

The radio station at Malabar, which was opened for public service in 1923, has been in direct communication with stations in the United States since July, 1925. The traffic of this station has increased to the point where over 60 per cent of the messages formerly sent by cable are forwarded by radio at the present time.

RADIO BROADCASTING

Radio broadcasting has not kept pace with the development of wireless communication in the Netherland East Indies. At present there are only 10 stations broadcasting regularly, namely, 3 Government stations, the Bandoeng Laboratories, the Malabar radio station, 3 stations maintained by local chapters of the Netherlands India Radio Association in the major cities, and 2 stations operated by private companies. In addition to the above, there are about 30 amateur stations which broadcast irregularly. All broadcasting is short wave, and the programs offered are poor both in quality and variety.

MARKET FOR RADIO EQUIPMENT

Although there are few good programs broadcasted by stations in the Netherland East Indies, the public is considerably interested in buying short wave radio sets operating on 10-85 meters in order to pick up stations broadcasting from the Netherlands, Australia, and the United States. Numerous attempts have been made by American manufacturers to market their products in the islands, but few have met with success because their sets were not suitable for local climatic conditions, which have a deleterious effect on most radio sets that are not specially wound and insulated to withstand an unusual amount of moisture. Unless American manufacturers can produce an efficient short-wave set specially insulated to withstand a tropical climate, they have little chance of securing business in the Netherland East Indies.

A large Dutch radio manufacturer (The Phillips Co.) has spent a considerable sum in experimenting and advertising in the Netherland East Indies. As a result it has secured approximately 90 per cent of the business. The most popular model set now being sold in the islands is a 4-tube receiver operated on domestic lighting current.

WIRING

WIRING DEVICES

The Netherland East Indies offers a poor market for American-made wiring devices, wire, and conduit material. Wiring practices in the Netherland East Indies follow closely those of the Netherlands and Germany. The wiring rules in force are those of the Dutch Royal Institute of Engineers, supplemented by local rules issued by the Bureau of Water Power and Electricity. Adherence to these rules is invariably stipulated in the concessions granted to the public-utility companies, which are held responsible for seeing to it that all installations connected to their network comply with the existing regulations. In addition to enforcing the above rules, the electric light companies also impose certain of their own additional requirements. There is no organization in the Netherland East Indies corresponding to the American Underwriters' Laboratories. Insurance companies do not inspect electrical installations, such work being left to the electric light companies.