Sir George Nelson, Chairman, at the Annual General

The Story of the

I REPORTED to you last year that the turnover of the Company was the highest recorded in its history, and I can tell you that this turnover has again been exceeded this year. This arises from our long-term thinking and the success of our research to which I have referred in successive years, supported by appropriate sales efforts at home and overseas. The contribution we have made to the defence of our beloved

country has also played some part in these results, but we are most proud of the fact that we were chosen to shoulder this great responsibility in connection with the defence of our country. Reference to this was made by the Secretary of State for Air in the defence debate recently, and we were touched by the words of warm praise used by the Minister on that occasion.

The activities of our Company cover such a wide field that I can only touch on some of them in broad terms.

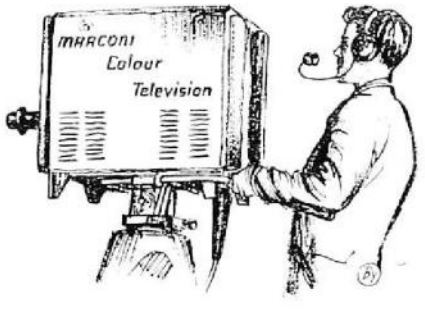
Basildon Factory

Our new Works at Basildon about which I told you last year were completed in June and have already handled a considerable volume of aeronautical and very high frequency communications equipment. The factory will provide important facilities for the further expansion of our business.

Radio Communications

Our Company is, in certain fields, the largest single manufacturer and supplier of radio communication equipment in the world, for more than sixty overseas territories have installed Marconi radio communication equipment.

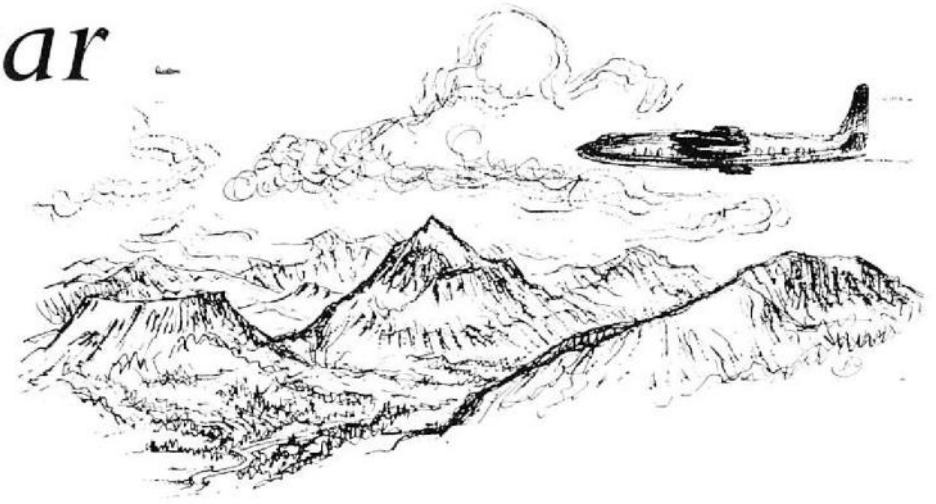
In collaboration with the Canadian Marconi Company, the control of which we acquired in 1953, we have obtained a very important telecommunication order which will make a valuable contribution to the country's dollar receipts. The new stations will give Canada a greatly improved radio telephone service with Australia, New Zealand and the Far East, and will give Britain an alternative to existing radio telephone links with Australia when the new Trans-Atlantic cable is completed.



We are also making a very considerable contribution to the improvement of the telephone services of Colonial

Meeting gives an account of the year's achievements

Year -



territories through the installation of our very high frequency multi-channel radio telephone systems.

The success of our mobile radio sets has been further demonstrated during this year by their use in regions with climatic extremes, on the ice cap of Greenland by the British North Greenland Expedition, and in the tropical jungles of Malaya where a very large number of our sets are in service.

Television

It is heartening to be able to say that we have received orders for black-and-white television equipment far exceeding anything received in previous years. Export orders include the first three transmitting stations in Denmark, additional equipment for Pisa and Rome in Italy and an installation in Brazil. Work has also been completed on the Vancouver station of the Canadian television service.

At Rowridge, in the Isle of Wight, we have supplied vision and sound transmitters for the first of the British Broadcasting Corporation's chain of medium power stations, and are supplying similar equipment for the other stations. Our Company has also engineered a B.B.C. design for the aerial to radiate the new transmissions from Crystal Palace, which, as I told you last year, will be made from Marconi transmitters.

