

Timmins Stamp Club Column

Italy Honors the Inventor of Radio

Today, when we accept the wonders of radio as a commonplace, it is difficult to realize that this marvelous invention is less than 50 years old. Yet it was in 1896, only 42 years ago, that a pale young Italian in Bologna, Italy, announced to an incredulous world that he had succeeded in telegraphing without the use of wires!

When this resourceful man died at Rome on July 20 last summer, so far had radio outgrown the original conception of its inventor that few newspapers gave more than a brief obituary notice to the passing of Guglielmo Marconi. It remains for Italy, his native land, to pay a fitting tribute to Marconi by issuing a special series of three commemorative stamps bearing his portrait. The values are 20c red, 50c purple, and 1.25L blue.

It has often been said that Marconi was not the true inventor of wireless telegraphy—that he merely exploited the previous inventions of more able scientists than himself. Stamp collectors will recall that in 1925 Russia issued a stamp portraying Professor A. S. Popoff with the inscription "Inventor of Radio." Years before Marconi's invention of the great electrical wizard, Thomas Edison, had taken out patents for wireless communication, and its possibilities had also been predicted by the Yugoslavian-American scientist, Nikola Tesla, whose portrait appeared two years ago on a Jugos-

slavian postage stamp. Why then is Marconi rightfully honored as radio's inventor?

The answer is that Marconi was the first to combine the crude apparatus of his today into a wholly original device that gave really practical results. It is true that other scientists before him had made ingenious designs on paper and had even succeeded in hearing wireless signals for short distances in their laboratories, but none of them had made wireless work effectively for more than a few dozen yards at the most. Marconi alone had the genius, perseverance, and the financial backing to make this visionary dream a reality.



Guglielmo Marconi was born at Bologna, Italy on April 25, 1874, son of an Italian father and an Irish mother. He was deeply interested in electricity from boyhood and the idea of wireless first came to him in 1894 while reading the work of the German physicist, Heinrich Hertz. Hertz had been the first scientist to realize the existence of the electro-magnetic, or "Hertzian" waves that make radio communication possible. He had noticed in his laboratory that when a spark leaped the gap between two small metal balls connected to an induction coil, a similar spark could be observed in a small metal ring on the other side of the room. Since there were no wires or other contact between the small ring and the spark gap, it was obvious that the electrical current had actually travelled through the intervening space. Without knowing it, Hertz had been on the threshold of discovering radio!

Marconi experimented with Hertz's primitive transmitter and found that its range could be vastly increased if one terminal of the spark gap was connected with the ground and the other to a high vertical wire. For receiving the signals, he improved on Hertz's simple metal ring by using a device known as a "coherer." The coherer consisted of a small tube about two inches long that contained two silver plugs separated by a narrow slit filled with fine nickel dust. Upon receiving the Hertzian waves from the transmitter, the nickel dust "cohered," thus closing an electric circuit powered by a local battery. This operated a small tapper which, striking the tube, "de-cohered" the nickel dust and so rendered it once more sensitive to the wireless waves. By breaking up the waves into dots and dashes at the sending apparatus, Marconi found that it was actually possible to "talk" for

distances of over a mile!

Filled with enthusiasm for his new discovery, Marconi offered it to the Italian government, but this generous offer was not accepted. In 1896 in order to gain financial backing, the 22-year-old inventor sailed for England. Upon his arrival he suffered a momentary setback when his strange-looking instruments were destroyed by the customs authorities in the belief that they were some kind of infernal machine! New ones were quickly made, however, and the first tests were so successful that in 1897 the inventor formed the Marconi Wireless Telegraph and Signal Company, Limited, with a capital stock of £100,000. Some of the more conservative newspapers continued to sneer at "the young Italian and his hand-organ," but all doubters had been silenced by December, 1901, when Marconi, straining his ears into a telephone receiver at St. Johns, Newfoundland, distinctly heard three tiny clicks from his transmitting station in Cornwall, England.

