

On the

Air

Radio Inspector J. C. Stephen is worried—really worried! For the last several years while "Steve" has been driving around the country "shooting trouble," he has often run into a handful of trouble.

But now he has both hands full! Natives in the outlying districts who thrill at the sight of Inspector Stephen's little black radio car with all the fancy gadgets on top and inside, little know the cares that furrow his brow.

Mr. Stephen has more than earthly troubles!! For during the year 1936 the fates have decreed that radio inspectors shall have more than usual, due to sun-spots for the next eleven months.

The word is official, for it comes from Ottawa—where all good things come from—that if scientists have plotted correctly the number of spots due to pock the surface of the sun during the year 1936, it's a bad sign.

Radio reception will be worse in 1936, due to solar disturbances! In addition, crops should be smaller, and the general citizenry more irritable this year. But prosperity is still around the next corner but one.

With long-range telescopes astronomers have studied sun-spots for centuries, and year by year they become convinced of their domineering influence on every form of life on earth. There'll be more sun-spots in 1936.

This will mean generally lower temperatures (see thermometer!) more cloudy days, fewer thunderstorms, more northern lights, and much more electrical disturbance to radio waves.

Scientists believe the same electrical disturbance that throws your radio out of gear also causes your nerves to go jittery, making you irritable. There should be more rain in the Maritimes and British Columbia, and less in Ontario and the prairies.

Sun-spots are really storm centres whirling around in the hot solar gases. Surrounding them are large areas of bright clouds, emitters of rich ultra-violet light. This causes interference.

Sun-spots run in a cycle of 11 years. The last minimum period was 1933, and the next maximum period is toward the end of 1936 and in 1937. In 1938 they will begin to recede (we hope) until another minimum is reached in 1944 or 1945.

And so with looking after sun-spot interference in addition to his many other duties, Radio Inspector Stephen has his work cut out for him this year. The above data on sun-spots was sent us by "Steve" himself, who adds mournfully: "There ought to be a law....."

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- 6:00—One Man's Family, KOA.
- 6:30—Wayne King, WMAQ.
- 7:00—Road to Yesterday, CHAB.
—Town Hall Tonight, KFYZ.
- 7:30—Warden Lawes, KOA.
—Sinfonietta, CHAB.
- 8:00—Conrad Thibault, KOA.
—Broncho Busters, CHAB.
- 8:30—March of Time, KSL.
—Three Links Orch., CHAB.
- 9:00—Across the Border, CHAB.
- 9:30—Burns and Allen, KSL.
- 10:00—Fred Allen, KOA.
- 10:30—Moon River, WLW.



(EDITED BY BERT HOOPER)

Well, folks, this has been an eventful year, what with Lindbergh's flight across the Atlantic and Canada's Diamond Jubilee broadcasting stunt. I wonder what is to be stirred up next for excitement. Oh, yes, we will have the Dempsey-Sharkey heavyweight fight and the World's Series baseball games to broadcast. Of course there is the Provincial Exhibition in Regina starting August 1, so that we have a lot more interesting events to look forward to.

For those who are interested I might say that the Diamond Jubilee program at

Ottawa on July 1 was broadcast by 22 stations in the Dominion and one in the United States, WWJ, Detroit, who loaned their station to feed the lower part of Ontario, thus making it assured that no populated section of Canada would be out of range of the doings on Parliament Hill. A total of eight hours of broadcasting was conducted on July 1 by each of the 23 stations. This broadcast was heard in the British Isles and Australia through the courtesy of the Canadian Marconi Company's beam stations. Brazil, Panama, Mexico and Alaska all reported excellent reception. No doubt, thousands of listeners on the western part of Continental Europe heard this broadcast from the British Broadcasting Company's stations located in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

It was the greatest tie-up of stations and distance covered in one broadcast ever attempted. The number of amplifiers, telephone engineers, repeater and telegraph operators and mileage of telephone and telegraph wires constituted a record the world-over and without doubt, it was the greatest advertising stunt ever staged by any nation. When Canada does a thing she goes the limit.

Many radio fans have written and asked us where all the old-time radio artists have gone to. Well here are a few and where they have migrated to. First, C. C. Bremer and wife have left for Chicago. Leo Boutain can be heard frequently from WCCO. Dave Mills is now a Chicagoite. Townley French is playing in Henry Santry's band on Orpheum Vaudeville in the United States and Canada and has just completed a six months' tour of New Zealand and Australia on the Fuller circuit. Townley French is a Regina boy and one of the first instrumentalists to broadcast from CKCK away back in 1922.

