

at Berlin, in which 30 countries participated. This agreement contained the basic regulations for the marine service (government supervision, compulsory intercommunication between all stations, irrespective of the system used, protection against mutual disturbance, preferential treatment of distress signals from ships, etc.). This agreement came into force on June 1<sup>st</sup> 1908, though with the limitation that those countries which were bound to the Marconi System (mainly America, England and Italy) did not accept for the time being the principle of obligatory intercommunication. This difficulty was removed on the occasion of the Second International Radio Congress in London in the year 1912. From that date onwards the use of wireless telegraphy at sea advanced rapidly. Meanwhile radio telegraphy had become an important means of communication from country to country, between fixed transmitting and receiving stations. In this connection, agreements were only made from time to time, between the governments or private companies immediately concerned, at such stations where the Universal Telegraph Union has not regulated the service (v. Section 12). It was hoped that these questions would be settled at the Third International Wireless Conference at Washington which, by the London decisions, had been fixed to take place in 1917. Owing to the war this conference did not take place. The latest proposal is that it should take place in 1927. This conference will be of very special importance since all the most recent improvements and inventions of wireless science will have to be brought within the scope of international regulation, i. e. radio telephony, television etc., and the broadcasting system, which has already, during the last few years, reached such huge dimensions.

The radio telephony connection between England and America already referred to opens up great prospects of development in the field of public radio telephone service. The results achieved recently with radio telephony using short waves, open up the prospect that the combination of radio and telephone technique will, before very long, be able to provide a practical and efficient telephone service where telephony over wires is impossible. Television by which it is possible to transmit exact reproductions of pictures and printed or written matter (pictures, newspaper texts, documents, cheques etc.) at telegraphic speed over the greatest distances, has now passed the experimental stage. The possibilities of applying this new branch of technology, provide an addition to the existing means of rapid international communication of inestimable importance.