

In December, 1901, Mr. Marconi carried out his historic experiment of transmitting the first wireless signals across the Atlantic and, meeting with opposition from the cable interests who enjoyed a monopoly of communication in Newfoundland, he was encouraged to continue these experiments in Canada. A site at Table Head, Glace Bay, Cape Breton island, was placed at his disposal by the Dominion Coal Company, and negotiations were entered into with the Dominion Government for a subsidy to assist in establishing the transatlantic station. As a result of the negotiations, an agreement was entered into whereby his company was subsidized to the extent of \$80,000 and work on construction of the station was immediately placed in hand. The station was completed and the first transatlantic message from the American Continent to Europe was transmitted by the station on Mar. 30, 1903, to the *London Times*. In October, 1907, the station was brought into commercial operation, and a limited service inaugurated with a corresponding station operated by the English Marconi Co. at Clifden, Ireland. Full commercial service went into effect on Feb. 3, 1908. In 1926, following the development of Marconi's short-wave beam system, a complete new transatlantic station on the new system was established at Drummondville, P.Q., and on Oct. 26, 1926, the Glace Bay transatlantic station was closed down and taken over by that at Drummondville.

The present coast station system of 65 stations consists of three chains—one extending from Vancouver to Prince Rupert on the Pacific, another from Port Arthur to the Atlantic ocean in the east, and the third from Port Churchill to Resolution island at the entrance to the Hudson strait. The Great Lakes' coast stations connect with those of the east coast, which, in turn, connect with the Hudson Bay route chain. There is no direct radio connection between the Great Lakes and the Pacific Coast chains.

Of the above stations, 17 on the east coast and Great Lakes are operated by the Canadian Marconi Co. under contract to the Department, and the balance of 48 on the east coast, west coast and Hudson bay and strait are operated directly by the Department. Twice daily, at advertised hours, a number of these stations broadcast messages to shipping containing such important information as weather forecasts, storm warnings, reports in connection with floating derelicts, ice and other dangers to navigation. In the interests of navigators, to whom accurate time is essential in computing observations on celestial bodies, three Canadian coast stations—two on the west coast and one on the east coast—transmit time signals at advertised hours daily.

On the east coast, a comprehensive radiotelephone service to fishermen is in operation in which Louisburg, VAS, Halifax Lightship, VGX, and the C.G.S. *Arras*, CGFD (during the summer months) participate. The messages broadcast twice daily include weather forecasts, storm warnings, a synopsis of information in regard to the market prices of fish, the amount of bait available at various points, and any other outstanding item of interest to fishermen generally. Station CFBO, Saint John, N.B., also broadcasts weather forecasts for fishermen by voice twice daily. The transmissions from this network of stations provide reception at any point on the Atlantic seaboard as well as on the banks fished by Canadian vessels.