RADIO NOW AS FAST AS WIRE MESSAGES

New Automatic Device Used on Liner Sends at Rate of 100 Words a Minute.

TOO SPEEDY TO "LISTEN IN"

First Successful Test Is Made by Corporation Head to Station at Chatham, Mass.

Radio messages were sent by automatic machinery at a rate of between 80 and 100 words a minute yesterday by the White Star liner Majestic to the station of the Radio Corporation of America, at Chatham, Mass. This rate is about four times as fast as ordinary operators can send and receive, while the greatest speed made by the most expert senders is only about forty words a minute.

The speed is nearly as fast as that at which messages can be sent by wire and may open a vast new field for usefulness. The value of radio in handling transcontinental and transatlantic news, for instance, has been greatly reduced by the slow pace at which messages could be sent. Because of its slowness, wireless has not been successfully used in sending news matter from the great national conventions or from other emergency news centres where the pressure frequently has been too great for the existing wire service.

The first high-speed message by the automatic system was sent by President E. J. Nally of the Radio Corporation of America, who is returning on the Majestic. His message to Traffic Manager W. A. Winterbottom of that corporation was as follows:

"W. A. Winterbottom, New York.

"This message is the first to be sent by automatic high speed from ship at sea to United States shore station. Congratulations and best regards yourself, Rostron and Stevens.

"E. J. McNALLY."

A message to be sent by automatic machinery is first transcribed by a machine with an ordinary typewriter keyboard which punctures a tape. The perforations in the tape are then used to control the radio apparatus, much as a punctured reel produces music on a player-piano. The automatic receiving device prints off the message at high speed, just as the ticker tape, or the more elaborate telegraph-typewriters in newspaper offices, are able to write out automatically the messags which come over the wire.

The automatic sending machinery was recently applied with success to aeronautics, where it was of special value because of the fact that radio sending from the air is extremely difficult; the thousand minute vibrations and motions of an airplane interfering with the steadiness of the sender's fingers.

One of the valuable features of the new device, it was pointed out, is that it prevents eavesdropping. The high-speed operation makes it impossible for an operator to intercept a message, or catch more than a few words at a time. Only high-speed receiving machines can listen in on high-speed sending instruments.

In announcing yesterday's feat, the Radio Corporation of America said:

"Undoubtedly this opens a new era in marine radio, for the automatic system of transmitting and receiving radiograms presents many attractive features and relieves in a large measure most of the difficulties to be contended with under the regular manually operated ship and shore stations. Contrasted with the 'hand' sending at the speed of twenty or twenty-five words a minute, it is at once apparent that the hundred-word rate made possible by the automatic transmission does much to reduce the length of time in which a station on shipboard can discharge its traffic to the shore station.

"This has a direct bearing on rather congested conditions for operation which exist within a thousand-mile radius of New York City, since a given ship can automatically transmit its traffic in a much shorter time than would otherwise be necessary, and so leave the air clearer for other ships which might have messages to send to the same station.

"It is expected that the automatic, high-speed transmission will come more and more into use from this time on, because the system offers a positively accurate record of everything which a ship may transmit or receive, and because it does so much to reduce congestion."

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