

Tests on Low Power with Tasmania

By H. KINGSLEY LOVE, Melbourne

SOME 12 or 18 months ago, when the Transpacific Radio Tests were mooted, it was thought in many quarters that the chances were rather remote. Recent tests, which have been successfully carried out by Melbourne experimenters, have backed the originators' theory that we have not yet solved the problem of "Greatest distance with minimum power."

In the "Spark" days, it would have been classified as absurd if an experimenter had ventured to express the opinion that a 5 Watt output would have been clearly read in Hobart.

The writer is of the opinion that the experimenter, both in Australia and overseas, has done a great deal to forward the investigation of very low powered transmission.

It can safely be concluded that, on the basis of recent results, the Transpacific Test is sure to be a success.

If this be so, where will it all end? Where do the very feeble waves peter out?

The writer believes that if his deductions are proved correct, and the Transpacific Test accomplished, lower powered transmission to and receipt from the United Kingdom will resolve itself into merely a matter of time.

To be called experimenters, we must be ambitious, even should it border on what we consider *to-day* to be absurd. It is not what we can do to-day, it is what we shall be able to do to-morrow, that the experimenter must head towards.

There are many who can conclusively prove by figures a theory that low power cannot reach beyond a certain limited distance—but how can we disregard the practice?

Most theories are based on either practice or perhaps even on accident.

The following particulars of the Tasmanian tests which commenced at 9.8 p.m. on 14/3/23, will do more to help the experimenters' cause than most test books which have been printed to date.

Mr. Ross Hull, of Melbourne, has been the active organiser of the tests, and it is largely due to his efforts that the scheme worked so smoothly from its inception.

The Stations taking part were:—

- 3 J U—Mr. Ross Hull.
- 3 B Q—Mr. M. Howden.
- 3 B D—Mr. Cox.
- 3 B Y—Mr. Holst.
- 3 M C—Mr. Newman.
- 3 A M—Mr. C. Dohrman.
- 3 B M—Mr. H. K. Love.

Each station was allotted a four letter code, which was used in place of the usual call sign.

The receiving station was 7 A A, Mr. Watkins, Hobart.

The time of commencement was at the conclusion of V I M's Ocean Forecast, and the first station sent from that time until 9.20.

The 2nd station commenced 9.20 and sent till 9.30, then each station 10 mins.

This procedure was followed from the 14th inst. until the 18th.

In order that the tests should be conducted as an experiment of value, the input of each station was taken, and in all cases the transmitters were adjusted so as to keep the input down to 8 watts.

Four of the stations were logged by Mr. MacLurcan, in Sydney.

He reports that 3 M. C., whose input was 4 watts or thereabouts and radiation .6, was by far the strongest; while the next strongest was 3 B. Y., whose input was 8 watts and radiation .8.

This goes to prove that low power sets carefully adjusted can do wonders. All seven stations taking part in these tests were successfully copied in Hobart, on a single receiving valve. Apart from the very excellent transmitting records—the reception was a splendid piece of work.

In addition to C. W., telephone was logged from many of the stations and clearly understood.

None of the stations have been operating more than about six weeks, and I consider great credit is due to them for the wonderful results obtained. Doubtless after a little more experimenting, future tests will reveal results even more encouraging.

It will be of interest to intending contestants that an American Amateur Station has been heard on a ship within 100 miles of the Queensland coast.

In the writer's opinion, the Transpacific test will be a great success!

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