We feel greatly complimented that the recently created Independent Television Authority and the Programme Companies have, from their very inception, looked to our Company for equipment and technical experience, and I am pleased to be able to tell you that a large amount of transmission equipment, for both vision and sound, and studio equipment has already been ordered.

Colour Television

A condition laid down by the B.B.C. with regard to colour transmissions was that it must be possible to receive these transmissions in black and white on the present television sets without appreciable loss of definition, and that existing black-and-white transmissions must be receivable in black and white on a colour receiver; this has been called compatible colour television. An event of major importance took place in May

last year when our Company gave the first public demonstration in this country of a fully electronic compatible colour television system. It must be apparent to all who have studied the technical and economic problems involved that the ultimate choice of a system of colour television for any country must rest with those authorities whose responsibility it is, but I would say, however, that Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company has, by extensive research, gathered a wealth of experience and is ready to advise and co-operate with the authorities who have this problem to face, and to develop and manufacture equipment to comply with the standards they choose.

Colour television transmission is not with us in Britain yet, but I must warn people that from its very nature it will be an expensive equipment when adopted.

Sound Broadcasting

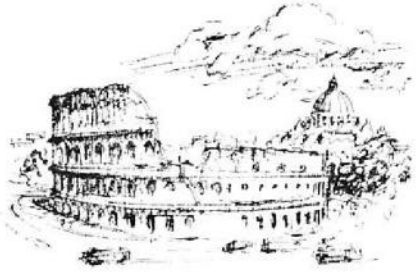
While television has captured the public interest, it is a fact that the great majority of people throughout the world will for many years to come still rely on sound broadcasting for their entertainment and enlightenment. Our high power broadcasting transmitters, which have this year gone into operation in Norway and Denmark, and will soon be in service in Cyprus, the Sudan and Argentina, now bring the total of these large transmitters sold throughout the world to forty-one in the last five years. These, together with smaller transmitters exported amount to a very substantial figure and make a great contribution to the country's earnings of foreign exchange.

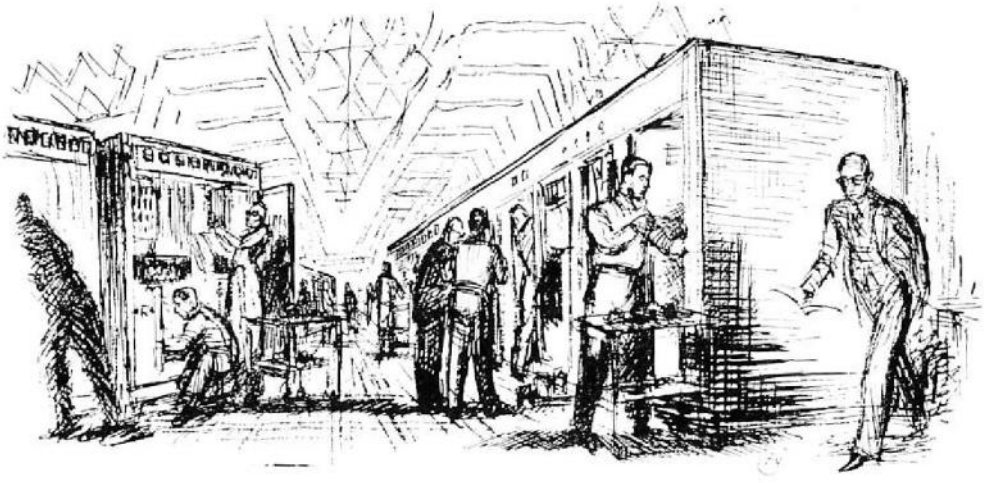
In the year under review orders for equipment for very high frequency transmitters have been received for the B.B.C.'s new Frequency Modulated programme, which will greatly improve the reception quality of all their three services.

Aeronautical

The second Aeronautical Radio Conference jointly sponsored by Marconi's, Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) and the Canadian Marconi Company, held last month in Sydney, marked another advance in this new phase of collaboration within the Commonwealth. I welcome this Commonwealth Association as a clear proof of the ties which unite us and which enable us, in the face of world competition, to make an approach in common to the many problems inherent in air radio.

Marconi's range of new products developed over the past few years is now becoming firmly established throughout the world. A very substantial number of Air Lines and Air Forces use our airborne radio equipment, and it is particularly gratifying to learn that the Ministry of Supply has recently en-





trusted us with the task of designing and engineering suppressed aerials, which our Company pioneered, for Britain's latest and fastest jet fighters.

