

# Radio's Tomorrow

*A Glimpse Into the Future of the Communication and Entertainment Phases of Radio*

"IT is neither wise nor possible to make definite predictions as to what the science of radio holds for the future. And yet, due to organized research and engineering development, it becomes possible to see hints which enable us to speak of the probable achievements of a decade or two hence with much the same security that the artillery officer, knowing how his gun is aimed, can discuss the remote, invisible target which he has every assurance he will hit.

"For one thing, it appears to be only a question of time before the multitudinous problems of television must be solved and we may enjoy 'seeing' as well as 'hearing' the events of the world at our firesides. Another outstanding development of the next twenty years will undoubtedly be the availability of home talking movies.

"On the commercial side, we will assuredly witness a vast expansion in radio circuits and traffic volume. The steadily increasing exploitation of short waves, particularly the virgin field of ultra-short waves, must provide many more channels than are now at our disposal. It is quite possible that new methods of wave propagation and reception may provide additional channels even among existing wave bands, together with still greater freedom from static and natural interferences. With increased communication channels we may expect radiogram service to all parts of the world, even to the smallest countries and farthest corners not now covered because of the husbanding of valuable radio channels for the more important traffic. If the present trend in facsimile transmission and reception continues its steady progress, it is likely that the time-honored telegraph operator with his cumbersome dots and dashes will disappear by 1950. We may expect all radio messages to be handled in their original hand-written or typewritten form without recourse to the curt words of the present radiogram and without the delays and complications of the coding and decoding process of telegraphy. Photographs, drawings, fingerprints, commercial documents and other items will be flashed across the continents and oceans as a matter of hourly routine. It is even possible that newspapers may be reproduced in their entirety in any part of the world.

"Radio telephony, as a public or toll service, is also certain to thrive. Today, the American telephone subscriber may speak over the standard telephone instrument to a telephone subscriber in almost any European country via the respective telephone systems and the transoceanic telephone link. Experiments with short-wave radio telephone links may point the way to a vast increase in the number of available channels, in which event the service must ultimately extend to many



Courtesy of Radio Corporation of America

## MAJOR GENERAL JAMES G. HARBORD *President, Radio Corporation of America*

*Since shortly after the World War General Harbord has been at the head of the R. C. A. directing its many diversified activities. Only recently his organization has obtained an allocation of short-wave channels for inter-point communication within the United States. Besides actively engaging in the communication field which takes in marine and land radio, the R. C. A. is maintaining the operation of broadcasting stations for entertainment, the sale of radio receivers, tubes and reproducers and the development of practical television.*

parts of the world and become relatively commonplace in business and social life.

"In the broadcasting field, international exchanges of programs seem to be assured within a short period of time.

Truly, one may look for advances in all branches of radio science, with progress continuing the even tenor of its way."—Maj. Gen. James G. Harbord, President, Radio Corporation of America.