

Seeing the News in Your Home

How Television Will Affect Our Lives

By Shaw Desmond

Is the theatre doomed? Are we about to see Hollywood abolished? Will it soon be possible to see inside our own homes a Tokyo street scene, a police charge upon New York strikers, or a battle in mid-Europe?

These are but a few of the questions raised by the coming of television.

Television is no longer an experiment. It is actually in existence. Even now it is possible to speak with and to see a man many miles away.

Only yesterday the range of the telephone was but a few miles. Today we can speak across the Atlantic. It will, I think, be the same thing with television, or "seeing at a distance."

Television, if my memory serves, was originally the invention of a Polish schoolmaster about thirty years ago.

Then it had no commercial possibilities, and consequently failed to mature.

Today those possibilities, in conjunction with the films, are admitted. There are probably nearly one thousand inventors at work to-day upon its development.

To-morrow, I believe, we shall be able to speak to any of our friends over the television telephone, seeing them as if they were in the room with us. As time goes on our film theatres will be able to show us the events taking place in any of the world's principal cities at the actual moment of happening. Later, as a further development, television is likely to make all parts of the earth's surface free and accessible to the human eye.

Every authority appears now to be agreed upon these points: If this is so, what is going to be the effect upon the film theatre, the theatre proper and upon broadcasting?

Mr. M. A. Wetherell, the famous producer of the "Robinson Crusoe" and "The Somme" films, tells me that he is of opinion that the coming of television (1) will kill the theatre, and (2) will never hurt the films, save the topical news reels.

He, with others, believes that the ordinary theatre will be killed, because the drama of real life, so to speak, will replace the artificial drama of the stage.

When the day comes that we can see the most exciting occurrences at the actual moment of happening all over the world, the average man and his wife are, in the view of many film experts, not likely to trouble about similar "made" occurrences on the stage. "Seeing the news" would be a powerful magnet to draw people away from the theatre.

I know that some of the great film interests are seriously perturbed by the coming of television. They, and the shareholders behind them, are naturally concerned for the millions now invested in present film methods.

It might even be a question as to whether Hollywood, on its present lines, could survive a perfected television.

Others do not believe this. One of the greatest living producers, who is now engaged upon a gargantuan film under British auspices, writes to me in a letter: "News reels are doomed—not the film drama. The settings and locations of the film are so varied that I cannot see for the moment how they could be combined."

"The drama of the film, comedy or drama lies in the great variety of setting. Interior one moment, exterior the next. Television cannot hurt that, for it cannot in a constructed picture take us to one end of the world one moment and bring us back to a London interior the next."

"That television will play mischief with much that exists I have no doubt." One authority states that the advent of "seeing the news" will enormously broaden the field of broadcasting.

This seems obvious, but the fact of "seeing everywhere" will, in my opinion, do much harm to the novelist, whose work is already badly maimed by the coming of the ordinary pictures and also by radio.

Indeed, the popular novelist may even find his occupation gone. Already some 30000 novels appear in this country each year, of which only a tiny percentage are successful. Publishers tell me that, in face of the competition from the motion picture, the output of novels is likely to be reduced by one third. What, then, is going to happen to that remaining two-thirds in face of the competition of television?

Carrying prevision about television but one step further—what is going to be the effect upon the newspaper itself?

There are those who already predict the disappearance of the newspaper, as indeed has done when radio first made its appearance. It is a fact, however, that great newspapers have since the coming of radio sent up their circulation by leaps, which acts as a salutary cold douche to fevered imaginations run riot.

One cannot be too careful about prognostication. The event nearly always falsifies the prophat. I believe that will be to a large extent the case with television.

I do not believe the theatre will ultimately suffer by the coming of television. What television will do will be to introduce the theatre proper to a bigger public. It will be possible to "see inside" any theatre in London from your own home or from the television picture palace of the future as time goes on and seeing at a distance becomes perfect.

Will Hollywood Close Down?

