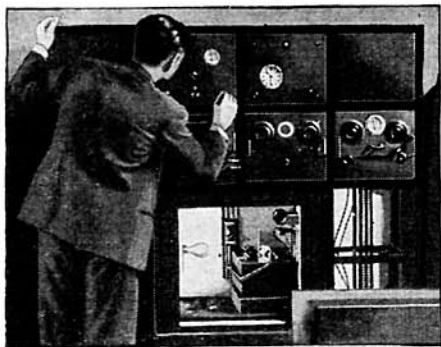


The RADIO MONTH in

EUROPE RE-TUNES

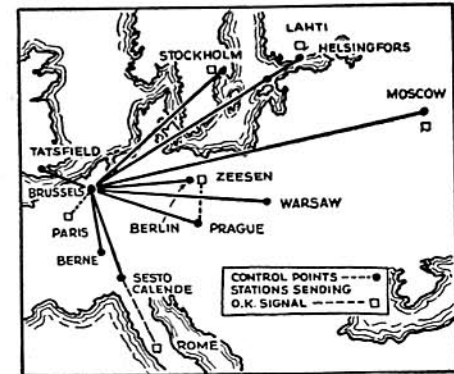


BRUSSELS' MASTER WAVEMETER
Bitter experience showed that central control was needed.

TO avoid a repetition of the chaos that followed the inauguration of the Prague Plan six years ago in Europe, the *Union Internationale de Radiodiffusion* has devised an elaborate scheme to effect a smooth change-over to the Lucerne Plan, on the fourteenth and fifteenth of this month (January). Apparently Europe has patched up at least a few of the differences brought out at the recent meeting at Amsterdam (*RADIO-CRAFT*, January 1934, page 391).

All Europe's stations will cease transmission at or before 11 P.M., G.M.T., on January fourteenth. Then, one by one, according to special schedules the stations will resume broadcasting on their new wavelengths. The accuracy of the re-tuning will be checked systematically by one of the 7 official control points.

At these points, special, accurate wavemeters will be used to check the stations within their individual groups. These seven points are: Brussels, Ber-



THE NETWORK FOR RE-TUNING EUROPE
To avoid the chaos which followed the Prague Plan.

lin, Prague, Helsinki (Sweden), Mojaisk (U. S. S. R.), Sesto Calenda (Italy), and Stockholm. The stations in the Brussels category are shown in the map below.

It may be wondered why each station does not change its wavelength according to its own wavemeter. However, bitter experience following the Prague Plan showed that much more rigid control was necessary. It appears that the wavemeters in the majority of European broadcast stations were of doubtful veracity.

JIMMY WALLINGTON WINS DICTION AWARD

AS Walt Winchell might say—an orchid to blue-eyed Jimmy Wallington who takes his place alongside Milton Cross, Alwyn Bach, John Holbrook and David Ross as the winner of the metal awarded each year for "good diction on the radio" by the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Six-foot Jimmy came into prominence during the stay of the first Byrd expedition at Little America, when he acted as announcer to the special programs broadcast to Antarctica. Later, he achieved some success as a commentator at broadcasts of special events—and then came Eddie Cantor.



JIMMY WALLINGTON'S NEW MEDAL
Cantor's "straight man" annexes this year's diction award.

As "straight man" for the Cantor programs, Jimmy came into the full glare of the "lime light" and apparently he has come out with colors flying.

While we have no wish to "put a wet blanket" on friend Jimmy's achievement, it is strikingly evident that the selection of the "best" announcer is made entirely upon the personal opinions of the 60 to 100 judges on the following basis—pronunciation, articulation, tone quality, accent and cultural effort.

Absolutely no effort is made to verify

their selection by scientific methods. There are a number of accurate ways to check the quality of the voice, by waveform analysis, by direct comparison by means of reproducing devices, etc. The editor wonders why, in this day of scientific accuracy, a more reliable system is not chosen by the American Academy of Arts and Letters.



GEORGE F. McCLELLAND
He quit NBC to start his own national chain.

BROADCAST CHAINS GALORE

SINCE the sad demise of the Amalgamated Broadcasting System, Ed Wynn's pride and joy, national networks have been springing up like mushrooms. At least three newcomers in the "network market" with national ambitions have been started.

The first of these projects which has come to our attention, and probably the most promising, is being formed by veteran George F. McClelland, one-time vice-president of NBC. In answer to inquiries at Mr. McClelland's office, the editor was informed that "Broadcasting Stations Corporation" which is the high-faluting name selected by directors of the new chain, does not expect to start full commercial operations until fall.

The second network is a remnant of the "Fire Chief's" chain, and consists of four stations of that late lamented group and one other station, who are starting very inauspiciously by trading programs. Evidently they learned a lesson