

The Two-Way Route of the Transatlantic Telephone as Demonstrated on March 8 by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, the Radio Corporation of America, and the British General Post Office

Broken Lines show the radio paths.
Solid Lines show the wire paths.

The Radio Link { Rocky Point to Wroughton 3300 Miles
Rugby to Houlton 2900 Miles

The Wire Link

{ Wroughton to London 90 Miles
London to Rugby 85 Miles
Houlton to New York 600 Miles
New York to Rocky Point 70 Miles

transatlantic telephone service followed a long series of experiments. Speech was transmitted through the air from Arlington, Virginia, to Paris eleven years ago; but two-way transmission has only been proved practicable within comparatively recent months. There are problems yet to be solved before transatlantic communication can be provided by means of the ordinary telephone circuits; but that the time is coming when we shall be able to talk with London by means of the telephone in common use there is no manner of doubt.

The Vatican and the League

CHURCH rivalries have been added to the political difficulties that have arisen over admitting Germany to the League of Nations and assigning her a permanent seat on its Council. The Vatican is reported to have intervened unofficially in support of the endeavors of Poland, Spain, and Brazil to secure permanent seats at the same time, desiring to see them succeed because they are predominantly Catholic countries. The very suspicion of this is calculated to solidify the opposition of Sweden, Denmark, Holland, Norway, and Switzerland to the admission of additional Council members now, while Germany stands firm in the contention that the Locarno agreements meant that she alone would receive a Council seat at present. So the question involves, not only an attempt to oppose a Latin-Slavic group to a supposed Teutonic-Scandinavian group, but also to oppose a Catholic group to a Protestant group. Thus

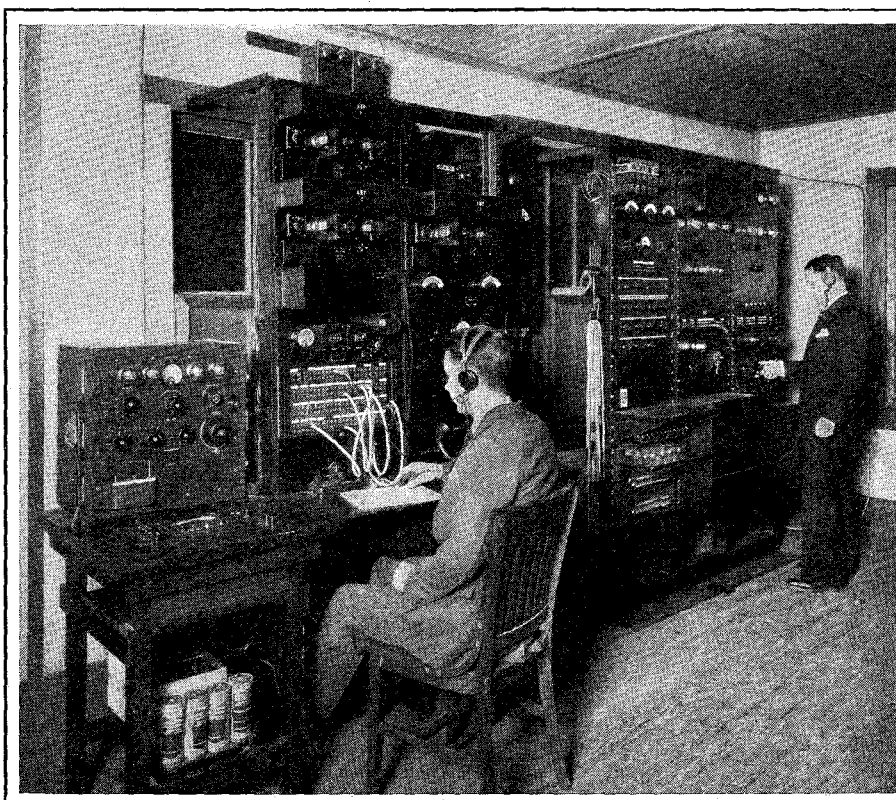
all the most difficult and deep-seated troubles of Europe have been precipitated at once into the discussion at Geneva. The Continent has been thrown into controversy afresh just as Locarno was thought to have brought a new peace.

The report of Vatican intervention complicates still further the embarrassments of the British Government in attempting to decide which way to throw its influence. It tends to unify British opinion more strongly than before in

favor of adding Germany alone to the Council.

Meanwhile, the fall of the Briand Cabinet has paralyzed the hands of France. It has made it impossible for her delegates at Geneva either to give effective force to her earlier policy of backing Poland, Spain, and Brazil, or to change and come to an understanding with Great Britain and Germany for postponement of consideration of their candidacies.

What it amounts to is that Europe is



The interior of the radio telephone receiving station at Houlton, Maine. At the right is the radio receiving unit, and at the left the telephone test-board and amplifier for wire circuit to New York

engaged in discovering just how real the Locarno agreements were. Habitual optimists hailed them as the dawn of a new era; but other observers, equally hopeful perhaps but less credulous, doubted whether Europe could change its ways of thought so quickly. So many new eras have dawned since 1918 that these agreements had to be regarded, not as an automatic guaranty of peace, but simply as a highly significant experiment in substituting arbitration for conflict, to be proved by the test of actuality.

