio of any printed matter, either reading or pictorial in form. A transmitter, known as a "scanner" can be installed in the ordinary medium-wave radio station. This scanner, as far as I understand it,—I just saw one the other day in New York—is an apparatus by which reading matter, photographs, pictures, and so on, are broadcast by means of light. The waves radiated by the scanner are received through a special device attached to the ordinary household radio set which prints a small size newspaper with photographs as well as reading matter. The apparatus looks a little like a small typewriting machine, and it has pens and ink and special paper. The transmission of facsimile cannot take place over the station while it is broadcasting sound, but the newspaper can be broadcast after the station ceases its regular sound broadcast. Unlike television, facsimile is capable of being transmitted over networks. When I was in the United States the other day I was told that they had just successfully concluded an experiment by which facsimile broadcasting had been completed over a network of five thousand miles. By giving the facsimile service in the early morning hours on existing sound transmitters, the service areas would be identical with those now obtained for regular sound programs. A small number of broadcast stations in the United States,