



THE CAPITAL CITY VIEWED FROM ONE OF THE CROSS-ARMS AT WRC

A New Station at Washington, D. C.

A Description of WRC and its Meaning to the Capital

By PIERRE BOUCHERON

ON AUGUST 1st there was dedicated to the American public at Washington, D. C. another link of the great chain of broadcasting stations of the Radio Corporation of America. WRC has fittingly enough been named by its sponsors "The Voice of the Capital." To every corner of the United States, this powerful station may carry the words of great men in political and diplomatic life, the progress of world events as they transpire, and the music of our nation as well as of other nations rendered by visiting musicians. This station provides an instantaneous link between the country's political centre and the American home. A better understanding of government, of the issues involved in political campaigns, and of the questions which arise in our relations with foreign countries, cannot fail to result from its operation.

There is a wealth of material available in Washington from which to make the programs of WRC most enjoyable and educational. At once it is possible that the ceremonies accompanying the dedication of memorials to great Americans, the features of the many conventions held in this city, and the spiritual counsel of the clergy may be carried to the transmitter and sent forth so that the whole country may hear and appreciate them.

Momentous events, of interest to the nation, do not, of course, occur every day. The greater part of this station's operating hours will be devoted to the broadcasting of the musical and dramatic talent of Washington and other events of special interest to residents of this city. Washington is rich in both professional and amateur talent and every effort will be made by those in charge to arrange programs so that these local interpreters of music and

drama may be heard from time to time.

LOCATION IDEAL FOR RADIO

THE Riggs National Bank Building, in which both studio and equipment are accommodated, is one of the highest points in the city, with no tall steel structures near by to absorb and influence the waves radiated from the station. The office, studio, and equipment are all on the second floor of the building. Within the studio, which is one of the largest used in America for broadcasting work, all is harmonious, dignified, and restful. The panelled walls are done in old ivory and brown while the windows are draped with heavy hangings of maroon. A feature of the walls, which is not apparent while looking at them, is discovered when one touches the panels. The lightest pressure of the finger will bend them outward. These walls play an important rôle in broadcast transmission. They are made of wax-treated muslin laid over felt and absorb all sound waves not entering the microphone. This acoustically correct construction prevents even the minutest echo which might otherwise blur the clearness necessary to enjoyable entertainment.

"SEEING" THE BROADCASTED VOICE

ALL THE experience and recent improvements which are part of the Broadcast Central, the Radio Corporation's duplex station in New York, are embodied in Station WRC.

An important feature of this station, and one which further assures perfect transmission of programs, is the device known as the oscillograph, by which the operators have before them "a working picture of the voice." This delicate instrument may be switched into any one of the many circuits, and shows, by means of an undulating, ever-varying beam of



THE AERIAL WIRES ARE 150 FEET ABOVE THE STREET LEVEL

And there is nothing in the vicinity of the Riggs Bank Building which can obstruct the radiation of waves from this station

light, exactly how the artist's voice or music is affecting the radio current. By watching this little tell-tale beam, as reflected from revolving mirrors, one knows instantly whether the sound waves are too weak, too great in volume, or blurred.

Broadcasting is a living, vibrant force that has as its chief aim the improvement, both spiritual and intellectual, of mankind. When conducted on such a high plane as this, WRC cannot but thrill the distant listener with a constantly varying entertainment that falls little short of magic. It is the hope of those who conceived and built this great broadcasting plant that "The Voice of the Capital" will always entertain and instruct only with what is for the good and the advancement of the thousands who will nightly tune-in its message.