

Nationally-Owned Radio System for Canada

A GOVERNMENT RADIO SYSTEM for Canada is practically assured. The Canadian House of Commons concurred in the report of the special radio committee on May 11, 1932. The remaining steps to be taken in putting the plan of the committee into effect are looked upon as a mere formality.

The special committee of the House of Commons was appointed on March 2, 1932. The duties assigned to it were—first, to consider the report of the Royal Commission on Radio Broadcasting dated September 11, 1929 and commonly known as the Aird report; second, to advise and recommend a complete technical scheme for radio broadcasting for Canada, so designed as to insure from Canadian sources as complete and satisfactory a service as the present development of radio science will permit; third, to investigate and report upon the most satisfactory agency for carrying out such a scheme, with power to the said committee to send for persons and papers and to examine witnesses, and to report from time to time to this House [of Commons].

The committee appointed consisted of Raymond D. Morand, chairman, W. A. Beynon, P. J. Cardin, W. D. Euler, Onesime Gagnon, E. J. Garland, J. L. Ilsley, R. K. Smith, D. McK. Wright.

The evidence and proceedings growing out of the twenty-seven meetings of the committee are found in a 728-page printed report. Included therein is found the testimony of fifty-six witnesses who appeared in person before the committee. Of this number, Major Gladstone Murray of the British Broadcasting Corporation, explained the operation of the English system, while Joy Elmer Morgan, chairman of The National Committee on Education by Radio, gave a careful analysis of conditions in the United States. All of the other witnesses called by the committee were Canadians. The thoroughness of the Aird investigation made it unnecessary to call others from outside the Dominion.

In addition to the witnesses called, six briefs were submitted and printed directly without the appearance of the witness directly concerned, while forty-six papers were in-

serted as appendices at the end of the record of certain day's proceedings.

The official report of the committee taken from *House of Commons Debates*, Volume LXVIII, Number 64, May 9, 1932, follows in full text:



JOS. F. WRIGHT, director of Station WILL, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, who was recently elected to the presidency of the Association of College and University Broadcasting Stations and who will represent that organization on the National Committee on Education by Radio. He succeeds R. C. Higgy of Ohio State University, who held the position two years.

In accordance with the duties and responsibilities delegated to us, and the terms of reference submitted, your committee met on March 8, and, since that time, held twenty-seven meetings, heard evidence, received briefs and submissions from fifty-three sources, including governments, individuals, corporations, associations, leagues, and clubs.

Your committee was seized, from the inception of the national importance and international character of radio broadcasting, and the evidence submitted has served to further consolidate our opinion of the far-reaching scope and benefits of proper, wellregulated broadcasting services thruout Canada, as a medium of education, thotprovoking development, and fostering of Canadian ideals and culture, entertainment, news service and publicity of this country and its products, and as an auxiliary to religious and educational teaching, also as one of the most efficient mediums for developing a greater national and empire consciousness within the Dominion and the British Commonwealth of nations.

Your committee desires to express at the outset, to the present radio broadcasting stations, this tribute: That they entered as pioneers in a field of service in the art of radio, and, under trying handicaps and sacrifices, worthily kept pace with a science fraught with ever-changing improvements and developments, and rendered this service under handicaps, which is most praiseworthy.

Your committee is convinced, however, that *the present system*, excellent as it is in certain respects, *does not meet the requirements in quality and scope of broadcasting to ensure its maximum benefits.*

Reference No. 1—"To consider the report of the Royal Commission on Radio Broadcasting, dated the 11th day of September, 1929, commonly known as 'The Aird report'."

Your committee was fortunate in having the three members of the Aird commission appear before us to amplify and explain their report, and much valuable information was thereby secured, and, if we are unable to completely accept their findings, it must be obvious that there has been a great change in the science of radio broadcasting, and in the financial condition of the country, in the last three years.

Reference No. 2—"To advise and recommend a complete technical scheme for radio broadcasting for Canada, so designed as to ensure from Canadian sources as complete and satisfactory a service as the present development of radio science will permit."

THE PHILIPPINES, as a relatively isolated country, off by itself, not yet in the grasp of a conscienceless band of private broadcasting corporations, may well determine upon and follow a radio development program of its own—liberal, instructive, entertaining, delightful, and, at times, even beautiful. We need not take all our ideas from the masterminds in the broadcasting game in the United States!—A. V. H. Hartendorp in *Philippine Magazine*, Vol. XXVIII, No. 11, April, 1932, p580.

Your committee recommends a chain of high-power national stations, operating on clear channels, located at suitable intervals, the location to be determined by a careful technical survey of Canada.

Your committee recommends that consideration be given to the use of five 50-kilowatt stations, one in each of the following provinces of Canada, namely, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and in the maritimes, three 500-watt stations, one for each province, or one 50-kilowatt station, as may be determined by the commission. In Saskatchewan and Alberta, we suggest two 5-kilowatt stations in each province, synchronized on a common channel. Further, a 10-kilowatt station in Northern Ontario and one in Western Ontario, a 1-kilowatt station at Port Arthur-Fort William, a 500-watt station in Toronto, and a 1-kilowatt station at, or near, Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec.