This I believe also holds good for the printed word. More people than ever, despite radio and reading newspapers. Nothing can ever replace the printed word, not even the "living picture."

The former gives us time to think—the latter changes and is gone. For this reason, also, the real novel, which is worthy of the name as a stimulant of thought, will persist in spite of television.

It is possible and even probable that in its earlier stages television, whilst still new and with new avenues opening up, may throw out of work thousands of screen actors and actresses. It may even temporarily close down places like Hollywood and endanger the capital sunk in the film.

As time goes on, however, this capital, whether of man or material, will gradually find its outlet in the new channel.

Also against the contention that television will kill the film news reel there is to be set the fact that it will not always be possible or convenient for a man during working hours to rush into a television theatre at the moment something is happening thousands of miles away. There will always be an "after work" public for the film proper.

That, however, we are about to see far-reaching changes in the ordinary methods of transmitting the news is, I think, beyond question.

Television is going to affect the life of each one who reads these lines.

Melting of Steel By Electric Current Is New British Process

London.—The manufacture of steel by means of heat generated by wireless electric current, which has been successfully accomplished in Sheffield puts Great Britain again ahead of the world in modern methods of steel production.

The new process eliminates the heavy manual labor necessary under existing systems, cuts out the use of all external heat, does away with the necessity of coal or coke in the operation and makes steel of the highest purity which will be especially valuable for high grade tool manufacture.

Under the new process raw steel is placed in an insulated crucible, in which it is melted by means of high frequency of electric current, which without any direct contact with the crucible induces such a heat that the steel melts in a quarter of the time taken by the old method.

The value of the discovery is such that its promoters feel certain that it will place Britain ahead of the world in the production of tool steel. They also expect, after further development, to apply the same system to the mining industry, thus cheapening and simplifying present smelting processes.

The importance of this discovery to mining in Canada, where electric power is cheap and plentiful, is obvious.

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Colli's Widow Thinks Her Share Too Small

She Complains Bulk of American Fund for Family Went to Parents of Lost Flier

Marselles — American generosity appears to have failed to bring the solace intended to the widow of Captain Francis Colli, companion of Charles Nungesser in an ill-fated attempt to cross the Atlantic by air last May.

Mme. Colli is deeply dissatisfied with the apportionment of the share of the Colli family of the fund subscribed in America for the Nungesser-Colli families. The apportionment was completed recently and Mme. Colli is starting an active campaign of protest.

She has written a long and bitter letter to Premier Poincare, expressing the hope that he will give consideration to the situation in which she has been placed. She desires that the French Government compensate in some form for what she alleges to be injustice on the part of the committee handling the fund.

The committee allotted 593,000 francs (roughly \$23,720) to Colli's mother and father and 97,000 francs (roughly \$3,880) each to the widow and three children, which represents a monthly income of \$20 apiece, Mme. Colli points out.

Another thing which rankles is the French law governing inheritances. By this at the death of Colli's father and mother, what is left of the 593,000 francs must be divided into two equal portions, one going to Colli's brother, who she says, doesn't need it, and the other being divided again among three daughters. Mme. Colli says that if Colli was called upon to risk his life, he certainly would not be for his brother.

Altogether she contends that the object of the subscribers—to try to remedy the injustice of fate by making easier the lot of the bereaved families—has hardly been attained in the apportionment. This has resulted, she says, from the fact that the flier's mothers were consistently kept in the foreground, while she, the widow, and her children were kept in the background. She asks if their American benefactors ever knew of the existence of herself and her children.

"If a man loses his temper to a point where his attention is more absorbed in his anger than by necessary care in driving, he is momentarily in an abnormal state of mind, and for the time being he is not a safe driver.

"Slow thinking is probably more often an inconvenience than a real danger in motor vehicle operation.

"This, however, is a day of speed. The human machine has speeded up as has transportation. In the motor vehicle world it is likely that, because the development of the automobile to such a high point of perfection has made it possible to do fast work and snappy thinking, this characteristic may show many instances of overdevelopment.

