

plete the hook-up, and it is through these stations that messages from the out-posts at the top of the world reach their designations in the outside world. After the Polar Net is completed, the various stations call each other for "rag-chews", and pass the evening talking of conditions in their own settlements, the weather and many other subjects of interest to the northerners.

A good communications receiver suitable for most amateur radio work, costs from \$200 up, depending on available funds. This receiver should have a calibrated band spread for each of the popular amateur bands, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 11-10 meters. The B.F.O. (beat frequency oscillator) control is useful for reading single side band and C.W. signals not normally intelligible on receivers without this type of control. An "S" meter, another useful article on a communications receiver is used to tell the relative strength of received signals by calibration on a dial.

Transmitter prices vary depending on many circumstances. Some "hams" prefer to buy and "scrounge" parts and build their own equipment. Others buy kits and assemble them, while some prefer to purchase factory assembled equipment. The size or power of a transmitter is another price factor, but perhaps a fair estimate would be between \$50 and \$300, with power rated between 50 and 250 watts, approximately.

Anyone interested in "ham" radio would do well to consider the purchase of the book entitled "The Radio Amateur's Handbook"\*. This volume contains a wealth of information related to amateur radio and is commonly referred to as the "ham's" bible.

To qualify for an Amateur Radio licence, the enthusiast should be capable of sending and receiving at least ten words per minute in international Morse code (for the first year), 15 words per minute (for the second year) and able to use phone in the second year and have a general knowledge of the radio equipment in use. The budding "ham" should visit other "hams" if possible, to learn procedure and acquire the language in common usage. He will be required to pass an examination set by the Department of Transport and pay a small annual fee for his licence. Further information in this regard can be obtained from the Director, Telecommunications Branch, Department of Transport, Ottawa, or regional offices throughout the country.

From July 26, 1954 to Oct. 27, 1955, a check of the log of station VE80B at Cambridge Bay reveals over 1,000 contacts with other stations, including points throughout Europe, South America, North America and Asia. One hundred and thirty messages were also handled during this time, to and from the stations in the North. This is by no means a record, but does indicate the interest

\*Published annually by the American Radio Relay League, and available in book stores and book departments of most of the larger department stores.



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