



HOW THE TIMES GETS WAR NEWS BY "WIRELESS"



Messages Come From the Steamer Halmun to Station Near Wei-hai-Wei—The Only Reports Except Admiral Togo's That Have Come from the Japanese Fleet.   

SOME details of the equipment of the steamer Halmun with the De Forest wireless apparatus, by means of which some remarkable dispatches have been transmitted from the Far East to The London Times and THE NEW YORK TIMES, are supplied by Dr. Lee De Forest, the inventor of the system.

Dr. De Forest was in England last October conducting for the British Post Office some experiments with his system across the Irish Sea, from Holyhead to Howth. Returning on the White Star liner Majestic in December, he met Capt. Lionel James, the veteran war correspondent, then on his way to Japan. Capt. James became interested in the possibilities of wireless war reporting, and a contract for two full equipments of the wireless apparatus was closed on New Year's Day.

In ten days the equipment, which weighed four tons, was ready, although a man had to be hurried from England with some of the material that had been used in the Holyhead-Howth experiments, and was sent across the continent to catch the steamship Empress of Japan, sailing from Vancouver. The wireless outfit, with two expert operators, arrived at Yokohama on Feb. 9.

Capt. James took the equipment to Shanghai and had it put aboard the steamer Halmun, which he had chartered, and the seventy-five-foot mast was put up and the system installed while the boat was en route to Wei-hai-Wei, Capt. James's headquarters.

At first it had been intended to put one station at Wei-hai-Wei and another land station at Phung-Chon, some distance north of Che-mul-pho, on the Korean Peninsula. The distance between the two stations would have been about 150 miles, but it was decided that the advantage of a movable station would be greater than mere facility in transmitting messages from Korea across the Yellow Sea to Wei-hai-Wei, and the equipment was therefore installed on the Halmun.

The Wei-hai-Wei station is situated on the Yung-tcheng Peninsula. There is no timber in the neighborhood, and the mast, which is 180 feet high, is bamboo, the only material that could be obtained for the purpose. The difficulties on account of the lack of labor were great, but the station was ready within the stipulated three weeks. The power is furnished by kerosene engines, which were sent out with the equipment. The messages received at the land station are sent by pony to the Wei-hai-Wei cable station, a distance of fifteen miles.

The first dispatch was received from the

Halmun on March 16, when she was north bound with the Japanese fleet.

The first notable achievement of the wireless system was Capt. James's dispatch dated "At Sea with the Japanese Fleet, March 20." This description of the torpedo attacks on Port Arthur by the Japanese fleet and the almost hand-to-hand conflicts of the Japanese and Russian sailors, printed in The London Times and THE NEW YORK TIMES on March 21, was the most remarkable dispatch that had come from the seat of war up to that time.

Since then this wireless service has been uniformly first in notifying to the world the movements of the hostile squadrons in the Yellow and Korean Seas. The dramatic description of the daring exploit of the Japanese in sinking four transports at the mouth of Port Arthur harbor, under heavy fire from fleet and forts, was sent by the wireless system from on board the Halmun, as was also the first intimation that the Petropavlovsk was destroyed by mines planted for the purpose by the Japanese. These achievements, as well as the vivid description of the manoeuvres that preceded the destruction of the Petropavlovsk and the account of the reconnoitring expeditions on the Korean coast, unite to testify to the unique value of the wireless service.

This equipment is the only newspaper wireless service in the Far East, and it has exclusive privileges north of Hang-Kow, which includes the whole war area. The Japanese have a system of their own on their war vessels, and the Russian ships are equipped with the Popoff wireless system.



NEW CHIEF JUSTICE OF LOUISIANA

JUSTICE JOSEPH A. BREAUX assumed on Monday, April 11, for the first time his position on the bench of the Supreme Court of Louisiana as Chief Justice, to which place he is promoted, as senior Justice, by the provisions of the Constitution of the State. If long service, hard work, and great legal knowledge entitle a Judge to this the highest judicial honor in Louisiana Justice BreauX was entitled to it. His long service on the bench has brought before him nearly every feature of the civil law, and he has ruled on most of them. The provision of the Louisiana Constitution which provides for a rotation in the office of Chief Justice is a most extraordinary one, not prevailing, as far as we know, in any other State.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.