C. Barber, violinist and guitar artist is a member of a well-known radio orchestra over WOA-W, Omaha, Frank Billek, violinist and formerly teacher at the Regina College of music is now in San Francisco. Ab. Adams and Billy Browne are now tantalizing the ether from Vancouver. Harry Pryce, cellist and pianist, and Roy Enderby, marimba artists both formerly of Regina are also now residing in Vancouver. I do my best to keep the artists here, but as one leaves on one train, another artist comes in on the next, so why worry? It's tradition with instrumentalists. They love to move around.

Saskatchewan at last has a full time Radio Inspector. Mr. W. Pottle, formerly of Moose Jaw has been appointed by the Radio Telegraphic Branch, Department of

Marine and Fisheries, Ottawa, as superintendent of radio for the Province of Saskatchewan. Radio troubles regarding interference, local and otherwise should be reported to Mr. Pottle whose office is in the Darke Block, Regina. Mr. Pottle will soon have the equipment ready to go out "on location" and determine where radio interferences are originating (except atmospheric static), such as leaky insulators, noisy transformers, bad power line leakage, etc. Every co-operation necessary is urged between the Radio Inspector and engineers in charge of

plants where unnecessary interference is being caused by faulty wiring or equipment.

So you country fans having bad radio interference caused by local electrical apparatus write your troubles to Mr. Pottle, giving full detailed information.

Next time a Jack Dempsey or any lesser pugilistic light kisses the canvas in a squared circle and Tex Rickard has anything to do with the arrangements of things there will be no impediment preventing a flock of microphones taking it all in. He says Radio has popularized boxing with women and the women have added greatly to the box office receipts.

Weekend CJRM

The week-end broadcast from Station CJRM will commence on Saturday night and will be featured on Sunday with a recital by Professor J. K. Chorlton, 'celloist, formerly of Leipzig, Germany.

On Saturday night the broadcast will commence at ten o'clock, when a program of the latest dance numbers will be given by remote control from Temple Gardens. Two long distance telephone calls have informed the management of CJRM that two dances have been arranged in country points to take advantage of the music.

On Sunday morning the station will come on the air at 9.30 o'clock, when sacred recorded music will be given. At ten o'clock a portion will be read from the Bible and a recital will be given by Professor Chorlton, accompanied by Darby Bunting, organist and choirmaster of Knox Church.

At eleven o'clock the services from the Free Methodist church will be broadcast, and sacred music will follow until 1.30 o'clock.

A HOT RADIO GRIEVANCE

To the Editor.

Sir,—In regard to radio license. Every night when I switch on the radio to listen to the news broadcast—the only time I ever listen to the Canadian Radio Corporation—I have to listen to the announcer warning the public to obtain the radio license or be prosecuted.

What I would like the Dominion government to do is to explain why a person should pay a license for a thing they use. The only decent thing there is on the Canadian Radio Corporation is the news dally and the Old Time fiddlers from Saskatoon, which only come on a half hour each week. The rest of the program is all high class music which 95 percent of the people of Canada don't understand and is just so much static or racket. The result is 95 percent of the people listen to American stations and the remaining 5 percent of the people who are high class, or society as they are called, listen to the Canadian Radio Corporation with its lousy program. Now Canada boasts that it is a free country, so why is a man compelled to buy a license for such things. Conditions in Canada are getting so that a man, woman or child will have to have a license to breathe.

If the Radio Corporation wants to broadcast over the network, why don't they just go ahead and broadcast at their own expense? Canada doesn't need a radio network across Canada to catch criminals or any other purpose of its kind. The telegraph system was here long before the radio network was invented and was and still is quite satisfactory. By having the Canadian Radio Corporation a radio listener has no choice but to listen to it or listen to foreign stations.

The problem arises, will the price of radio license go up since the name of Canadian Radio Commission has been promoted to Canadian Radio Corporation?

Would the readers of The Leader-Post and radio listeners express their opinion in regard to the Canadian Radio Corporation. This is the musical time signal. The fourth note of "O Canada" will indicate that this letter will close.

A. N. HORNER.

Kendal, Sask.

