

Section 3.—The Canadian Radio Broadcasting Commission.*

During 1935, the third year of its operations, the Canadian Radio Broadcasting Commission substantially extended and improved the national broadcasting service which was established in 1933. The amount of daily broadcasting was considerably increased, coverage in various parts of the country was enlarged by the addition of new broadcasting stations to the Commission's networks, and the scope of the service was extended, especially by the daily broadcasting of programs from Great Britain. Network operation was increased from 4½ hours to 6 hours daily on week days and Sunday operations extended to 9 hours. With allowance made for the difference in time zones, this increase meant that the Commission was broadcasting continuously between 5.30 p.m. in the East and 1.30 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, on the Pacific coast. During part of this period the broadcasting is on a coast-to-coast network and during other parts it is on regional networks. The Commission's system of wire networks extends from Sydney, N.S., to Vancouver. It is linked with 58 stations, of which 3 are short-wave stations, the remainder being stations on the regular broadcast band. Of these stations 28 are known as basic stations being either stations operated by the Commission itself or commercial stations from which the Commission purchases broadcasting time for the carrying of its programs. The other stations on the networks have the privilege of using Commission programs when it is convenient for them to do so, and do use them when their broadcasting time is not occupied with commercial programs. The Commission itself now operates stations at Chicoutimi, Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Windsor and Vancouver.

An important development during the year was the gradual filling of gaps in coverage. A large section of southwestern Ontario, which formerly did not receive the national broadcasting service through lack of facilities, is now receiving it from a new station at Windsor operated by the Commission itself. A new commercial station at Sudbury is serving a wide area in northern Ontario where Commission broadcasting was formerly not satisfactorily received. Another section in northern Ontario is receiving the Commission's service through new or improved stations at Kirkland Lake and Timmins. The Commission had hoped to commence during the year the carrying out of a construction plan which would have included new high-power broadcasting stations at various points, but action had to be deferred owing to lack of financial provision.

Another important step taken by the Commission in 1935 was that of the establishment at Ottawa of a powerful short-wave receiving station for the reception of overseas programs to be supplied to listeners on the networks. Formerly the Commission had to secure programs from overseas by commercial radiotelephone. The new station enables it to secure direct reception. The equipment, a late development of the Canadian Marconi Co., is so designed as to overcome the difficulties commonly encountered in ordinary short-wave reception. By means of a duplicate antenna system, "fading", one of the major handicaps of short-wave receiving, is largely eliminated. Programs from Great Britain, received at this station during the hours of network operation, are transferred by wire to the studios in Ottawa and there placed on the network wires for stations throughout the country. Programs received at other times may be recorded by the blattnerphone magnetic process and rebroadcast on the networks at any suitable time.

* Supplied by Hector Charlesworth, Esq., Chairman, Radio Broadcasting Commission.