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Says American Boy Is Creator Of Radio

Gen. Squier, Signal Service Chief, Insists Youthful Ingenuity Must Get Credit.

BY EDWARD MARSHALL.

Washington, May 13.—"Wireless is revolutionizing human life."

The speaker was the American best of all qualified to express authoritative opinion on the subject, for Major General George Owen Squier, chief of the United States Signal Service, not only is in official control of the nation's wireless, but is one of the world's greatest experts in the whole art of electrical communication.

His multiplication of a single wire's usefulness, announced under the general name of "wired wireless," was a world-wide sensation a few years ago and seems likely soon to be the subject of a cause celebre in court.

Government to Involved.

The manner in which he patented this great invention, intended to prevent the United States from private corporations to leave it open for profitable use without payment of royalties, and they proceeded in accordance with this thought. Now the Supreme court decision has involved may make the federal government virtually a partner of the general in the sale, although he will not discuss the situation.

"Radio is the largest thing that has occurred for generations. It is large now and its promises for the future is greater than its past performance—infinitely greater."

The statement is one that has occurred more than grown, is accurate. The telephone, telegraph, and electric-light grew. Radio has suddenly happened.

Development Unprecedented.

"Nothing like the suddenness with which it has happened ever has been known before. I was one of the technical advisers of the United States government in the middle of last November. Then we heard nothing about broadcasting" as such: it had not become a problem or even an interest. Now broadcasting is the first real a topic as baseball. The thing is unprecedented.

"Away back in the wireless stone age, six or seven months ago, we had radio problems, but not broadcasting.

"Who did it?

"The American boy. Th adult who was first to spring into full cooperation with the boy, applied to the art his own imagination of what wireless was, as in a way, had to be, and then, with the heads of his could have talked intelligently with Senator Marconi years ago.

"But the grownups did not know what wireless was—not even the at the foolish babbling of those who had ears to hear would have laughed. Wireless had captured the American boy's curiosity, stimulated his virile imagination.

"He had set the stage, the boy had. The grown-ups knew nothing to it, capped with amazement, thrilled with interest and began to study carefully the instruments the boy had developed.

"Having studied them the grown-ups took advantage of the boy's brains and started manufacture, selling to the boy the ready-made, stripped-out home-made devices the principles of quantity production and removing them from the garret under the kitchen roof to the parlor or drawing-room. Wireless had become the property of organized American business. Its account, for example, were to draw huge royalties on wireless generally for a long time to come, but, of course, that is impossible.

"Secretary Hoover, who finds himself hunt-backed beneath an absolutely new load, estimates that there are 100,000 receiving sets at work in the United States, with 5,000 broadcasting stations. Soon as the manufacturers can enlarge capacity and with every new set snapped up by the public almost before its varnished parts are dry.

Slave Last Christmas.

"This manifestation was first really felt last Christmas time. Now wireless sets are getting to be as plentiful as phonographs. And it is significant that all this has happened during a time of business depression. With all else rather dull and some things very dull the activity in radio sets is immense.

"The public plunges with regard to radio. In almost every department store a section is set aside for radio. Each mail-order catalogue has many printed pages devoted to radio.

"Radio has become a part of American life.

"Therefore it behooves all careful observers, all those interested in the growth of American civilization, to watch this situation and to study it for its future and its social effect on the United States of days to come. It actually will influence civilization—and just how remains uncertain.

"Despite the popularity of radio and wireless, you will find that it is not mere novelty which has brought it into its importance. It is not dissipation; it is not mere amusement; it is progress.

"But its apparent suddenness is misleading. Radio has been growing for 20 years. It has always had a scientific appeal. But now it has become apparently an essential of our national life.

"Nothing has contributed more to the tremendous growth of broadcasting than interest in a scientific marvel, than mere entertainment. There is something deep and fundamental. We grope to learn just what this may be. At present we are far from sure.

"The wonderful achievement of the ordinary telephone, invented in 1878 and now in America alone connecting 12,000,000 individual and business subscribers, profoundly has affected every interest of human life. It has become an absolute necessity.

"Analyzed we shall find its object to be intercommunication between individuals of very small interest to the public at large, as postmaster, calls the doctor, orders from the grocer or the stockbroker. It is not public; it is individual.

"Still wonderful, I yield to no one in my admiration of that telephonic system which places the United States at the forefront of the world in progress.

Public Service Provided.

"The broadcasting of wireless idea is a very different thing. It is a public utility affecting groups though rarely concentrated. It has everything country until it now performs a public service absolutely and distinctly different from all else.

"It gives simultaneously to many groups of people, large and small, types of information, culture through music and lectures, recreation through amusement in many forms of interest to all, requiring no reply.

"It renders service from organized centers to remote circumferences and even to the seas. Already it has well nigh altered international relationships. It has already remarkable changed diplomacy. Now the art of 'broadcasting' will go much further.

"It will make for peace for it will bring the peoples of the world into community to some extent at least beyond the possibility of misunderstandings. Conceivably the heads of distant governments will converse by word of mouth ere long from one capital in Europe to another, one in Asia and a fourth in the Americas.

"President Harding, King George and the Mikado might carry on a nice three-cornered chat today, with a little scientific preparation. Whether the rulers of the world converse by radio or not the people of the world inevitably will. Your radio friend in Egypt may be more quickly reachable some morning, presently, than the man in the next suburb or outside to-day have or in your next garage.

"Radio already has annihilated all terrestial distances and given us a new kind of geography—time geography."

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MISSIONARY INJURED BY MOB FROM MEXICO

El Paso, Tex., May 13.—Miss Elizabeth Kelly of Kansas City, Kansas, a friend of the Terrazas family, is at Durango City, suffering from a broken thigh bone, received when she was thrown into an irrigation ditch by a mob of Mexican peons, it was learned here today. A band of workers, Mexicans, from the village of San Juan de Mesquital on March 4, according to reports from the in-

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