Your committee further recommends a number of stations of 100-watt power and under, operating on shared channels, located where required,—

- [a] To serve areas not satisfactorily covered by the national stations.
- [b] For secondary stations in areas where there is a demand for several channels to be in operation at the same time.
- [c] For educational purposes.
- [d] For legitimate experimental work.
- [e] For local broadcasting of community interest.

Your committee further recommends that the cost of radio in Canada be selfsustaining and that only the money available from transmitters' and receivers' license fees and advertising income, be expended, and that the question of the amount of receivers' license fees be left entirely in the hands of the governor in council.

Reference No. 3—"To investigate and report upon the most satisfactory agency for carrying out such a scheme."

Your committee recommends that a commission be appointed, consisting of three adequately paid commissioners: a chairman to hold office for a period of ten years; a vicechairman for a period of nine years, and the third commissioner for a period of eight years.

That there be appointed *an assistant commissioner in each province*, who shall also act as chairman of such provisional or regional advisory program committees as may be formed; the assistant commissioners to be selected in consultation with the governments of their respective provinces.

Your committee further recommends that the commission be vested with the necessary powers to carry on the business of broadcasting in the Dominion of Canada, such powers to extend to the following matters:

- [a] To regulate and control all broadcasting in Canada, including programs and advertising.
- [b] To own, build, and operate transmitting or receiving stations in Canada.
- [c] To acquire by lease, purchase, expropriation or otherwise, any or all existing broadcasting stations.
- [d] To enter into operating agreements with privately-owned stations.
- [e] To originate programs, and secure outside programs by purchase or exchange, and to make the arrangements necessary for their transmission.
- [f] To determine the number, location, and power of all broadcasting stations required in Canada.
- [g] To control the issuing or cancellation of licenses to broadcasting stations.
- [h] To cancel the allotments of channels to any stations, or to make substitution of channels.
- [i] To prohibit the establishment of privately-operated chains of stations in Canada.
- [j] Subject to the approval of the parliament of Canada, to take over all broadcasting in Canada.

[k] To be vested with all other powers necessary or incidental for the fulfillment of the objects of the commission.

Your committee recommends,—

[a] That one of the first duties of the commission be the establishment of trans-Canada chain broadcasting thru the securing of the necessary land-lines as soon as possible.

[b] That a nationally-owned system of radio broadcasting be instituted and that all stations required for its proper organization be eventually acquired, same to be financed from the revenues, accruing to the business of broadcasting, without expense to the taxpayers thru the public treasury.

[c] That all stations, 100-watt and under, not required for the national system, remain under private ownership, but be regulated as to programs and advertising by the rules of the commission.

[d] That all revenues obtained from license fees, sale of advertisement, and other revenues accessory to the business of broadcasting, be used by the commission in the interest of radio.

[e] That advertising be limited to not more than 5 percent of each program period.

[f] That the developing of Canadian art and artists, and the securing of outstanding programs from outside Canada, be encouraged.

[g] That the commission make available to the provinces, when possible, the facilities of national and chain broadcasting.

[h] That the commission make special effort to give such programs as will be acceptable to provincial and local requirements.

[i] That before making changes in Canadian radio broadcasting, the commission make a complete survey of the present system with particular reference to adequate coverage.

We desire to call attention to the extreme importance that the commission should not assume, or even be suspected of assuming, a political complexion. Your committee append hereto a copy of the proceedings and evidence adduced before your committee, for the information of the House.

The technical plan for this national system proposes one 50-kilowatt station in each of the provinces of British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and eventually one in the maritime provinces. In each of the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta it is proposed, for the present, to use two 5-kilowatt stations, synchronized on a common channel. In Ontario, in addition, there will be two 10-kilowatt stations—one in the western part of the province and the other in the northern. Four smaller stations of 1-kilowatt capacity each are provided for the Port Arthur-Fort William area, and for Ottawa, Montreal, and Quebec. There will be one 500-watt station in each of the three maritime provinces. Lastly a 500-watt station on a shared channel is provided for the city of Toronto.

An increase in power up to 50 kilowatts is provided in the case of the stations in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Northern and Western Ontario, should such an increase seem necessary.

For local service, the use of twenty shared channels is planned. In all probability one hundred low-powered stations will eventually be required. The maximum power of each of them will be 100 watts.

The frequencies in kilocycles to be used for the larger stations are: 540, 600, 630, 690, 730, 780, 840, 880, 910, 930, 960, 1030, 1050, 1100, 1120.

Negotiations have already been completed with the United States approving the use of the frequencies proposed.

NOW THAT CANADA HAS DECIDED to own and operate its own radio system, citizens of states along our northern boundary line will be given an excellent opportunity to compare the merits of public versus private radio administration.

