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MARCONI LITIGATION.

SETTLEMENT EFFECTED.

A second conference was held yesterday between the Postmaster General (Mr. Agar Wynne) and Mr. E.T. Fiske (representing the Marconi Wireless Company) with regard to the dispute connected with the use of the Balsillie system of wireless telegraphy. Others present at the conference were the secretary to the Attorney General's department (Mr. R. R. Garran), the Commonwealth radiotelegraph engineer (Mr. J.G. Balsillie) the secretary to the Central Postal Administration (Mr. J. Oxenham) the chairman of the board of Amalgamated Wireless Limited (Mr. H. R. Denison) and Mr. J. Turnbull (of Messrs. Blake and Biggall, solicitors). An arrangement satisfactory to the Commonwealth in every respect was arrived at.

Mr Wynne stated after the conference that the main points of the agreement arrived at with the Marconi Company were that the action against the Commonwealth for alleged infringement of its patent was to be abandoned whilst opposition to the Balsillie wireless system was also to be withdrawn. The Commonwealth has undertaken to pay £5,000 to the Marconi Company in consideration of licenses being granted to the Commonwealth to use the Marconi patents in Australia and for the purpose of communicating with New Zealand. These patent rights included the Goldschmidt patent, which had been recently secured by the Marconi Company.

Referring to the circumstances leading up to the new agreement, Mr. Wynne stated that the British wireless expert (Mr. J. Swinburne), who had reported on the Balsillie system, had advised a settlement of the dispute. If the lawsuit had been persevered with, he said it would have been necessary to bring expert witnesses from Great Britain, and to some of these fees of at least £2,000 guineas would have had to be paid. In all the action might have cost £20,000 in legal expenses, and better terms had, Mr. Wynne thought, in the circumstances, been secured than had been anticipated even by Mr. Swinburne.

There is to be no payment in cash to the Amalgamated Wireless Limited (the Australian company operating the Telefunken and the Marconi patents), but this company had undertaken not to attack the validity of the Balsillie system.