



OFFICERS OF THE RADIO MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION

Recently organized in Chicago. The association was formed for the purpose of "improving and stabilizing the industry" and more than one hundred million dollars of capital is represented. H. H. Frost, President, is in the center, Frank Reichmann, Vice President, at the left, and A. J. Carter, Secretary, at the right

as 0.005 inch in diameter, so we can say that the piece of wire would have to be cut to the right length to within one tenth of the diameter of a red hair!

Pretty difficult to carry out, you will admit, yet this percentage of error allowed is the same as that within which the radio station keeps when the Bureau of Standards specifies that its frequency is as accurate as they find it for WBZ.

The engineers of the Western Electric Company talk nonchalantly of measuring the frequency of a radio station to within 0.01 per cent., and are actually making measurements to within 0.001 per cent. with only a small probable error! Sometime in the future a note on this remarkable achievement will be included in these columns, as this work surely is indicative of the March of Radio.

Pershing's Farewell Address

FEATS of broadcasting occur so often these days that their recording excites but passing interest. When broadcasting began, the charmed and thoroughly interested listeners were content to marvel at the mystery that allowed them to sit in the fastness of their own libraries and hear the voice of a distant singer or speaker. But now, and broadcasting is still young, the world's folk have accepted radio in the sense of broadcasting, and made it a part of their daily lives. If one were inclined to doubt that, a little more than casual glance at the daily newspaper would convince him how true this is. When cartoonists are using radio loud speakers and variously labelling them "Loud Politician," "Public Appeal," and the other tags so dear to the cartoonist, and newspaper humorists

phrase their daily fun in radio terms, they are truly reflecting the thought of the times.

So when John J. Pershing, the retiring General of the United States Army, made his farewell speech on September 12th from eighteen broadcasting stations, fairly blanketing the nation with his voice, there were probably not many who listened who marvelled at the event. Stations from New York to California, and from Illinois to Texas were linked together by the wire lines of the Bell system to a microphone in the office of Secretary of War Weeks, where the ceremonies took place. There is probably not a town in the United States where the signals did not penetrate.

When Washington made his farewell to that handful of officers and men gathered at Rocky Point, New Jersey, in 1783, his voice was heard by that scattering few only. But now, the retiring General of our Army speaks to the Nation.

The linkage of these stations was a feature of the much-discussed National Defense Day and has furnished an excellent example of the service broadcasting may be to the Nation in time of national need. One wonders if the country would have been more deeply and perhaps quickly influenced in 1917, could they have heard Woodrow Wilson give his famous message to Congress, urging it to declare a state of war against Germany. It is certain, anyhow, that through radio broadcasting, the whole Nation can be linked to Washington, and brought into the very halls of government when necessity arrives.

We think it a bit unfortunate that the radio amateurs were not given an opportunity to show what they could do. The American Radio Relay League is now so well organized, and has so many expert member-stations,



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THOMAS EDISON

—Inventor; East Orange, New Jersey—

"There is not much in the radio being used for political campaigns this year. People like jazz music; they like to hear about contests such as the Democratic Convention, but to sit and hear a political speech—I'll tell you a story.

"A reformer went to Sing Sing to deliver a reform talk to the prisoners. He started in with that reform talk, you know, and kept up talking and talking until he had them all bored to death. He talked for an hour, and then some one—a colored man—let out a yell. A guard hit him over the head and knocked him senseless. When he came to in about an hour, the reformer was still talking. The man called the guard and said: 'Hit me again, boss, I can still hear it.'"

most of which are efficiently run and well equipped, that the organization should have been recognized in the same fashion as have the broadcasters.

Censorship in Radio Broadcasting

THE suggestion that the broadcasting stations of the Radio Corporation are censored, with all the sinister thoughts that such an idea arouses, soon drew an emphatic denial. The statement was made in

one of the newspapers that "Officials of the Radio Corporation of America explained that it was their custom to require written copies of proposed radio addresses in advance of delivery, and to forbid any utterance that they considered unsuitable for transmission."

The next day, the President of the Corporation, General Harbord, wrote a letter to the paper in question stating that "it is not at all the policy of the RCA to censor the political speeches of the accredited political representatives in the coming elections." He further states that "when we have asked for an advance copy of a scheduled broadcast speech it has been when the subject was of a commercial nature, or other than political, and with one of the ends in view, either when it was desired to give advance publicity to the speech or when it was desirable to make certain that the speech was of a nature at once acceptable to the listening public."

Shall Prisoners Have Radio?

THE day has gone by when prisoners are hung up by the thumb or stretched on the rack periodically to convince them that the way of the law is best. We nowadays see to it that prisoners have light and fresh air—two of life's necessities without which any human being is soon transformed into a society-hating beast. Theoretically, any influence which will instill into the prisoner's mind the idea that law breaking doesn't pay, that the life of unharried freedom outside the prison walls is the only one worth while, should not only be allowed in the prison but should be incorporated as part of its regular régime.

What then about radio sets being allowed in prison cells? The contact with the outside world which radio makes possible for the prisoner cannot do him any harm, the social reformers say, and may do him some good.

A recent letter to us suggests that we express an opinion on the use of radio in prison. Having the normal amount of sympathy for the fellow who has been unfortunate enough to break the law and get caught (there are many law breakers who are not caught) one's natural reaction is to say, "Surely, let radio do its bit to make the prison life a little brighter." About the time we reached this conclusion, along came an announcement from the warden of the Pennsylvania State Penitentiary that a prisoner who had been allowed to have a radio set in his cell had been receiving code messages from one of his pals on the outside