North Carolina School Broadcasts

THE STATE DEPARTMENT of public instruction of North Carolina offered an educational radio program the past year for the schools of the state. Its purpose was to provide educational broadcasts for the public schools, designed especially to meet their needs and interests, and to enrich and supplement regular classroom instruction.

Governor O. Max Gardner headed the advisory committee in general charge of the broadcasts. Assisting him were A. T. Allen, state superintendent of public instruction, and Hattie S. Parrott, state supervisor of elementary instruction. A faculty committee supervised specific broadcasts—each member being responsible for a particular subject. Other prominent persons contributed to the program from time to time.

A twelve-weeks' experimental unit inaugurating North Carolina's school broadcasts, began February 23, 1931. Half-hour programs were broadcast every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday between eleven-thirty and twelve o'clock over WPTF, a 1-kilowatt commercial station at Raleigh. The number of schools served was limited to the area in which the signals of this low-power station could be dependably received.

At the end of the experimental period, it was found that over 26,000 in seventy-one schools used the broadcasts. In one city alone six thousand boys and girls listened-in to these radio lessons, while in a single school a total of nine hundred listeners was reported. Many schools, lacking radio equipment, were unable to use the programs, but hoped to receive them when facilities were provided. The principal disadvantage was the large area of the state in which station WPTF could not be heard.

The second unit, which started October fifth, was divided into two sessions of five weeks each. The subjects offered were: current events, geography and travel, nature study, recreational reading, citizenship, here-there-and-home-again, living well, music; in the second: time and topics, art, science, guidance, modern adventure, history, literature, health talks. Each subject occupied fifteen minutes. Programs were broadcast between eleven-thirty and twelve o'clock every schoolday except Friday.

Projects of this kind show what could be done if each state was provided with adequate facilities for reaching its entire population with radio education under responsible authority and without advertising sponsorship.

Should Religion Aid Chains?

THE JOINT RELIGIOUS RADIO COMMISSION announces, through the Federal council, revised plans for national broadcasting. . . . There will be changes in the length of the broadcasts and in the time schedules. These are all matters of method rather than of policy . . . But is it not about time that the Federal council, and the Catholic and Jewish bodies . . . gave some attention to the question of the principle on which religious broadcasting is conducted? *As matters stand, all these programs are concentrated on the chains.* Granted that by this means they are given maximum distribution; by this means they also serve to bolster up the claim of the chains to be a sufficient agency of radio service. And the chains, it must be remembered, seek to support this claim in an effort to maintain American radio as it now is—a commercial enterprise, largely concentrated in the hands of a near-monopoly. *Why need the Federal council put all its radio eggs in the NBC basket? By electrical transcription and by the sponsoring of speakers over other than chain stations it would be easy to keep from any appearance of endorsing the monopoly claim.*—Editorial in the *Christian Century*, Volume XLIX, Number 16, April 20, 1932.

Radio in Saskatchewan

RADIO LESSONS to supplement correspondence work have been tried out in the province of Saskatchewan, Canada. The broadcasts were given each schoolday from October 18 to December 18, 1931 between the hours of 6 and 6:30 P.M. The subjects taught included French, Latin, German, literature, history, and science. The radio instruction was prepared for ninth- and tenth-grade pupils.

This experiment grew out of an educational emergency facing the province. Severe droughts and the low price of farm products made it impossible for thousands of children to attend high school. The educational authorities arranged to correlate the regular correspondence work, in which nearly eleven thousand students are enrolled, with radio lessons. All work in connection with the development of the broadcasts was in the hands of the government educational authorities.

Data collected to date have been favorable to the value of the radio as an aid to correspondence work. Future developments in Saskatchewan will depend on conclusions reached from a study now being made of the results of this experiment.

EDUCATION BY RADIO is published by the National Committee on Education by Radio at 1201 Sixteenth Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C. The members of this Committee and the national groups with which they are associated are as follows:

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Jos. F. Wright, director, radio station WILL, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana, Ill., Association of College and Univ. Broadcasting Stations.

Everyone who receives a copy of this bulletin is invited to send in suggestions and comments. Save the bulletins for reference or pass them on to your local library or to a friend. Education by radio is a pioneering movement. These bulletins are, therefore, valuable. Earlier numbers will be supplied free on request while the supply lasts. Radio is an extension of the home. Let's keep it clean and free.

An Unweeded Garden

THE COMMERCIALIZED RADIO monopoly interests and their publicity representatives talk and write of the advantages of what they call the "American System" of radio broadcasting. There is no American system of broadcasting. There is the exact opposite of a system. Our radio is an unweeded garden of sales talks and mismanagement. America is peculiarly situated—because of her high level of schooling, her vast area, and her great wealth—to develop a system of radio broadcasting infinitely richer in content, more varied, and more powerful than any other country. This task lies ahead. It cannot be done until the Congress of the United States takes the matter in hand and assures to each of the states a radio channel or channels by which the educational institutions can reach all the homes and schools of the state, free from commercial domination or control. There will be plenty of channels left over for every legitimate national use.