Our radio compasses are acknowledged to be outstanding, and these navigational aids in great numbers are in daily use in aircraft throughout the world. We are particularly pleased that the great Capital Airlines of America have standardised on this compass for their new fleet of Vickers Viscounts.

As pioneers of the use of radio for safety at sea over fifty years ago, in due course safety in the air similarly became a major concern of our Company, and in the field of ground aeronautical navigation equipment we have now installed very high frequency direction finders in no fewer than thirty-one countries.

The VOR Beacon has now been adopted in principle for installation on airways overseas and our version of this very high frequency omnidirectional range beacon has successfully met the requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organisation. The Federal Air Office of the Swiss Government has already taken delivery of one such equipment, and another is to be installed this year in Singapore for the Department of Civil Aviation.

Maritime

Your Company has continued to develop and provide an extensive range of radio communications, radar and echo sounding equipment for The Marconi International Marine Communication Company for use by the merchant navies of the world. In addition, radar and radio communications equipment has been supplied to the Egyptian Navy, and radio marine beacons to India, the Dutch West Indies and Portugal.

Defence Radar

As I said in my opening words, when the story comes to be told of the part our Company has played in re-equipping the radar defences of this country it will be a revelation, but I feel I must say here that it fills me with pride to extend the congratulations and the thanks of the whole country to our specialist engineers and workers who have been associated with this great work which means so much to the safety of our country and our homes.

In addition to this great work in the United Kingdom we have supplied complete radar defence systems to a number of other countries. Not only do we design and engineer equipment for

countries overseas, we also act as advisers and help them in the maintenance of their equipment and the training of their personnel.

Research and Development

A company such as ours has a national obligation to carry on the most unremitting research into every field of present practice and future thought in radio communication and electronics, and it will not be surprising to you that our research and development facilities in the field in which we operate are, in the aggregate, in advance of and larger than any others in Europe.

It is not possible to review these vast research activities in any detail but I would mention that amongst our activities is a considerable research group for the study of wave-propagation and also one on semi-conductors and both have made extremely satisfactory progress in these fields, and these, together with our unrivalled knowledge of micro-wave technique, are adding greatly to the efficiency of radio communications in the world.

Education and Training

When we introduced radio communication to the world we realised the importance of providing facilities for education and training. For the third time in twenty-four years new premises have been added to the Marconi College. This new building has enabled us to improve still further the technological training facilities and, at the same time, to expand the residential accommodation for students from overseas. This is in line with my conviction that Industry must take the lead in ensuring that all appropriate staff, whether craftsmen, research engineers or scientists, should have available to them adequate practical instruction facilities to study the latest technological processes, and we have tried for many years to render this service to our own staff and that of our clients. There are 4000 men of all grades under instruction in the English Electric Group and of these 500 are in the Marconi Company. I look on this aspect of our activities not merely as a valuable investment for the Company but as of vital service to the future of the country.

Marconi Instruments Ltd.

Turning now to our subsidiary Marconi Instruments, at St. Albans, the enlargement of the factory last year has resulted in a further advance in the year under review. New developments in frequency-modulated broadcasting have opened up a new phase of activity in which the Company's many years of experience in design and production of test gear is proving invaluable. Its unrivalled position in the field of precision electronic instruments, X-ray and electro-medical equipment has been maintained.

Sales of industrial apparatus, such as

continued on Page 13

With Marconi (South Africa)

F. N. Sutherland, General Manager, recently visited South Africa on business in connection with a defence project of the Union of South African Government. He was greeted by R. B. Price, left, Benoni Works Director, The English Electric Company of South Africa, E. R. Burroughes, Managing Director of Marconi (South Africa), and H. J. H. Nethersole, a Director of the same company

moisture meters, continue at a high level.

We still look with confidence to the future of this highly competitive business.

Scanners Ltd.

In 1954 a significant proportion of the output from our subsidiary Scanners Limited, of Newcastle, which had completed its obligations in the manufacture of defence equipment, was transferred to commercial requirements in the field of navigation and radio communications.

Confidence in the Future

I began on a note of optimism and in thanking all the members of the Marconi family I should like to end on a note which seems to me to sum up the prospect before us. It is this. We were the originators in the world of radio communication and we have worked hard and continuously to acquire technical knowledge, and the ability to apply it, and which is most important of all, we can count on the devoted skill and loyalty of our management, staff and workpeople to give it practical form to the benefit of the Company, our country and the world. In spite of increasing competition I am confident that the spirit of enterprise and resolution which has sustained this Company throughout its history will carry it forward to achievements comparable with anything it has done in the past.