The injection of the religious issue into the negotiations at Geneva shows still more clearly how, if the United States were a member of the League and held a seat on the Council, it would be compelled by circumstances to take sides in the most disturbing disputes of the Old World.

Can France Raise Taxes?

FRANCE last week found its foreign and domestic trouble piling up together.

The defeat of the Briand Cabinet in the French Chamber of Deputies involves questions which touch upon the sovereignty of the Government itself. The adverse vote which led to the resignation of the veteran Premier and his Ministry was on the payments tax clause of the financial bill, which had been carefully framed after months of effort to balance the French Budget and put the national finances on a sound basis. Defeated earlier in the lower Chamber, the measure had been taken to the Senate, whose wiser heads restored provisions that the less responsible Deputies had created a deficit by rejecting. Then it was returned to the Chamber, and a reckless combination of Nationalists, Socialists, and Communists blocked it once more and forced the Government to quit.

The question obviously concerns, not only the ability of France to pay her foreign debts, but to raise sufficient revenues to meet domestic expenditures and retire internal obligations. The Outlook often has taken occasion to point out that the test of sovereignty in a government is its power to tax. The issue in France is the power of the Government to increase taxes. It has led to the fall of successive Ministries; and it will be the trial that any new Premier immediately will have to face. The deadlock arises from the opposition of the Nationalists to Socialistic proposals, such as a

capital levy, and the opposition of the Socialists to conservative proposals which would increase the burden on the salary and wage earning classes.

It is difficult to see how a majority can be secured on the crucial budget question in the Chamber as at present constituted.

No one questions the inherent power of the French Government to tax; but it may have to secure a new Parliament before it can make its power effective in a form calculated to meet the present necessities of the nation.

China's Spring Fever

THE approach of spring in China appears to be the sign for a return of the periodic malady of civil war. The prize at stake in the present conflict of military chieftains is control of the Government at Peking, with its opportunities for increased revenue expected to result from the international conference on the revision of Chinese customs tariffs.

Skirmishing, some of it more or less serious, has gone on during the winter between the troops of General Feng Yu-hsiang and those of his two adversaries, Marshal Chang Tso-lin and General Wu Pei-fu.

But the Chinese leaders usually wait for warm weather to start serious fighting. The moves against Peking now taking place seem to point to a revival of hostilities on a large scale and to a final test of the ability of the existing administration to survive. It finds itself threatened on four fronts—south, east, northeast, and north.

General Feng is in command of the so-called Kuominchun armies, which he has brought into effective co-operation, and is supporting the shaky Peking Government. Marshal Chang, by virtue of his military command, is dictator of Manchuria. General Wu is in command of forces that control Central China.

The situation presents the usual Chinese political puzzle. In the new drive General Wu Pei-fu and Marshal Chang Tso-lin, foes of long standing and heads of rival factions, are acting simultaneously—if not together. General Wu, since he was defeated by Marshal Chang in fighting near Peking two years ago, has been developing an alliance of the Yangtze River provinces opposed to the Peking Government. It is uncertain just how strong or stable this alliance may be, but his forces have begun to push northward lately from Central China

toward the capital. In a fairly rapid advance along the railway from Hankow to Peking they have reached Chengchow, on the Yellow River, at the junction of the east-and-west line of the Lunghai Railway.

Meanwhile forces under the command of General Li Ching-ling, one of the adherents of Marshal Chang, are menacing Tientsin from Shantung Province, and others are invading Honan Province. Farther to the north armies commanded by Marshal Chang's son, General Chang Hsueh-liang, are reported to be advancing in two directions toward Peking, from the northeast and north. Government troops won a slight success against the armies attacking Tientsin; but railway travel south of Tientsin and on the Peking-Mukden line has been stopped, and communication between Peking and Tientsin has been threatened with interruption at any time.

A Desperate Attempt

IN these straits the Government at Peking, under Marshal Tuan Chi-jui as Chief Executive, has sought strength by forming a new coalition Cabinet. Not only members of the factions of Marshal Tuan and General Feng Yu-hsiang have been included, but also friends of General Wu Pei-fu and of General Sun Chuan-fang, of Chekiang Province. Thus General Feng and General Wu, who are fighting each other, are both represented in the Peking Government. General Sun controls, in addition to Chekiang, the provinces of Kiangsu, including the international port of Shanghai, and Anhui, Fukien, and Kiangsi. One of the most powerful chieftains of eastern coastal China, his attitude has been uncertain; but reports have been that he favored General Wu. The composition of the new Cabinet obviously is a desperate eleventh-hour attempt to conciliate both General Sun and General Wu, and to form a political front against Marshal Chang, of Manchuria, no supporter of whom was appointed.

In all this turmoil the policy of General Feng Yu-hsiang, of Chihli, known as China's "Christian General" and hitherto the mainstay of the Peking Government, has been doubtful. After a difficult victory in battles around Tientsin last autumn, in which he drove out General Li Ching-ling, General Feng announced his retirement from military activity and withdrew to northwestern Chihli. Appeals to him from his gen-