In recognition of his great gift to humanity Marconi was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1909 and in the same year was made a member of the Italian Senate. The work of perfecting his invention was eagerly taken up by many brilliant scientists—their most important improvement being the discovery that the vacuum tube is by far the most sensitive detector of wireless waves. During the World War Marconi served in both the Italian army and navy, and in 1919 the King of Italy appointed him delegate to the Peace Conference at Paris. In the years following the war the inventor lost none of his interest in his great creation; he continued to work constantly on the problems of short wave radio transmission until a sudden heart attack ended his career last summer at the age of 65. And so now at last Guglielmo Marconi has gone to take his place with those other great Italian electrical pioneers, Galvani, Volta and Pacinotti, whose portraits also appear on the postage stamps of their grateful fatherland.

Sudbury Boy Victim of Strange Accident Last Week

One of the most unusual of accidents happened last week at the St. Louis Separate School yard, Sudbury, when William Dagenais, nine years old, was struck by a batted softball and died in a few minutes. The little lad had just returned from having his dinner and was watching some other boys playing softball, eating an apple as he watched. The batted softball struck him in the solar plexus and he collapsed at once, being unconscious before he could be carried into the school. A doctor and nurse were secured almost immediately and Fire Chief Andrews and some of his staff used the pulmotor on the boy under the doctor's orders. Though they worked for over 45 minutes there was no sign of life. The fire chief thought that as he was eating an apple when he was struck, he might have choked to death. "He did not choke," said Dr. Tanguay, "he died a few minutes after he was struck because his heart failed."

The young lad who thus met tragic death appeared unfortunate in regard to accidents and injuries. Last winter he was badly gashed across the thigh by a nail as he was climbing a fence, six stitches being required to close the wound. A year ago he broke his arm in a fall from a bicycle. Three years ago he broke his left leg in a fall down stairs, and a year previous to that, when he was about five years old, he was struck by a truck and had his leg broken. Two months ago he had to be operated on for a mastoid. Accordingly, there was much of serious injury and illness crowded into his brief life, though the lad was normally healthy and bright. Recently the boy had developed considerable talent in music and dancing, appearing on the theatre stage and also being on occasion one of the young radio artists in Sudbury.

War Conditions On Highways of Canada

Somebody Should Fly Somewhere to Get Accident Peace.

(From Health League of Canada.)
The street is a battlefield and thousands of our citizens are killed and maimed by incompetent, intoxicated and otherwise physically disqualified motor car drivers.

The drinking driver not apparently intoxicated is a difficult problem. Not always is the competent medical witness able to prove from the symptoms observed to the satisfaction of the court that the individual in question was unfit to drive an automobile.

There are fortunately scientific measures which afford impartial data capable of excluding or excluding beyond any reasonable doubt the question of alcoholic intoxication. It will not be long before such means will be universally employed.

The smell of alcohol on the breath, drowsiness, stupor or coma cannot safely be attributed to alcoholism for there is always the possibility of concussion or laceration of the brain, fracture of the skull, and hemorrhage within the skull to be considered.

A British magistrate asks the question: "Are physicians beyond all reasonable doubt in all cases that the accused person is or is not to a serious extent affected by drink and that the real explanation of the symptoms exhibited is not to be found in some other condition?" The answer to this pertinent question is contained in the report of the Committee on the Driver of the National Safety Council (U.S.A.) which for the present has accepted 0.150 per cent. blood alcohol as the level above which alcoholic intoxication is definite.

It can be determined by blood alcohol estimations or by similar urine examinations whether or not an individual has an abnormal amount of alcohol in his body fluids and tissues. The adverse effect of abnormal amounts of alcohol in the body has been reconstituted. It has been shown that the adverse effect of alcohol increases with greater concentrations of alcohol in the tissues. Any individual who is under the influence of alcohol, however slight it may be, is unfit to drive an automobile. The greater degree of intoxication the greater the offence.

True no one can be compelled to subject himself to a medical examination, but it is possible that the law can be amended to cover this defect.

Why Not An Empire Policy For the Whole Empire?

