

RADIO

By Tykler Koyle

The Radiophone or wireless telephone is a development of wireless telegraphy. Wireless telegraphy or "wireless," as it is commonly called, has been in commercial use for over twenty years. By the way, it is just twenty years since Marconi first succeeded in bridging the Atlantic Ocean, by keeping in continuous telegraphic communication with land, during a voyage from England to America.

Wireless telegraphy, being intelligible only to those persons versed in the mysteries of dots and dashes, did not appeal to the popular fancy, as did the more recent development the wireless telephone, which carries sounds understandable by all.

For many years experiments were conducted with the idea of transmitting sounds without the use of wires, and these ultimately ended in success, so that, during the Great War, a system was completed whereby pilots of airplanes could be communicated with while they were flying.

After the armistice a number of far-sighted and enterprising firms, visualizing the possibilities of this new invention, commenced broadcasting stations in England and America. The venture proved an immediate success, and from this small beginning, and within the space of four years, a tremendous business has resulted.

The first audience to listen in, was mainly composed of amateur wireless telegraphists. Imagine the thrill these amateurs would receive when first listening to the sound of voice and music over their instruments, from which they had previously only been accustomed to hear the monotonous tick tick or buzz buzz of the unmusical Morse code.

Even if there were in the first Radio audiences those who considered music as "Of all noises the least objectionable," they must have appreciated the change.

That small band of listeners in has grown until today Radiophans are counted by their hundreds of thousands, and the numbers are increasing rapidly.

One of the chief factors in accounting for this remarkable growth with its attendant tremendous business, is the regular service given by Broadcasting stations, approximately 700 sending out stations being located in U.S.A. and Canada alone. Nearly all countries of the world now have their own stations broadcasting entertainment and instruction, including concerts, dance music, lectures, church services, market, stock and weather reports, news items, description of games, etc. All this may be received by the owner of a Radiophone by simply turning a couple of knobs on the outside of a simple looking box, and on a good evening, he may pick up say twenty stations up to 1000 miles or more away.

Such results may be obtained in any home, if one is so blessed, almost wherever people are located on this planet.

Enthusiasts particularly interested in long distance reception, are recommended to join the many Radiophans who have been straining their organs of hearing recently in an effort to be first to obtain "A Message from Mars."

Maybe "Mars" as "the God of War" will first communicate to a mortal in his own profession. Mr. Grundley-Mathews, the inventor of the Death Rays, should keep his Radio set in good order, so that he will not be found with run down batteries when the "Message" comes!

PORTABLE SETS

Holidaymakers, this year, more than at any previous time, have been fortunate in being able to add to the delights of a vacation by including a Portable Radiophone with their camping outfit.

Receiving sets, made to resemble a small suit case, which are self-contained, and immediately ready for use are a great source of enjoyment for those taking boating or motoring trips far away from home, and unlike many holiday things which have to be discarded on completion of the trip, this

type of Radiophone can be used as a permanent piece of apparatus all the year round. The owner will also find many ways in which a set of this handy type can be made use of, such as entertaining a party down on the beach, taking music to the room of a sick friend, etc.

RADIO PLAYS

The British Broadcasting Co., through The London Play Co., 51 Piccadilly, London, N. 1., offers a prize of \$220 for the best play written especially for Radio Broadcasting purposes. The writer is to surrender all Broadcasting rights to the B. B. Co. for one year. If at the end of that time the play is still being broadcast from any one of the B. B. Co.'s stations the author will receive a royalty of \$10 per performance until it stops.

The contest is open to all.

The British Government are at present building a large Radio station at Rugby, England, and purpose attempting a regular two-way telephone service with New York. This station will be the largest in the world. The aerial is one and one half miles long and is supported on twelve tremendous steel towers, each one over 800 feet high, and weighing over 300 tons. Inside these enormous masts, elevators will run, to carry materials and men required for the repairs and maintenance of these great structures.

The French Government have appropriated a large sum to commence courses of "Radio Construction and Theory" in the public schools.

"Dry News from Across the Herring Pond"

A program was being broadcast from New York and a couple of English fans trying hard to hear it. Only one song got through, it was "Drink to Me Only with Thine Eyes."

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