RADIO DEPARTMENT

The "Fog Warning" Radio Telephone

THE accompanying illustrations show the interior mechanism used in the wireless telephone "fog warning" signal installed at the Point Judith Light near Narragansett Pier, R. I. This is one of the most treacherous sections on the Atlantic coast for ships to negotiate. For some time the DeForest "Radiophore" has been in use at this lighthouse station. It comprises an old type cylinder phonograph fitted with a record and repeating mechanism, which operates an Oscillion vacuum bulb, in such a way that the following warning is sent out by wireless telephone waves from an antenna, to ships as follows: "Point Judith Light," which is repeated three times. Then the skipper on the boat, or his wireless operator, hears, "You are getting closer, keep off," at about ⅕ volume of the first warning. Until the vessel approaches the danger limit, it does not hear the necessary final warning, but simply the first "location" warning.

The energy used in operating this warning signal is one-fourth kilowatt. The Oscillion vacuum tube generator of the radio frequency oscillations, is a 3¾-inch bulb. Heretofore the wave length was varied automatically for the different signals by a motor-driven variometer, but owing to the difficulty experienced by the ship radio operators in trying to pick up the constantly changing wave length signal and to hold it, the warning is now sent out on a fixt wave length of 600 meters, whereas with the constantly changing wave length previously used, the final message, "You are getting closer, keep off," was liable to be mist.

The first real test of this apparatus has been taking place at Point Judith Light (near Narragansett Pier), and the apparatus is arranged on a very compact scale so that it can be attended to by the regular lighthouse keeper and assistant. A regulation gasoline engine connected with a 36-volt direct-current generator and storage batteries is used to supply the energy, to which is coupled a motor-generator set which operates the transmitting apparatus.

This apparatus is entirely enclosed in a compact cabinet measuring about 18x18x18 inches. On the front of the cabinet is the Oscillion bulb and necessary switches for regulating it; also connection posts for aërial and ground wires. On the side of the cabinet is a small door which gives access to the mechanism inside.

All the working parts are mounted inside the cabinet, including a motor-driven phonograph (see photographs herewith), speaking directly into a microphone. The arrangement of the cylindrical records is such that they repeat automatically, the saffire needle being set back to the beginning each time after it has traveled the length of the record. Each record has an average life of about 60,000 repetitions.

In the circuit diagram may be seen the relative layout of the various horns, microphones, and the Oscillion bulb generator of the radio frequency oscillations used to propagate the vocal message.

Several other modifications of the underlying principles may also be utilized as described in Dr. de Forest's patent. The transmitting apparatus is so arranged that speech can be sent out from the large fog horns, as also musical notes, bell signals, et cetera; on the same prearranged schedule as the radio signals. In this scheme the phonograph with records containing speech, is coupled to a microphonic arrangement and the speech is intensified by means of audion amplifiers and the sound waves sent out thru the fog horns, thereby enabling the captain or other officer to hear the same by ear, *without* the aid of wireless apparatus.

The one big feature of the Point Judith Light equipment is that when a ship is within a range of eight miles of the lighthouse, it will hear the following words flashed by wireless every five seconds: "Point Judith Light;" and after every

