

The report of the committee, which was unanimous, was adopted without opposition in the House of Commons and a bill based upon it was introduced by the Prime Minister at the same session of Parliament. The Canadian Radio Broadcasting Act, 1932, was passed without opposition, and provided for the appointment of a commission as proposed by the committee and vested certain powers in the commission, some of which powers were subject to the approval of the Governor in Council, and some to the approval of Parliament.

Under authority of this Act, a commission of three members was appointed in the autumn of 1932, the personnel being Hector Charlesworth, Chairman; Thomas Maher, Vice-Chairman, and Lieut.-Col. W. Arthur Steel, Commissioner. The chairman and the vice-chairman took office on Dec. 1, 1932, but, owing to absence in Europe at the International Radio Conference at Madrid, Colonel Steel did not assume office until the middle of January, 1933.

Although the commission was not formally established in office and had hardly commenced the creation of its organization, it took charge of Canada's part in the first intra-Empire broadcast arranged by the British Broadcasting Corporation for Christmas Day, 1932, in which all the principal parts of the Empire exchanged greetings and received a message from His Majesty to his subjects throughout the world. This ambitious enterprise was carried out with complete success.

Without the use of transcontinental transmission wires and broadcasting stations, the commission could not at the outset engage in national broadcasting on a substantial scale. Pending the conclusion of negotiations for the leasing of wires and arrangements for the broadcasting of commission programs by commercial stations, the commission endeavoured to augment the existing broadcasting service by providing occasional broadcasting programs of a national character through temporary arrangements with wire companies and commercial broadcasting stations. Commencing with two programs a week, by May 1, 1933, it was broadcasting national programs on a trans-Canada network seven days a week, each of these programs being one hour long. At that time negotiations for the use and control of transcontinental wires for a fixed period of several hours each day and for the regular broadcasting of commission programs by commercial stations were approaching conclusion. These arrangements were designed to enable the commission to broadcast nationally and regionally for some hours every day, its operations in this connection being restricted by the amount of money available for its purposes. In April, 1933, the commission had secured the nucleus of a national network of stations of its own by taking over and operating the three stations of the Canadian National Railways at Moncton, Ottawa, and Vancouver. Subject to its finances permitting, it planned to commence during the year the construction of one or two high-power stations in Western Canada. In the meantime the commission began to discharge other functions assigned to it by Parliament, including the application of the statutory provision for the restriction of the advertising content of all commercial programs. At the parliamentary session of 1933 the Act creating the commission was amended to remove certain restrictions on the commission in regard to the selection of the personnel of its organization and to provide that it might function in certain respects with the approval of the Governor in Council instead of the approval of Parliament.