"As the fast thinker and the slow thinker, the latter is apparently the more dangerous, although probably less annoying to other persons. The slow thinker is almost invariably cautious, and often caution is the reason for slow thinking. Both slow and fast thinking should be distinguished from poor co-ordination, because it relates to the operating mechanisms of the human machine instead of the automobile, and means that the human machine does not obey the mind with sufficient promptness. Wherever this is the case there is danger, and accidents will follow.

"Poor co-ordination almost reaches to the subject of mental defect. It ought to be a well-established principle in motor vehicle operation that no person with a mental defect of any type should be allowed to operate a car."

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Says Bad Temper Is Safety Menace

Commissioner Stoeckel Finds That Anger in Traffic Difficulties Interferes With Driving Efficiency

Robbins B. Stoeckel, Motor Vehicle Commissioner of Connecticut, has made an appeal to automobile drivers in that State to exercise good-nature and courtesy instead of displaying bad temper under irritating situations.

Owing to the large volume of motor travel this season, which has been especially noticeable on the New York and Boston Turnpike, possibilities of accidents have been increased, making it more necessary for drivers to maintain self-restraint and patience.

"Temper enters into motor vehicle driving just as eyesight or hearing or any other qualification which particularly fits an operator to meet emergencies," says Mr. Stoeckel. "A reasonably even and untroubled disposition is more necessary for safe and sane driving than any other single requisite.

"The driving of a motor vehicle is an activity which calls for give and take. Most people believe that it is principally give, and there are a few who think that it is principally take. It is to be considered one must be even-tempered. He must not start with a pessimistic point of view, and the attitude of mind that the world is against him. In many instances situations which have affected his temper have preceded a traffic emergency, and because they have upset his equanimity, they have made him less fit to operate. When an emergency arises he is not his normal self and is not so ready to meet it, and a breach of law or accident may easily occur."

"If a man loses his temper to a point where his attention is more absorbed in his anger than by necessary care in driving, he is momentarily in an abnormal state of mind, and for the time being he is not a safe driver.

"Slow thinking is probably more often an inconvenience than a real danger in motor vehicle operation.

"This, however, is a day of speed. The human machine has speeded up as has transportation. In the motor vehicle world it is likely that, because the development of the automobile to such a high point of perfection has made it possible to do fast work and snappy thinking, this characteristic may show many instances of overdevelopment.

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Window Box Gardening in England

Although more often than not, the town dweller is deprived of that mine of inexhaustible interest, a garden, solace and pleasure may be acquired through window-box gardening, dealing as it does with gardens in miniature, and sharing with gardens of a wider range similar failures and successes, trials and experiments. The seasons of spring or summer with their varying flowers are just as eagerly anticipated by the owner of a few window boxes as by the possessor of a flower bed and borders, for enthusiasm spurs one to overcome difficulties.

The boxes chosen for the purpose should be as wide as possible, of a fair depth and made to fit to the measurements of the window, and the mold used should be of good quality. Adequate drainage is most necessary, as a water-logged soil is fatal to success. If the weather is at all dry, a thorough soaking should be given to the soil the day before planting is carried out.

As the space at command is necessarily restricted, the great objective is to obtain flowers for as long a period as possible. Therefore plants which have a long blooming season should be chosen, and when possible, the smaller and earlier bulbs may be planted to form a succession during the early months.

An effective scheme in an English home for a spring window box which combines color and fragrance is found in a combination of dwarf wallflowers in varying shades of bronze and copper, pale and dark blue muscari grouped toward the edge of the box, with yellow and purple crocus, corns planted between the wallflowers to give a touch of color in February and March.

Dwarf forget-me-nots, and May-flowering tulips in rose pink and amethyst, planted in groups of threes and fives, with clusters of snowdrops and the cheery yellow winter aconite, to brighten the forget-me-nots, and between the box, is another attractive scheme.

