

DEALERS OPPOSE SECRET RADIO PLAN

**Declare Use for System Worked
Out by John Hays Hammond
Jr. Is Restricted.**

TRADE RESTS ON AMATEUR

**Industry Here Has Been Built Up
by Making Broadcasting
Accessible to All.**

Comment in radio broadcasting offices yesterday over the announcement from Rome that John Hays Hammond Jr., had demonstrated before naval and military authorities a system of sending secret radio messages ran for the most part to the direction that except for military and a certain narrow line of commercial purposes, the invention could not be used in this country without overturning the radio industry.

In the United States the dominating idea on which the radio industry has been built has been that of general broadcasting accessible to every amateur. In the recent discussions of broadcasting methods, inspired by the lively appreciation on the part of some of the big broadcasters of what huge sums of money the service was costing, the consensus always swung around to the conclusion: "Well, we must keep a free general system of broadcasting, because the whole industry is founded on that."

Systems of secret broadcasting in which only those who had the key could get the results, it was pointed out yesterday, would be the ideal way for broadcasters to limit their output to those who had paid for it. But the same men also said that there have been other methods known for some time of rendering radio signals inaccessible to the general listener-in, but that they have not been used for precisely the reason that the American industry as a whole is based on the assumption that every one who possesses a set should have every opportunity to hear all that is in the air.

Aim Is to Sell Radio Sets.

The most prominent broadcasters in this country, exclusive of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, operating Station WEAJ, are those who are in the field because they are interested in selling radio sets. Westinghouse, General Electric and the Radio Corporation are all in this class, and the American Telephone and Telegraph has a community of interest with them that makes its aims, broadly speaking, the same as theirs as far as this service is concerned.

The many millions that are invested in the radio industry are there because of the profits to be derived from selling sets and parts to the great army of amateur listeners-in, and to protect these great investments trained and expert workers spend all their time devising programs that will appeal to the widest possible circle of listeners. The huge cost of broadcasting itself is assumed in order to supply this want.

Moreover, it was said in yesterday's discussion of the subject, even if the big broadcasting concerns should themselves show sympathy toward a system whereby they might hope to collect tolls from radio-set owners to defray their costs of broadcasting, there would be still another force that would rise in emphatic protest.

This would be the dealers in radio apparatus. Their profits depend directly on the number of persons who can be interested in radio receiving, so that they will buy sets, and then larger and more expensive sets, and parts and tubes for both.

In the sudden rise of the radio industry the dealers all over the country have been built up into a numerous and powerful force which, on its own side, represents a huge sum of money invested in the radio industry. Their money has been invested in the industry on its present basis, it was pointed out, and they would rush to arms at any suggestion of a change that would narrow the appeal.

Use of "Scrambled Radio."

Some of the men who were discussing the subject yesterday recalled the fact that during the time of the agitation over the American Telephone and Telegraph Company's alleged attempt to create a "monopoly of the air" there was a meeting of New York radio dealers in the Hotel McAlpin, at which officials of the company were requested to attend, and that one of the things the company was charged with was an intention to broadcast by the use of "scrambled radio."

This term covered a system which the telephone company had used to communicate between the Catalina Islands and the coast of California, but which has since been replaced by cables. This was a commercial service and consisted of so jumbling the waves that the message being transmitted was unintelligible to the casual listener-in.

At the Hotel McAlpin meeting some of the dealers charged that the telephone company intended to use this same system in broadcasting general programs so that it could collect tolls from those who wanted to listen. This was denied from the platform by the representative of the telephone company, who said the system had been used only in this instance to protect the privacy of the messages and because it fit the particular problem to be met. He said there was no idea whatever of employing it in general service, a statement which was applauded by the dealers.

Those who recalled the incident yesterday said they mentioned it not because it was important in itself, but because it illustrated the reaction that radio dealers had already shown to a system of "secret" radio transmission for general use. They said the reaction would undoubtedly be the same if the broadcasters should for some reason go counter to what seemed their own present interests and employ a system like that demonstrated by John Hays Hammond Jr.

PLEA FOR FISH BUSINESS.

**Miss Alida Lattimore Tells of Evil
of Prohibiting Cart.**

The fish business is going to the wall because of lack of sufficient consumption of its product and has been greatly affected by the prohibition of dealing from carts in this city, the Women's City Club was advised last night at its annual meeting by Miss Alida Lattimore in her report as Chairman of the Living Costs Committee.

Mainly because of the rule against selling from carts, 100,000 pounds of fish recently had to be sold as food for Long Island ducks when it could not be disposed of for human consumption, Miss Lattimore said, telling how she had learned of conditions through conferences with fish dealers.

Ordinarily fish carts have constituted a menace to health, Miss Lattimore admitted, but in the present "emergency," she said, it had been decided to let them return under sanitary regulations to be stipulated by the health authorities.

Mrs. H. Edward Dreir was elected President of the club, succeeding Miss Mary Garrett Hay, who was made Honorary President.