(From the Globe and Mail)
The British government will guarantee the territorial independence of the new Czechoslovakia, but the Dominions will not be asked to help. Thus again are emphasized the uncertain links of Empire and the absence of a foreign policy to govern the units.

To many people it is a horrible thought that Canada should commit herself to stand with Britain and the other Dominions with a common front without knowing where the commitments might lead. Yet some of those loudest in condemnation of such an idea have been most vigorous in calling for a common front at the League of Nations. It would be proper for Canada to endorse sanctions along with Yugoslavia, Russia, Roumania, China, although no one could tell in advance when sanctions might be called for and result in war. The sanctions idea has been disposed of, but it illustrates the point. A solid front with the League of Nations to preserve the integrity of Czechoslovakia would be all right, but not with Britain and France. Imagine the howl of dissent from these quarters if it were suggested this Dominion should join with Britain voluntarily.

What is the League of Nations but a foreign policy association? - Saying this does not condemn its aims. It is strange that Canada is able to back the League openly and without fear in formulating policies but must not back the British Empire. What will it do as a member of the Empire, if anything, is a deep and solemn secret. In fact, with regard to Empire allegiance, it seems in much the same position as Italy, Germany and Japan were with relation to the League of Nations—in while it suited them, but ready to step out if it did not.

Attorney-General Menzies, of Australia, made a statement in the Commonwealth House of Representatives which sums up the real situation: "It would be suicidal for a Dominion to have its own foreign policy regardless of whether it was the same as the United Kingdom's or the other dominions. Could foreign powers want anything better than to have six British countries speaking with different voices?"

What impressed him most, he stated, on visits to London was that if any Dominion had a mind of its own was Australia. It can have a mind of its own when its course on Empire policy is clear, as demonstrated in the recent crisis. Australia put this country to shame by its prompt and loyal decision. And if Britain has difficulty in helping to guard the Czech frontiers, no one doubts the word that will come from Canberra. If only as much could be said for the Canadian government!

Oshawa Times: The parking problem in most municipalities has reached the stage which requires study and more or less diplomacy. One wonders what the problem would be if the ambition of the motor makers were reached—a motor car for every man and woman in the Dominion.

Stores at Noranda and Rouyn Open Thanksgiving

The stores at Rouyn and Noranda, remained open on Thanksgiving Day, Sept. 10th, though some offices, the newspaper, the post office, the banks and the schools were closed for the holiday. All Saints Day, Nov. 1st, is generally recognized as a public holiday in Quebec, and coming so close to Thanksgiving Day, the merchants thought it made too many holidays close together and so the Thanksgiving Day event was not generally recognized in the Twin Towns.

All Should Help to Reduce Fire Losses

Premises Should be Kept Free of Fire Hazards.

(From North Bay Nugget)
Canadians are frequently prompted to observe that they are fortunate in being far removed from the sources of war and so escape great destruction and suffering. To be fairly free from this threat to life and property is indeed a blessing, but are we so greatly concerned about the safety of human life and the preservation of property?

What of our attitude toward the fire demon? Records show that a large, preventable loss in life and property is given relatively little thought. Were Canadians to appreciate the loss by fire each year they would take steps to overcome carelessness, recklessness and indifference to hazards to which this form of destruction is mainly traceable.

By Royal Proclamation, the week of October 9 to 15 has been designated as Fire Prevention Week for the express purpose of impressing the public with the practicability of greatly reducing loss by fire. This is an annual appeal and one, it is hoped, that will ultimately bring the desired result. Strange as it may seem, the motive is to induce the individual to guard against loss by his or her own carelessness. Need you be advised to protect your life and property?

Approximately 300 people are burned to death and a much larger number are injured by fire in Canada every year. The recorded loss of property by fire during the 15 years, 1922 to 1937, exceeded \$25,000,000. In other words, at our present burning rate, approximately one human life is sacrificed and \$97,000 worth of property is destroyed every day in the year.

