

The Norwegian American Wireless

Event Augurs Era of Expanding Trade - Greetings Flashed between the Norw. American Chamber of Commerce and the Christiania Chamber of Commerce.

November 20, 1919 is a red letter day in the history of the Norwegian American commerce. On this day the wireless station built by the Norwegian Government at Stavanger, was first taken into use for transmission of messages, commercial and otherwise, between Norway and the United States.

On November 28, at their first regular meeting subsequent to the opening of the Norwegian wireless, the Executive Committee of the Norwegian American Chamber of Commerce, Inc., sent the following wireless message to the Christiania Chamber of Commerce:

"Christiania Handelskammer,
Kristiania.

Greetings from across the sea. We rejoice at opening and operation wireless service. We believe new communication immense benefit between our countries. Heartiest congratulations on successful culmination this great event."

Norakamer.

To this message the following reply was received on December 1:

"N. A. C. C., New York.

With best thanks for greetings. We agree with you in hoping that the new communication will further commercial relations between our countries."

Christiania Chamber of Commerce.

These messages speak for themselves.

In the August issue of the Bulletin we gave a complete description of the wireless stations built in Norway and the United States for this service. In this article we stated that the Norwegian station had been ready for

operation since the fall of 1917, but that owing to the control by the United States of all wireless stations in the United States necessitated by the war, no wireless communications had been as yet permitted.

The opening of this service at this time is the result of negotiations with the United States Naval Department carried on for a long time by representatives of the Norwegian Government.

The Naval Department has made arrangements with the Postal Telegraph Company to transmit wireless messages from any part of the United States to the station at Annapolis from which they are sent by wireless to European points.

HOW MESSAGE IS HANDLED.

The message is written like any other telegraph or cable message with the exception that "via wireless" is specified. Then it is sent to the nearest Postal Telegraph office whence it is transmitted to the Naval Radio Communication Service Trans-Atlantic office in Washington whence, in turn, it is transmitted to the Wireless Station at Annapolis.

At the Annapolis Wireless station the message is transcribed from the English alphabet into the telegraphic alphabet of dots and dashes by a machine resembling a typewriter. This machine punches the dots and dashes in a long tape. This tape is, then, run through a mechanism so arranged that the holes in the tape open and close an electric circuit causing the transmission key to register dots and dashes.

This method of transmission is called automatic as distinguished from hand transmission. The latter method is too slow and too erratic to be used

for the transmission of wireless messages. By the automatic method as much as 300 words a minute can be sent. As this is too fast to be received by the ordinary method it must be taken on dictaphone records and transcribed later at any convenient speed. The wireless messages from Norway are not received at Annapolis but at Ottercliffs, Maine.

The station at Stavanger receives all wireless messages sent from the United States to Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland.

Any message may be sent through the Annapolis station in codes as well as in any language written with the letters of the English alphabet. At the present, press messages are limited to five hundred words per day from any one party. The rate for ordinary messages is 24 cents a word. This is 31.4 percent less than the rate charged by the cable companies which is 35c a word. For press messages the rate is 12c a word, or 20 percent less than the rate charged by the cable companies which is 15c a word. To this rate for the wireless service proper must be added 3c to cover transmission of the message from any point in the U. S. to the Annapolis station.

According to information secured from the Marconi Wireless Company, direct service between the Stavanger station and the Marconi station on Cape Cod will be opened as soon as peace is proclaimed and the Naval Department has relinquished its control over all privately owned wireless establishments. When this comes about the rates will be 24c and 12c net respectively for ordinary and press messages.

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