
RADIO-TELEGRAPHY.

M E S S A G E

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

RELATING TO

RADIO-TELEGRAPHY.

FEBRUARY 8, 1909.—Read; referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

Your attention is invited to recent events which have conclusively demonstrated the great value of radio-telegraphy, popularly known as “wireless” telegraphy, as an instrumentality for the preservation of life at sea.

While the honor of the first practical application of the scientific principles involved may belong to another country, it is gratifying to know that our inventors have been quick to seize upon and develop the idea, and that several systems of approved scientific merit and commercial practicability have been put into operation in the United States.

Furthermore, through the liberality of Congress and the intelligence and industry of the Navy Department our Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific coasts are equipped with a chain of shore stations, designed primarily for the national defense, but capable of receiving and transmitting messages by any of the systems of wireless telegraphy now in general use. Even our distant insular territories and Alaska are so equipped.

So far as our own country is concerned, steps have thus been taken effectually to prevent the establishment of a monopoly in the practical use of the new applied art.

I deem it highly desirable that the Congress before adjournment should enact a law requiring within reasonable limitations, as determined by what the Government of the United States has already done and by what prudent and progressive shipowners have already found practicable, that all ocean-going steamships, carrying considerable numbers of passengers on routes where wireless installations would be useful, should be required to carry efficient radio-telegraphic installations and competent operators. The subject is now under considera-

tion by the Congress, and I am advised that legislation to effect the same general purpose is also under consideration abroad.

Our interest in its enactment is keen on account of the great number of steerage, as well as cabin, passengers who annually arrive at and depart from our ports. What we have already done along practical business lines warrants the United States in being first among nations to enact a statute requiring the use of this safeguard of human life.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *February 8, 1909.*

○