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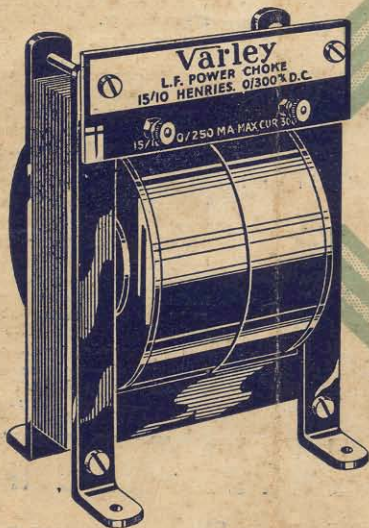
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THE OPENING STAGES OF THE MADRID CONFERENCE, 1932

By ARTHUR E. WATTS (G6UN), *Acting Vice-President and I.A.R.U. Delegate.*

In presenting a *résumé* of the work carried out during the first two months of the Madrid Conference, I wish to make it clear that it is not possible at this stage to state definitely that the many decisions reached by the two main Commissions affecting amateur matters will become law.

Every change, however small, has to receive the approval of the Conference as a whole, and the final

in Copenhagen, is now "an old hand" in these *affaires internationales*, and, as a result, he has no difficulty in locating the key men of each delegation. He lost no opportunity in effecting introductions for me with delegates of many countries, and showing me how the Conference does its work. Reverting to the Conference itself, I found on my arrival that the first few days had been spent in selecting chairmen



[Photo by Marion, Madrid.]

Sub-commission of the Regulations Commission, Chairman Herr Giess. On extreme left are Mr. Canete, Editor of "Radio Sport," Mr. A. E. Watts, and Mr. Warner.

plenary sessions are not expected to take place until the end of November.

I do not consider it necessary to explain in detail the underlying reason for convening this Conference, but I think it may be of interest to mention that no less than 67 Governments are represented, and this time the U.S.S.R. are taking part, so that, providing the U.S.S.R. sign the Convention, we may expect their amateurs and commercial stations to work in accordance with it. It will be readily appreciated that the primary duty of the I.A.R.U. Delegation, which consisted of Mr. K. B. Warner, Secretary of I.A.R.U. and A.R.R.L., and myself, was to effect personal contacts with as many of the men that mattered as was humanly possible. I should like to pay a very warm tribute to the help extended to me in this connection by both Mr. Warner and Mr. Segal, of the A.R.R.L. The former having been present at the Washington Conference and at the two C.C.I.R. meetings at The Hague and

and reporters, and dividing up the work amongst the various commissions. There are actually seven commissions, but only two affect amateurs, the Technical and Regulations Commissions.

For ease of operation, all technical matters, including frequency allocations, are dealt with by a Technical Commission. This Commission is subdivided into two Sub-Commissions to deal with technical proposals affecting the Washington Articles.

The first of these Sub-Commissions is under the chairmanship of Col. Angwin (Great Britain), and its duty is to investigate all proposals affecting Article 5 (Frequency Allocations).

The second Sub-Commission, under the chairmanship of Herr Steidle (Germany) is dealing with Articles 3, 4, 6, and 16 of the Washington Convention.

The second Commission, known as the Regulations Commission, has to deal with all matters affecting Regulations, and its three Sub-Commis-

sions are under the chairmanship of Herr Giess (Germany), Herr Engset (Norway), and Herr Boetje (Netherlands). Sub-Commission 1 dealt with Articles 2 and 14, Sub-Commission 2 was to deal with Articles 14, but found it advisable to refer it to Sub-Commission 1, whilst Sub-Commission 3 concentrated on Articles 6 and 33. In the event of a Sub-Commission coming to a deadlock on some question, it is referred to a small sub-Sub-Commission for further consideration. Its full title would be "Sous sous commission de la sous commission 1 de la commission des Règlements."

So much, then, for the *modus operandi*. It sounds complicated, but is not so when you have once grasped it. The difficult part is to keep track of all the proposals and the sous-commissions, etc., who are going to discuss them.

