

Radio Telephones

An American Invention Which Marconi is Using

To the Editor of the NY Tribune [and NY Sun & Herald, and others].

Sir: I am sure that I voice the surprise of all American radio engineers over the prominence given on your columns to-day to a dispatch from Rome stating that Signor Marconi with apparatus having the strength of only three kilowatts, has achieved wireless telephone communication over a distance of 500 miles.

With three kilowatts of properly modulated telephone energy in the antenna it should be possible to telephone across the Atlantic, weather conditions being favorable.

For the last six months an American radio engineer, Robert F. Gowen, using 1/3 kilowatt in his amateur antenna at Ossining, N.Y., has been telephoning over distances of 900 to 1,500 miles. Frequent accounts have appeared from time to time of this remarkable work of an American amateur station, and it seems, therefore, surprising that this "record" of 500-mile transmission with three kilowatts of energy in Italy should be considered remarkable.

It is fairly well known that the radio telephone systems, which were so largely used during the latter part of the war and which have enjoyed large development since then, are based entirely on American inventions, primarily upon the oscillating three-electrode tube, or oscillion transmitter. It seems a bit nervy, therefore, when a foreigner bodily appropriates these inventions, operates them not nearly so well as do their originators, and then claims world-wide publicity for a performance which would have been considered, at best, as second rate in this country had it been performed two years ago.

LEE DE FOREST

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