

London, England.

FRIDAY. *The Evening News* FEBRUARY 13, 1925Wireless
Notes.

BROADCAST FROM A LINER.

By Our Special
Correspondent.

Music from the Atlantic Nightly Next Month—Across Ocean Test for Valve Sets—Business Men Talks from the Leviathan

OCEAN broadcasting promises to be one of the big things of the future. By this time next year listeners are more likely than not to be as keen to tune-in to what the big liners are broadcasting as they are to-day to listen to any land station.

So far the British shipping companies have not done much with the idea that you would notice, but a good deal is going on behind the scenes, and there is no doubt at all that the Americans are not going to be allowed to have this form of wireless all to themselves.

The tests which the United States liner Leviathan carried out last autumn were only the fringe of what is planned to go on through the spring and summer.

Since those tests the vessel's wireless equipment has been added to and improved, and when she recommences her sailings next month listeners-in on both sides of the Atlantic will be able to hear her nightly programmes during practically the whole of each trip.

A TEST FOR THE SET.

THE present intentions are that broadcasting will start when the ship is about 200 miles out from New York, and continue nightly until she is about the same distance from the British coast.

In this way listeners will be able to compare the efficiency of their sets each night as the distance between the ship and the shore decreases or increases. So that it will be seen that the forthcoming tests are not without a great deal of interest to all those who own valve sets. Quite a lot remains to be discovered about wireless "zones." These tests may help to unravel the puzzle.

The ship will not "start-up" until after the ordinary British programmes have finished, and will broadcast for about two hours each night.

The Leviathan, like other big liners, carries several bands. Each of these will take it in turn to broadcast. Opportunities will be given to passengers to sing into the microphone, and talks by big men crossing over from either side will also be sent out.

These "I am coming" sort of talks

E. N. Pickerill
COLLECT



The Station With Seven Aerials.
Mr. E. N. Pickerill in his wonderful transmitting station in the Leviathan.

may easily develop into quite a big attraction to some business men to travel on the Leviathan.

The Leviathan will be a perfect hive of wireless activity. Seven aerials have been fitted for various purposes, any or all of which can be used at the same time, so that there will be no interference with ordinary shipping communications.

317 METRE WAVE.

THERE are three main wireless installations on the Leviathan, a 10 kilowatt set and a 2 kilowatt set for telegraphy and a 3 kilowatt set for both telegraphy and telephony.

The telephony set can be used for two-way communication, and this has actually been done with other ships of the United States lines.

The broadcast programmes will be transmitted generally on a wave length of 317 metres, but others between 200 and 545 metres will be used from time to time.

The Leviathan carries a staff of eight operators under Mr. E. N. Pickerill, who is one of the best known wireless men in America. He was specially selected to carry out these tests, which will show how keen the Americans are to develop this form of communication.

OFFICIALDOM OBJECTS.

SOME time ago efforts were made to induce the B.B.C. to relay some of the Leviathan's programmes in the same way as those from KDKA are now sent out to British listeners, but the official minds in higher circles than those of the Broadcasting company did not favour the project.

Underlying it all, of course, are big commercial possibilities, and the broadcast programmes are really a means of discovering and developing these. Meanwhile listeners-in should have some interesting evenings. It is probable that

tests with some of their vessels and land stations, but to some extent they are covered by the veil of secrecy. The wave lengths used are kept a mystery.

MORE CABARET.

A LITTLE time ago I mentioned that we were on the look-out for a showman. Mr. George Grossmith, who has just been appointed Advisory Director of Programmes, will, I am told, be that showman.

His main job will be to develop the lighter side of the programmes, which, it is freely admitted, can do with some real gingering-up.

And one result of his appointment, I hear, will be that listeners may expect to get more cabaret performances. Judging by the number of letters of appreciation sent in after "The Midnight Follies" were broadcast, wireless enthusiasts are rather keen on this form of entertainment.

PIGEONS AND AERIALS.

TWO questions have been put down on Parliamentary Papers referring to the loss of life among pigeons and other birds as a result of colliding with wireless aerials.

It is suggested that it should be a condition of the broadcast licenses that listeners-in should be compelled to fix corks to their aerials, as is done about the country with telephone and telegraph lines.

Aerials as a rule are in such unexposed places that, to my mind, this precaution hardly seems necessary. It will, however, be interesting to see what the Postmaster-General's opinion on the subject is.

Racing pigeons are, of course, valuable, but no listener-in will mind taking any precautions which may really be considered beneficial to bird life generally.

WHAT IS IT?

AN amusing little game is being played these nights in the Hornsey district.

Some people, it seems, have been fixing one end of their aerials to trees by the side of the public roads just outside their garden gates.

Many have wondered why their wireless sets have suddenly ceased to function. Then they find that the ropes by which their aerials were attached to the trees have been cut.

So far, nobody has been caught doing the cutting. So whether it is just mischief or a protest against using public trees is not known.

FAMOUS CHIMES.

THE chimes of Sheffield Cathedral are being broadcast as a time signal in the early part of the programme from the local station.

The idea is mainly one of sentiment. The chimes should not be regarded as an official time sound, though one would not for a moment suggest that Sheffield's Cathedral clock is ever anything but absolutely accurate.

Here is a notion capable of considerable expansion. Listeners like bells and chimes. It is probable that more than a million