As mentioned earlier, our primary duty as an amateur delegation was to effect contact with official Government delegates to make sure they had all the information they required, and to see that the best possible case for the amateur was put forward. As the British delegate, I had realised from the beginning the necessity of obtaining the sympathetic support of our own Government delegates, several of whom I had had the pleasure of meeting in London. As to how far we succeeded, I leave you to judge, suffice it to say that all, without exception, of the British Delegation did all they could to assist me. Mr. F. W. Phillips, head of the British Delegation, had already given us a definite assurance that, as far as possible, Great Britain would press for the *status quo*. It was, therefore, with much confidence that I interviewed both Mr. Phillips and other British delegates, and urged them to continue their support of this principle. As will be seen later, when the full story of Madrid is published, these gentlemen did more than support our cause, they opposed all attempts to wrest from us any part of our present frequency bands.

I had the pleasure of learning at first hand that the support which we had been able to render H.M. Services had gone a very long way to help us.

During my stay I had the opportunity of meeting all of the Colonial and Dominion delegates, who were ready to give their support to our cause. In this connection I wish to mention the names of Mr. Esson (New Zealand), Mr. Crawford (Australia), Col. Lenton and Mr. McLachlan (South Africa), Mr. Edmunds (India).

I now propose giving some details regarding the decisions reached during September and October which have a bearing on amateur radio, but I must again point out that these all have to be ratified by plenary sessions before they can be regarded as definite.

ARTICLE 1.—*Definitions*.—Washington defined the term "Private Experimental Station" as:

- (1) A private station intended for experiments.
- (2) A station used by an "amateur" that is to say, a duly authorised person interested in radio technique, with a purely personal aim, and without pecuniary interest.

Madrid recommends the provision of three distinct headings:

- (1) An amateur station: same definition as in Washington Convention.
- (2) A private experimental station: a private station intended for experiments with a view to the development of radio technique or radio art.

- (3) A private communication station: a stationary or mobile private station, not open to public correspondence, and authorised solely to interchange communications dealing with the private business of the licensee(s), with other stationary or mobile "private radio-communication stations."

ARTICLE 5.—(*Distribution and use of Frequencies*.)

Paragraph 7.—The all-important table of frequencies is still under discussion. The Sub-Commission has agreed that 3.5, 7, 14, 28, 56 mc. bands should remain as now, but this has to be confirmed. The 1.7 band is causing a lot of difficulty, owing to several European countries wishing to take this band exclusively for small boats.

Paragraph 18.—Clauses 2, 3 and 4 will, with a slight change to Clause 4, be transferred to Article 6. (These clauses refer to Power, Harmonic Emissions and Call Signs.)

ARTICLE 6.—(*Service of Private Experimental Station*.) The title is to be changed to read: "Amateur and private experimental stations."

Paragraphs 1 and 2.—The U.S.A. proposed radical changes, to these paragraphs, which deal with communications between amateur and private experimental stations.

After discussion, the proposals were dropped, the British delegate being opposed to the proposed changes.

Paragraph 3.—An Australian proposal to make it compulsory for an amateur to pass a 12-words per minute morse test was dropped, as were several other proposals, and this paragraph remains practically unaltered.

Paragraph 4.—A Cuban proposal to limit the power input of an amateur station to 50 watts was not supported, and therefore dropped.

Following Paragraph 4 comes the Clauses 2, 3, and 4 from Article 5, Paragraph 18.

ARTICLE 14.—*Call Signs*.

Paragraph 1.—Has been changed to cover the three grades of stations mentioned under Article 1.

Paragraph 2.—The British proposal to eliminate the use of the figures 0 and 1 has been adopted for all services except amateurs.

ARTICLE 17.—*Calling and Listening Waves*.—It is anticipated that a calling and distress wave for small boats will be fixed just outside the 1.7 mc. band.

ARTICLE 33.—*C.C.I.R. Meetings*.

During my visit, I tabled a request with Mr. Phillips that the I.A.R.U. should be officially invited to take part in future C.C.I.R. meetings. Mr. Phillips stated that he saw no objection to this proposal, and is supporting it. I anticipate that this will be agreed to by the Conference.

With one month still to run, it will be obvious to everyone that many matters of importance are still in the melting pot, especially the question of frequency allocations in the band 1715-1000 kc. I hope in the course of the next month that we shall learn something definite about this subject, as I realise the interest its outcome has for us all.

Since my return I have kept regularly in touch with Mr. Warner by telephone, and the minutes of meetings has been forwarded to me every week.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the members of Red Espanola, and especially Captain Roldan, and their indefatigable secretary, Señor Uriarte, for all their kindnesses to me.