

## By Sound and Vision

**T**HE OCCASION of our fiftieth anniversary of the first wireless signal to span the Atlantic was well celebrated by wireless. During that day the Prime Minister signified his interest in the occasion by sending a message to President Truman. It read: "Mr. President. It is with pleasure that I send you my greetings by wireless on this Fiftieth Anniversary of the first radio message to cross the Atlantic. Winston Churchill."

Many countries broadcast special programmes commemorating the event: they included Argentina, Canada, Eire, Italy, Norway, Spain, Greece, and the United States.

At home our programmes started on Saturday, 8 December, when Captain Horatio J. Powys—the only living witness of that great day in Newfoundland—was interviewed by John Ellison in "In Town Tonight".

Although he witnessed the first long-distance signal fifty years ago, Captain Powys had never broadcast before; he

certainly made up for it between the 8th and 12th. On Monday, 10 December, he visited Broadcasting House and made recordings which were subsequently heard on the Home Service at 1.10 on the 12th ("Eye-Witness") and on seven Overseas Newsreels that day.

The high spot of the Captain's career as a broadcaster was when he was interviewed by Miss Joan Gilbert on television's "Picture Page".

The photograph of him with Miss Gilbert and Mr. Leslie Mitchell at Alexandra Palace shows how much the old gentleman enjoyed his appearance. The programme also featured the actual equipment used on 12 December 1901 by Marconi and his engineers and was described by Mr. Mitchell.

Other branches of the B.B.C. were interested in our anniversary, and on Thursday, 13 December, another "first-time" broadcaster faced the microphone. This time it was our Secretary, L. J. King.

*L. J. King, Secretary of the Company, being interviewed by Mr. Steedman, of the B.B.C., during his broadcast*





*Captain Powys telling Joan Gilbert all about it before his broadcast on "Picture Page". Leslie Mitchell of the B.B.C. is ready to rehearse*

The theme of his highly successful broadcast was personal reminiscences of Marconi, and Mr. King (whose article on that subject appeared in our issue of last April) made two recordings, one an interview with Mr. Steedman of the B.B.C., and the other with an Italian interpreter who ran a continuous translation throughout the recording of Mr. King's talk.

Many people heard the first of these broadcasts on the European Service of the B.B.C. on Saturday, 15 December, at 5.40 p.m., and the Italian recording went out from both the B.B.C. and Rome at 9.30 p.m. the following day.

Altogether we certainly were on the air a lot in those eight days, and one tired person was heard muttering as he staggered bleary-eyed out of a studio: "I hope this isn't going to happen to me every fifty years!"

## ***Do you know?***

1. It comes from Queensland and is called Sorghum. What is it?
2. Who said "We are not amused?"
3. If you suspect "rubeola" would you ask advice from a doctor a plumber or a gardener?
4. What professions do you connect with Florence Nightingale, Marie Curie, Sarah Bernhardt, Nell Gwyn?
5. An old lady was robbed of a valuable family heirloom and the only clue was a cloth cap found near the scene of the crime. The next day her gardener called to claim the reward. He said he had let his greyhound sniff the cap and the dog had led him to where the booty was buried. Why did the old lady refuse to give him the reward?

*Answers on page 29*