

# Electrical Experimenter

233 FULTON STREET, NEW YORK

Published by Experimenter Publishing Company, Inc. (H. Gernsback, President; S. Gernsback, Treasurer;) 233 Fulton Street, New York

Vol. VI Whole No. 70

FEBRUARY, 1919

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## EDITORIAL

### The New Wireless

It will come as a profound shock to all wireless enthusiasts, scientific and amateur alike, that their present-day notions on wireless are totally erroneous and not based upon actual facts. For years we clung to the theory that a wireless message radiates from the aerial wires of the sending station and speeds over the surface of the earth thru the ether towards the receiving station. We thought that we were sending out pure Hertzian waves from our transmitters. We thought that we received these waves over the aerial wires of our receiving station. All of these theories are wrong and will be relegated shortly into the past along with the early notion that the earth stood still, while sun, moon and stars revolved around it.

Remain only the physical facts that we did send and did receive messages without wires—but they are not sent by means of pure Hertz waves, nor do they go by way of the ether as radiations.

In a highly illuminating article printed elsewhere in this issue, Nikola Tesla explodes all of our present orthodox views as to wireless propagation and makes it clear that the earth is the sole medium thru which our wireless impulses travel, in the form of true conduction. Particularly does this hold true for long distance messages: Here we are sending out a compound impulse three quarters of which is a galvanic current, traveling thru the conducting earth, the other quarter or less is in the form of Hertz waves, going by way of the ether. This explains why we can send signals to airplanes and vice versa; but even here we probably have to do not with pure Hertz waves: it is almost certain that we have capacity-inductive effects as well.

Tesla maintaining that there can be no long distance effects by radiations transmitted thru the ether, but rather only by currents thru the earth, it follows that in his opinion all our radio apparatus is designed and operated faultily. Indeed, this is not a brand new idea of the famous inventor. He has been preaching it ever since he took out his first patents and described his system in 1893—long before Marconi thought of wireless

But he was preaching to a stone deaf scientific world.

But how simple it all becomes when we stop to apply a little reason and logic to Tesla's claims. For instance, we can send radio impulses three to five times as far over salt water as over land. Why? Simply because the impulses go thru the water, which is a much better conductor than earth alone. If we were sending pure Hertzian waves, why do we connect one wire at both sending and receiving station to the ground? Hertz never dreamt of such a thing. If you are still unconvinced that the earth is the chief medium of transmission, disconnect your ground wires entirely and try to send and receive. Now you may work with Hertz waves, but the distances you can bridge will be pitifully small.

Already Tesla's logic is filtering into our radio scientists' minds. All the big stations are beginning to scrap their towers and aerial wires, at least for receiving. They now bury their "aerial" wires in the ground, and lo! they can receive signals twice as far as before. Incredible, but it is being done every day. And—wonders upon wonders—how we will laugh at our present and past blindness—the static interference is practically gone the minute we pull our aerial wires down and bury them! Static Electricity? There never was a reason for having the bugaboo, for there is no "static" in the ground.

But Tesla goes much farther. In time he will show the world wireless power transmission effected not by ether waves but by currents thru the earth, which is a first rate conductor. Like all big things, the problem is simple. At some point on the globe he will erect a station powerful enough to charge the whole earth with electricity—and keep it charged. To do this we need about 10,000 kilowatts. Then at any point on the globe the current can be tapped by means of suitable apparatus. Like a bell ringing transformer, connected to your supply line, no current is consumed unless you close the secondary circuit. Tesla's world wireless works just that way. No current is consumed till it is tapped at the distant receiving station.

H. GERNSBACK.

The ELECTRICAL EXPERIMENTER is published on the 15th of each month at 233 Fulton Street, New York. There are 12 numbers per year. Subscription price is \$2.50 a year in U. S. and possessions, Canada and foreign countries, \$2.50 a year. U. S. cents 40 a year. If stamps accepted (no foreign orders or stamps). Single copies, 25 cents each. A sample copy will be sent gratis on request. Checks and money orders should be drawn on order of EXPERIMENTER PUBLISHING CO., INC. If you change your address notify us promptly, in order that copies are not misdirected or lost. A green wrapper indicates expiration. No copies sent after expiration.

All communications and contributions to this journal should be addressed to: Editor, ELECTRICAL EXPERIMENTER, 233 Fulton Street, New York. Unaccepted contribu-

tions cannot be returned unless full postage has been included. All accepted contributions are paid for on publication. A special rate is paid for novel experiments; good photographs accompanying them are highly desirable.

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The ELECTRICAL EXPERIMENTER is for sale at all newsstands in the United States and Canada; also at Brunner's, 31 Avenue de l'Opera, Paris.