MacDonald on Leader-Post's Loud Speakers

If you want to hear Rt. Hon. Ramsay MacDonald, premier of Great Britain, speak to Canadians at a state dinner in Ottawa tonight, stand on Hamilton street in front of The Leader-Post building at 7:20 p.m. and listen to The Leader-Post's loud speakers.

CKCK, the Plainsmen Broadcasters' radio, will broadcast not only Premier MacDonald's speech but also brief speeches by Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, premier of Canada, and Hon. R. B. Bennett, Conservative leader at Ottawa.

The speaking will begin at 7:20 Regina time this evening and is scheduled to run until 8:30 p.m.

Through the courtesy of the Canadian National and Neilson's, a chain of radio stations across Canada will give over their time to carrying the speeches of these noted British and Canadian government and political leaders.

The Leader-Post loud speakers were given a tryout today and are working perfectly.

The speeches will be carried over a telephone wire from the banquet hall in Ottawa to CKNC's big station and thence over the network across Canada including Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Calgary and Edmonton.

This will be the big radio event of 1929 and no one should miss it. The splendid weather now prevailing should bring out a big crowd.

Remember, in front of The Leader-Post building at 7:20 o'clock this evening.

Note—CKCK will also broadcast the speeches by radio

Polices Air For Country

Grand Island Monitoring Station Keeps Broadcast- ers on Frequencies

BY IRVING R. POTTS.

Located at Grand Island, Neb., on the broad, flat prairies near the geographical center of the country, is the United States government's monitoring station, the only one of its kind in the world. In reality a traffic cop of the air, this station was established in 1930 and its duty is to see that those on the broadcast band keep strictly to their assigned frequencies so there will be no interference with those on adjacent channels.

Sixty acres are covered with tall, white poles, three times as high as the average telephone pole from which is strung a maze of antennae wires. They are arranged in three groups of about fifty poles each and the wires are so arranged that they point toward London, Rome and South America. With these antennae it is possible for the eleven operators to tune in any station in this country and nearly every station in the world. When the monitor was new and the operators were experimenting with long distance reception, they picked up a station in Japan on the antenna directed toward South America.

Not Complicated.

Actually the testing of a station's frequency isn't a complicated affair. The operators notify the station to broadcast continuously for an hour or so. The program is tuned in on one of the eight receiving sets and is connected with an electric tuning fork vibrating to a known wavelength. By listening through attached earphones the operator can tell if the station transmitting is on its correct frequency. In addition, approximately 200 broadcasting stations are compelled to transmit special frequency tests of twenty minutes' duration during early morning hours the second week of each month. If one is found to be off frequency the operator telephones the station giving the variation so that it may immediately be corrected.

As the monitoring station's duties are confined solely to reception there is no transmitting apparatus and outgoing messages have to be telephoned.

Wires Underground

To prevent interference with the monitor's delicate receiving instruments all telegraph, telephone and electric power lines for several miles are underground. The station must manufacture its own power with a private dynamo as a power line coming in from the outside would affect the instruments.

Grand Island was chosen for its central location and the flat country is conducive to better reception. With the Rocky Mountains about 400 miles away and the Appalachians still farther, the location is an ideal one for such a station. An air plane beacon flashes all night to warn away any stray planes that might try to land and smash into the wires.

of the city since the Regina cyclone.

IS EXAMINING RADIO STATIONS

Alex Johnson, deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries, arrived in the city yesterday in the course of his tour of the Dominion in connection with an examination and enquiry into radio broadcasting stations in Canada.

The present enquiry is designed to obtain definite information regarding all the privately owned systems of the Dominion and is in anticipation of the work expected to be given by the Federal authorities in the near future to a special committee in connection with the question of state-owned or privately operated radio stations.

TELLS PROGRESS MADE BY RADIO IN RECENT TIMES

Big Improvements Made in Past
Few Years, Billie Ward Tells
Kiwansians

(By Staff Reporter)

MOOSE JAW, Feb. 12.—"Broadcasting Conditions of Today" was the subject of an address delivered at the Kiwanis luncheon in the Grant Hall hotel today by "Billie" Ward, announcer for station CJRM.

The speaker reviewed conditions over a period of the past seven or eight years, comparing them with conditions today. A few years ago radio listeners were more or less content to listen to a lot of squeals and howls, a little music and a far-away voice. Today, those conditions have been greatly improved upon and much more satisfactory results are obtained. During that period of time, the main developments have been in regard to range and tone, and recently the short wave stations have come into the limelight. In two years' time, Mr. Ward predicted, both short and long wave length sets will be used with equal popularity.