Where a glow of vivid color is desired, as on a north facing, the window box can be filled with orange chébranthus (Alpine wallflowers) and a few clumps of the delightfully fragrant pheasant's eye narcissus.

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Czar's Dairy Tells of Guards' Cruelty

Recounts Seizure of His Wine At Tobolsk and Dumping it into the River

Moscow.—Further extracts from the former Czar's diary now made public tell of the monotonous succession of days under guard at Tobolsk in 1917 which he spent reading on the balcony of his residence, digging, sawing wood and walking in the garden.

The excerpts are as follows: "Aug. 22.—Another beautiful day. What a pity I cannot walk on the river bank!"

"Aug. 23.—Two years since I went to the Mogilef headquarters. Much water has run since then."

"Aug. 25.—Walking in the garden gets really tiresome. Here the feeling of sitting shut in (to sit is Russian slang for to be imprisoned) is much stronger than 'Tsarskoo Selo.'"

"Sept. 1.—Arrived the new Commissar from the Provisional Government, Pankratoff. He looks like a workman or a poor teacher. He is to censor our letters."

"Sept. 5.—Telegrams come twice daily, many so garbled as to be impossible to understand. Evidently there has been a big change in the Petrograd personnel of the Government. Apparently Kormiloff has fallen completely and he with his Generals and leading officers have been arrested and part of the troops moving on Petrograd have been turned back."

"Royal Wine Thrown into River." "Sept. 8.—Today we went to church for the first time. But the pleasure was spoiled for me by the idiotic arrangements for our going there. All along the route through the town and the park, where there was no one, stood sentries, but big crowds were in the church itself. That upset me profoundly."

"Sept. 23.—Among our things which arrived yesterday from Tsarskoo Selo were three or four cases of some drink which a soldier of the local Gendarmes learned, which started a fuss. It was demanded that every bottle in the house be smashed. After a long discussion with the Commissar and others it was decided to take all the wine away and throw it into the river. They took the cases off in a sleigh, in which sat the Assistant Commissar with a hammer, and a whole convoy of guards behind. We saw it from the window before tea."

"Sept. 24, Sunday.—On account of yesterday's story, they would not let us go to church for four or five disturbances. We heard nothing at home."

"Sept. 25.—While we were walking in the garden, the Commandant and four Assistant Commissars, Ensign Nielsk and three from the Guards' Committee, searched the house for wine. After half an hour, finding nothing, they went away."

All Walking Put Under Guard. "Sept. 25.—Botkin received a paper from Kerevsky saying that we were to be allowed to walk outside the town. When Botkin asked when we might begin, Pankratoff answered that there could not be any question of that at present owing to some incomprehensible fear for our safety. All of us were extremely upset by this answer."

"Oct. 2.—Now all of our people who want to take walks are obliged to be accompanied by guards."

"Oct. 5.—On Alexey's birthday we did not get to church on account of Pankratoff's obstinacy and we heard prayers at 11 o'clock. In the evening Alexey showed us his cinematograph."

"Oct. 20.—Today was the twenty-third anniversary of dear papa, and in what circumstances are we spending it! God, how sad for poor Russia! In the evening before dinner we heard the service for the dead."

"Oct. 27.—A splendid sunny day. I helped three guards dig holes for the posts of the new woodshed, now actually started. Wrote to Mama."

"Nov. 3.—Dear Olga's twenty-second birthday. Sad for her poor papa, to spend her birthday under present conditions. At noon we had prayers. The weather is warm again. Saved wood. Began a new interesting book, 'The Elusive Pimpernel.'"

Fund Being Raised to Save Stonehenge London.—Lovers of British antiquities will rejoice to hear that the sum of £35,000 has been almost collected, with the object of preventing the erection of unsightly buildings in the vicinity of Stonehenge. There was grave danger that adjoining land might pass into the hands of the speculative builder, and house seekers might have been offered a "charming villa with a fine view of Britain's oldest monument."

