

The broadcast service, which in most countries is not provided directly by the government but by private companies, was brought within the range of international regulation in 1925, by the founding of the International Broadcast Association (Union Internationale de Radiophonie), which has its headquarters in Geneva. During the short period of its existence this Association has done most valuable work, and has become an essential element in international co-operation.

In view of the close association between the various branches of the international communication service, the whole system of radio telephony and telegraphy certainly falls within the Universal Telegraphic Union's sphere of activity. The Radio Conference at Berlin (1906) therefore turned over to the International Telegraph Bureau in Berne, all business connected with the marine radio service. The Radio Conference at Washington will decide upon the question of amalgamation with the Universal Telegraph Union, so that all branches of International communication service (wire telegraphy, telephony and radio telephony and telegraphy) will be united in the one centre.

From the above facts it is obvious, that the development of international co-operation in matters relating to rapid international communication is in full swing. The question of standardising the electrical characteristics of the apparatus employed is also being dealt with by the Universal Telegraph Union.

In fact the development of the various means of rapid communication will, for a considerable time to come, provide a vast field of activity for the entire weak current industry.

In the sphere of radio communication the developments mentioned above (television, introduction of short waves) present many manufacturing problems which have yet to be satisfactorily solved.

With regard to telephony, the change to automatic working is making rapid progress. About 3,6 million telephones of the world, connected to public telephone systems, are now being operated automatically. There is not the slightest doubt that the great advantages of the automatic system will compel the telephone authorities of all countries to introduce this form of service, particularly in large towns.

The following table gives an idea of the development of the telephone systems of the world.