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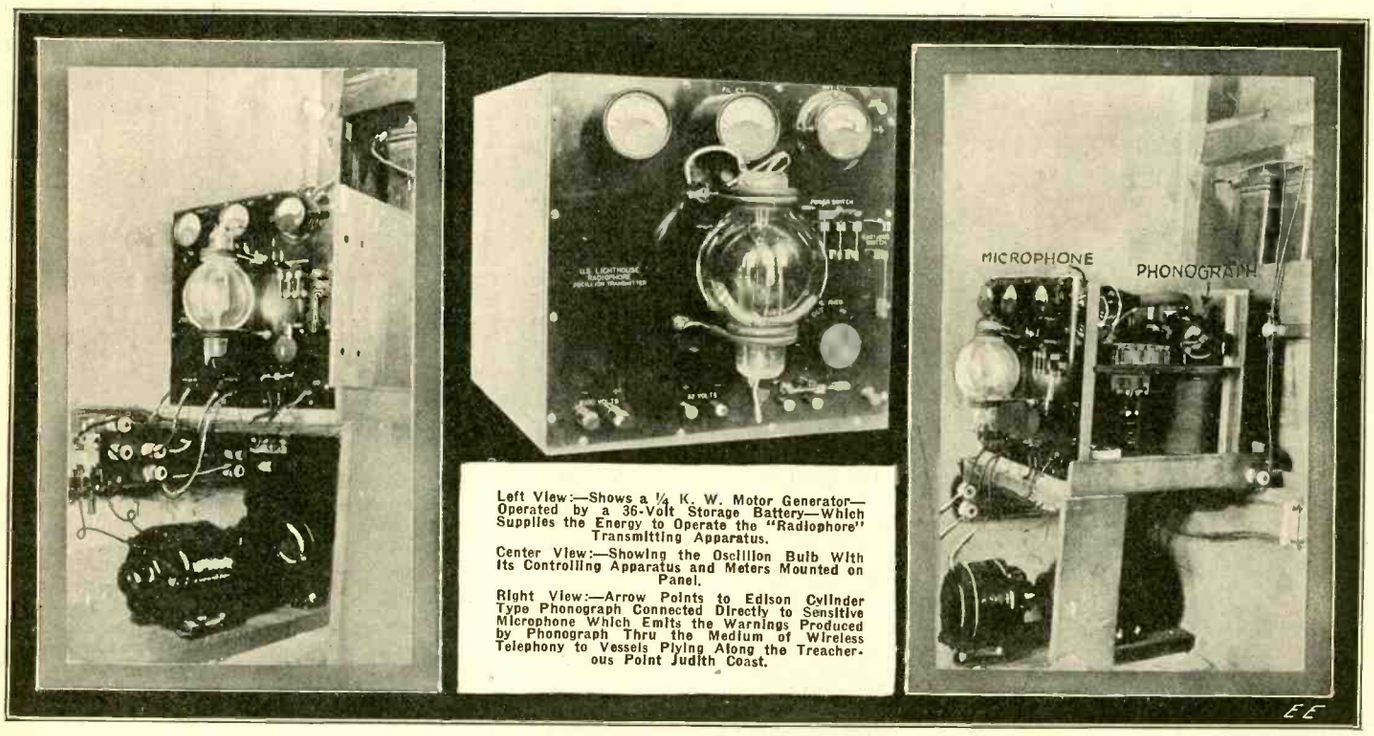

Left View:—Shows a ¼ K. W. Motor Generator—Operated by a 36-Volt Storage Battery—Which Supplies the Energy to Operate the "Radiophore" Transmitting Apparatus.

Center View:—Showing the Oscillion Bulb With its Controlling Apparatus and Meters Mounted on Panel.

Right View:—Arrow Points to Edison Cylinder Type Phonograph Connected Directly to Sensitive Microphone Which Emits the Warnings Produced by Phonograph Thru the Medium of Wireless Telephony to Vessels Plying Along the Treacherous Point Judith Coast.

The "Fog Warning" Radio Telephone

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third repetition the warning, "You are getting closer, keep off!" is sent out with a limit of range of about two miles. These signals are sent out during fog, mist, rain, and falling snow.

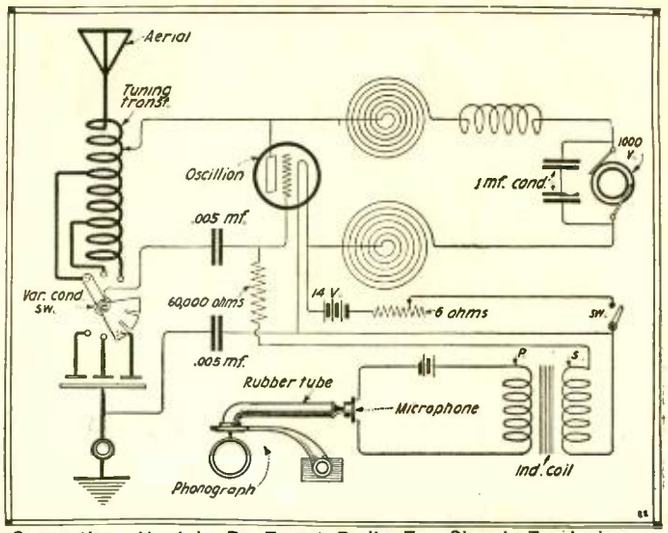
When sent out by *radio* the signals can be heard with any suitable or well-known wireless telegraphic telephonic receiving apparatus which may be employed to receive, detect, or reproduce the emitted or radiated signals. Crystal detectors may be used. The signals are sent out now on a first wave length of 600 meters.