Fire is no respecter of persons. Every man has a responsibility towards his neighbours and that responsibility should cause every right-thinking per-

son to pause and consider what he owes the community in which he lives. We owe it to ourselves but in a greater degree to our fellow-citizens to permit no condition to exist upon our premises that will invite a visitation of fire. A great majority of fires are so easy to prevent that it is certainly a moral crime to tolerate the things which bring them about.

We cannot afford to go on and be indifferent to it all. Fire Prevention Week is a particular week set aside to call attention to the menace of fire. Are you doing your part?

New High Set by Mining Industry

Canada Placed in Third Place in World Output of Gold.

For the third consecutive year, the mining industry of Canada in 1937 established an all-time high record in the production of gold, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics said in a report issued Saturday. Output of new or primary gold from all sources totalled 4,096,213 fine ounces in 1937 compared with 3,748,028 in 1936, an increase of 9.29 per cent.

According to preliminary figures of world production, the report said, Canada ranked third as a gold producing country last year, being surpassed in output by only the Union of South Africa and Russia. The mine production of gold by the United States in 1937 and not including that of the Philippines and Puerto Rico was estimated in a preliminary report at 4,057,884 fine ounces.

Increases in output over 1936 were realized in all Canadian gold mining provinces or territories with the excep-

tion of the Yukon and the order of importance the producing provinces in 1937, Quebec and British Columbia. Estimated average price of fine gold, expressed in Canadian dollars, was \$34.99 in 1937 as in 1936.

Practically all of Canada's mine gold bullion is sold to the Dominion Government through the Canadian Mint at Ottawa or the office at Vancouver. This gold is refined, converted into fine gold bars weighing approximately 400 ounces each and is disposed of in world markets wherever the most advantageous net price can be obtained.

Visit Old Friends IN THE HOMELAND THIS Christmas

Seven Swift Sailings

From MONTREAL
Nov. 24—Duchess of Richmond
Nov. 25—Duchess of Bedford

From QUEBEC
Nov. 29—Montrose

From SAINT JOHN
Dec. 2—Montclare
Dec. 9—Duchess of York
Dec. 15—Duchess of Richmond
Dec. 15—Duchess of Atholl
(Half-fare one day later)

Regular weekly sailings. See local agent or

Canadian Pacific Steamships

EXPERT LOW COST MOVING HAULING

Local and Long Distance

PACKING — CRATING
SHIPPING — STORAGE

Regular Runs to Southern Ontario

DUSTPROOF VANS

Phone 510 Call Us For Your Next Moving Job

UNITED MOVERS

ROUND TRIP BARGAIN FARES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20—To C.N.R. Stations in Maritime Provinces, Province of Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21st—TO PEMBROKE JCT. OTTAWA, MONTREAL.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21—TO QUEBEC CITY, STE. ANNE DE BEAUPRE

Route: CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS from North Bay

Tickets on Sale by all Agents of CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS SUDBURY, NORTH BAY, TEMISKAMING, PEMBROKE, ETC. ALSO TEMISKAMING and NORTHERN ONTARIO RLY. and NIPISSING CENTRAL RAILWAY T 285D

Enquire for poster and full information from Agents of T. & N. O. Rly. or

CANADIAN NATIONAL

NEW TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

DIRECTORY

Timmins, Schumacher and South Porcupine sections of the new directory will go to press in the near future. Please arrange for any additions or changes at once.

Northern Telephone Company Limited

CONFEDERATION LIFE FOR STRENGTH, SERVICE AND SECURITY

Are You Only HALF Insured?

WILL THE INCOME from your present life insurance be sufficient to provide for your family in the event of your death? Will you and your wife have a guaranteed monthly income for life when you reach age 60? If you become Totally Disabled through accident or sickness and your salary stops, will you have a guaranteed non-cancellable monthly income from your present life insurance?

FOR COMPLETE LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE, CONSULT

CONFEDERATION LIFE ASSOCIATION

HEAD OFFICE TORONTO

ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREAT LIFE INSURANCE INSTITUTIONS

Branch Office: Reed Block, Timmins, R. C. MORTSON, Manager