

Subsection 2.—Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.*

National radio broadcasting in Canada, which was inaugurated under Act of Parliament towards the end of 1932, entered a second phase on Nov. 2, 1936. On that date the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation replaced the Canadian Radio Broadcasting Commission. This change followed repeal by Parliament at the session of 1936 of the Canadian Radio Broadcasting Act of 1932 under which the former Commission held office. The new Act which replaced it provided that the national broadcasting system should be operated by a corporation to be known as the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, consisting of a Board of Governors and a General Manager and Assistant General Manager. The new Act gave the Corporation much wider powers in the operation of the system than those which had been enjoyed by the former Commission. It was modelled very largely along the lines of the Act governing the British Broadcasting Corporation in Great Britain. It was provided that the Corporation should have the full use of the revenue from receiver licences and that it could borrow from the Government sums not exceeding \$500,000, interest and amortization charges on such loans to be a first charge on the Corporation's revenues.

In line with recommendations of a Parliamentary Committee which had investigated the broadcasting situation during the session of 1936, the Act included definite stipulations covering political broadcasts. It prohibited such broadcasts in dramatized form, required full sponsorship of all political broadcasts, prohibited political broadcasts on election day or during the two days immediately preceding election day, reposed in the Corporation responsibility for the limitation and distribution of time for political broadcasts.

Under the new Act control of certain technical matters reverted to the Minister of Transport, to be exercised through the Radio Division of the Department. Among these matters were the licensing of broadcasting stations, assignment of wavelengths and power of stations. It was provided, however, that there should be co-operation between the Minister and Corporation in these matters so that the location and organization of private stations should be such as to permit of the efficient absorption of them into the national system.

Subsequent to the passing of the Act, the Government appointed the Board of Governors and, upon the recommendation of the latter, a General Manager and an Assistant General Manager. All these appointments became effective on Nov. 2, 1936, when the new Act came into force, and the Corporation immediately took over control of the system.

Shortly after taking office the Corporation undertook two important surveys, one a technical survey having to do with the problem of broadcast coverage, and the other a program survey aimed at improvement in the character and quality of Canadian broadcasting.

In February, 1937, the Corporation completed and put into operation a new broadcasting station at Vancouver. This station was provided with power of 5,000 watts and was designed to improve coverage in British Columbia. It was announced that the Corporation planned to establish a powerful short-wave station capable of transmitting Canadian programs to other countries. The aim is to make radio broadcasting in Canada a cementing and reconciling force in the national life. The Corporation endeavours to bring to Canadian listeners the best programs available from other countries and to have its own broadcasting reflect the distinctive character of Canadian life.

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