

RADIO IN HOLLAND.

A Pioneer in European Broadcasting.

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(Our Correspondent in Holland).

NOW that Holland has taken part in the first International Broadcasting Conference recently held in London at the instigation of the British Broadcasting Co., and is also represented on the Committee which will take up its abode in Geneva, the occasion is favourable for reviewing the progress of radio in Holland.

Holland a Pioneer in Broadcasting.

Long before broadcasting stations were erected in England, radio-telephony stations operated in Holland and regularly gave gramophone concerts, the best known being that of the Netherland Radio Industry at The Hague (PCGG), which for some months transmitted concerts, later organised by *The Daily Mail*, which were heard well in England.

Amateur progress was also well advanced, and hundreds of experimenters keenly followed the wireless events. On account of the nearness to Germany, the apparatus used came chiefly from that country, and, after the war, component parts from German military sets were brought wholesale across the frontier.

For many years this stock could readily be drawn upon and every amateur could provide himself with a complete receiver. Now, however, this is no longer the case, and our own products, supplemented by parts imported from America, England, and France, are almost exclusively used.

Amateur Transmitting Licences.

The oldest and largest amateur radio organisation is the Netherland Association for Radio-Telegraphy, which has branches throughout the country, and is authorised by the Government to transmit from its various centres. The Government only grants transmitting licences to amateur associations, and not to individuals. The maximum energy permitted is 100 watts, and the wavelength must not exceed 200 metres.

Notwithstanding this prohibition, there are numerous amateurs secretly transmitting and using call-signs beginning with the letter O or P. Many have worked with America, while they are reported daily as having been heard in all European countries.

The number of listeners is daily increasing, and there are now about 45,000, the majority being in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and The Hague.

To be independent of foreign cables during the war, a powerful radio-telegraphic station was built at Kootwyk, near Apeldoorn, which maintains a regular service with India (Bandoeng). The aerial is suspended on six masts 212 metres in height. The receiving station is at Meyendell, and both stations are controlled from the telegraph offices in Amsterdam.

A powerful transmitting plant has been installed in the Amsterdam Stock Exchange, which, at stated times,

broadcasts financial news for the benefit of provincial bankers, while the well-known Press office of Vas Díaz in Amsterdam also uses this transmitter for the dissemination of the Press messages, which are received by the provincial papers, who are thus able to publish the latest news.

Most of the banking houses in Amsterdam are equipped with receiving apparatus enabling them to pick up several wireless services, e.g., the traffic between London and Paris, Berlin and Hamburg, etc. Communication with Paris and Hamburg is also expedited by this means through the intermediary of Amsterdam, as it is found that radiograms are quicker than cablegrams, and, in consequence, Amsterdam is in receipt of financial news from the London and Berlin exchanges within five minutes, greatly to the advantage of the banks.

The Broadcasting Stations.

With regard to broadcasting, Holland has no official stations, but there are radio-telephony stations belonging to wireless companies operated at their own expense. The *Nederlandsche Seintoestellen* Fabrick is an exception. In the early part of 1924 a syndicate of Dutch listeners was formed to collect the money necessary to defray the expense of the programmes, and obtained the use of the transmitter at Hilversum free of charge. Listeners send in voluntary contributions, and, thanks to their help, the periods of transmission have steadily increased. Concerts are transmitted almost daily, and have become well known abroad. The Philips Factory at Eindhoven has lately presented two masts 60 metres in height, so that the range of the station is now greatly increased.

No Receiving Licences required.

No licences are required in Holland. Receiving is free, and there is no tax on the apparatus. The most popular foreign reception is from the Chelmsford station, and its excellent programmes are greatly appreciated by all Dutch listeners.

We have no national radio industry. The apparatus made here is constructed of imported parts, and coils of the honeycomb type are generally used. Complete sets are imported mainly from France, with built-in coils designed for wavelengths of 200 to 3,500 metres. Telephones and loud-speakers come mainly from England. Four radio journals are published catering for the requirements of both listener and experimenter.

In September the Second International Radio Exhibition will be held in Amsterdam, at which English firms will be represented. This promises to be as successful as that held last year.

From May 29th to June 7th there will be a radio demonstration at the Kurhaus in Scheveningen organised by the *Nederlandsche Vereeniging voor Radio Telegrafie*.