The money which has been raised will be utilized to remove the unsightly and derelict buildings already overshadowing Stonehenge, and to buy up the land within the Stonehenge skyline, thus preserving it from future invasion. A sum of £8,000 remains to be collected to insure the above objects, which will result in an area of 1444 acres being preserved in perpetuity.

Tommy's Aunt.—"Won't you have another piece of cake, Tommy?" Tommy—"No thank you." Tommy's Aunt—"You seem to be suffering from loss of appetite." Tommy—"It ain't loss of appetite. What I'm sufferin' from is peltiveness."

Betting Tax Has Cut Horse Race Crowds Asserts Jockey Club Critic of Churchill London.—During the last horse-racing season gate money fell off by as much as 16 per cent. from the proceeds of 1925. Raw weather and bad trade may have had something to do with it, and the competing attraction of greyhound racing also possibly kept people away from the courses where the sport of kings has its local habitation.

But the chief cause of depreciation, according to Lord Hamilton of Dalzell, one of the "big pots" of the Jockey Club, has been the betting tax by which Winston Churchill sought to increase the national revenue.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer got what he wanted to the tune of about £2,500,000, but the racing associations suffered owing to the diminished attendance at the meetings and now are faced by the alternative of either increasing the entrance charges or reducing their money prizes.

They are reluctant to do the former lest they scare away even more of their former patrons and they are averse to doing the latter because the owners and breeders of racehorses will be tempted by bigger money prizes to send their horses abroad.

Lord Hamilton thinks a solution of the difficulty can be found by legalizing the Totalisator betting machine or by authorizing the racing companies to charge the bookmakers for the privilege of plying their vocation. Either of these courses would entail a further step in the State recognition of betting. So far, that recognition has only gone to the extent of levying a tax on betting.

Lord Hamilton's plea will doubtless insure the eventual recognition by Parliament that the betting laws as they at present stand are illogical, but what used to be called the non-conformist conscience of this country will be gravely disturbed before such a consummation is attained.

France Reduces Cost of Army

Only Three Nations Have Done Likewise, Is Claim

Paris.—While disarmament questions were being considered at Geneva, speakers in the French Chamber of Deputies took occasion to laud France's achievement in reducing military and naval expenses, declaring that France has taken the lead since the war in voluntary efforts for peace.

France, Germany and Russia alone of the Great Powers have reduced the gold output for the maintenance of the armaments since 1914. M. Bouilloux-Lafont reported for the Finance Committee and declared that of these three, France had achieved the greatest reduction.

The United States, he said, increased its military and naval expenses by 98 per cent. in gold cost since 1914, England 45, Japan 146, Italy 55 and Spain 128. France, Russia and Germany on the other hand, he said, showed a reduction amounting approximately to 25 per cent. with France achieving the most in this direction.

Estimating that under the new army plan the French Army would be reduced to 500,000 effectives in 1928 from the 900,000 in 1914, he declared that this represented the greatest proportional reduction in standing armies.

John Jacob Astor and other great fur traders of the early days were callers at the Campbell mine, where they purchased the wampum with which to buy the skins of beaver, bear and buffalo from the Indians of the north and west. Until the middle of the last century stores in the vicinity of Pasceack accepted the wampum as currency for small accounts, knowing that the firm would always buy it back. It was made by the wives and daughters of farmers, under the Campbell's direction.

The decline of wampum as Indian currency commenced in 1830 and practically came to an end when the Government gave the Black Hills reservation to the Indians. Virtually all the Campbell wampum went to the prairies of the Far West as the red men of nearer regions had become accustomed to real money.

The famous wampum mint of Pasceack was founded by John Campbell about 1775. From a private business endeavor in his own house it grew to a plant of its own. For black wampum the Campbells used to obtain clam shells by a long rowboat journey to the Long Island Coast. On returning with a load they laid the clams under the trees and invited the neighbors to eat them, with the promise that the shells be saved. When Washington Market was opened in New York City the Campbells contracted for all its empty clam shells. The conch shells from which the white wampum was made came as ballast from the West Indies to New York piers.