Mr. Ward then went on to speak of the work of the Royal Canadian radio commission, which is in England at the present time. He pointed out the difference between broadcasting in the Old Country and broadcasting in Canada and the United States. Mr. Ward also spoke on the proposal of the commission that the Federal Government take over all broadcasting stations in the Dominion.

The commission, he said, will no doubt bring out a suitable code of rules governing radio stations in the Dominion regarding entertainment.

In conclusion, Mr. Ward spoke of the great work that radio was doing in isolated districts in the Dominion.

Gordon Watt entertained the club with baritone solos and F. S. Attwood, known as "The Blind Optimist," spoke a few words to the club.

AMERICAN RADIO PROGRAMS

To the Editor.

Sir,—During the past week listeners who had the opportunity and time to listen in at 2 p.m. daily to hear how the boat race was coming along, although they may have been disappointed at the result, have at least been able to listen to a modern up-to-date and lively program over the NBC from Chicago and over CKCK entitled "Club Matinee."

I also read in the Winnipeg Tribune where CBC officials are conferring in Ottawa with NBC and CBS executives with hopes of coming to an agreement whereby the CBC will carry American commercials such as Jack Benny, Fred Allen, Fibber McGee, Hollywood Hotel, Amos and Andy, and a host of other NBC and CBS favorites. Object of this is to increase revenue, said money to be spent in improving CBS's own service.

Public opinion will fall into two definite groups, those opposed to American commercials on the Canadian air and those in favor of hearing their favorites through local stations.

High standard Canadian features cannot be produced without funds. I think all will agree that an increase in the \$2 license fee would be far more objectionable than the American programs, not only that but 95 percent of radio listeners tune in on their favorite American programs whenever reception is at all within reason in preference to the CBC, and, above all, if we can get these programs over our local station we will not be bothered with various electrical interferences, which we often get when listening to any American stations; and lastly, we will not need to register our complaints to the radio inspector and have to wait about two years for action, and even then receive no attention whatsoever with regard to trying to trace down the complaint or interference, as you wish to call it, as has been my experience and a good many more.

D. C. WARNES.

1829 Lorne St., Regina.

Leader-Post Loud Speakers Will Give MacDonald's Speech

Rt. Hon. J. Ramsay MacDonald, Great Britain's Labor premier, will speak to Regina people this evening from Ottawa over the Leader-Post's radio, CKCK, the Plainsmen Broadcasters.

For Regina residents who do not own radio sets, the Leader-Post has made special arrangements to broadcast the British premier's speech beginning at 7.20 o'clock this evening by means of two giant loud speakers, in front of the Leader-Post Building on Hamilton street.

In addition to Rt. Hon. Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, brief speeches also will be broadcast by Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, premier of Canada, and Hon. R. B. Bennett, leader of the Conservative opposition. The speech-making is scheduled to continue from 7.20 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.

This broadcast will be the most ambitious attempt since the famous broadcast of the Confederation Day celebration in Ottawa.

Two chains of stations, the Ever-Ready network, extending from Montreal to Calgary, and the Canadian National network, extending from Moncton, N.B., to Red Deer, Alberta, will be used. Neilson's and the Canadian National are turning over their broadcasting facilities to the government of Canada for this purpose, and their usual programs will go out over the chain of stations in addition to the speeches. The western stations include Regina, Winnipeg, Yorkton, Saskatoon and Red Deer.

Rt. Hon. Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's speech is expected to be the most important of any that he will give in Canada, as it will be delivered at a Dominion government state dinner at the national capital.

With the ideal weather now prevailing, and the exceptionally convenient hour at which the speaking will start, the Leader-Post's public loud-speaker broadcast is expected to attract one of the biggest radio audiences in the history of Regina.

The very latest devices in the reception of wired radio and the newest types of broadcasting loud speakers will be used, so that Regina listeners will hear the British premier as plainly as if they were in the banquet hall at Ottawa.

CKCK, the Plainsmen Broadcasters, will also broadcast the speeches throughout Saskatchewan by radio, and, in addition, will broadcast the regular Canadian National program and the Neilson's Jersey Milk Chocolate orchestra program with outstanding artists.