If the transmitting and receiving apparatus is equipt for graduated strength musical note signals, these will be received by a ship at sea; for instance, suppose the ship receives the note corresponding to the Middle "C"; then it will be known that the lighthouse is four miles away.

If both the middle "C" and the "E" and "G," are detected at the receiving station, the distance is two miles, and if all four notes are heard, then the distance away is one mile or less, and so on for any other pre-arrangement and adjustment of the sounding apparatus.

This invention is bound to be a great help to all mariners and the system is a direct innovation over any that have heretofore been tried. Doubtless many disasters and wrecks will be avoided and in general to make navigation safer.

Every important lighthouse and lightship on the U. S. coasts will be fitted with this new Radiophone "fog signal."



Connections Used in De Forest Radio Fog Signal, Employing an Oscillion Bulb to Generate the Transmitting Oscillatory Current.

EMIL J. SIMON WINS CANADIAN LAWSUIT.

The Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of Canada, Limited, the plaintiff in a Canadian radio patent suit, recently released and discharged the American Wireless firm of Emil J. Simon from and against all claims and demands set forth in the Statement of Claims, and further stated in their disclaimer that it will not institute any other proceedings against the defendant, Emil J. Simon, in respect thereof. This notice was dated Montreal, June 7th, 1919.

A competent English authority says that English central station managers realize that lighting is fast becoming the small end of the electric central station's income, and power and appliances are to be the main sources of revenue in the future.

The How & Why of Radio Apparatus

By H. Winfield Secor

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comprising a four-wire inverted "L" aërial, the wires being spaced about 2½ feet apart.

However, where long distances are wanted, it becomes necessary to use longer aërials.* The reason for this is that, to gain the highest maximum results in any radio transmitting or receiving circuit, the antennae oscillatory circuit down to earth should be able to vibrate at a frequency approximating its natural period. Hence, it is seen that for this reason, it is necessary to use a long aërial, having in consequence a long wave *natural period* in order to pick up efficiently such wave lengths as 12,000 or 15,000 meters. This is not the whole story, either, for another important factor is that the longer the aërial, the more energy will be picked up from the rapidly moving etheric wave front, as it passes across the antenna wires. This may be compared for analogy to the electromagnetic field. In a dynamo or motor you will recollect that the longer the wire, the more magnetic flux it will intercept in its rotation in the field, with a consequent greater potential produced in the moving conductor. In the case of radio transmission, the conductor is stationary, while the electrostatic field moves and thus cuts the wire, inducing an electric current in the wire. It is this induced current which operates the detector in the receiving set.

*See "Calculation and Measurement of Inductance"—in the September, 1917, issue of this journal.

As a guide to the young radio designer, the accompanying graph chart is given, which shows the natural wave lengths of four-wire antennae of various heights and lengths. These values were computed from data given by Dr. Louis Cohen. A common rule for calculating approximately the wave length in meters of a simple antenna system, without any coils or other apparatus connected with it, is to multiply the length of the flat-top, plus the length of lead-in wire to earth, in meters by 4.5. This rule applies to inverted "L" type aërials. It is also applicable to "T" type antennae, but here the length of wire considered in meters is the lead-in length to earth, plus *one-half the length of the flat-top.* The factor 4.5 varies under different conditions, as, for instance, where metal roofs may change the natural capacity of the antenna. But it serves very well for approximation, and has been very extensively used.

Mathematical Calculation of Antennae Wave Lengths.

In a previous paper the writer had the following to say in regard to the wave length of radio antenna and the value of tuning inductances in the aërial oscillatory circuit.

Having theroly discust the methods of both calculating and measuring the inductance of coils, we are now in a position to continue with the design of the most im-

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