



Fig. 1. "Oxford Radio," the Leafield station, call sign GBL.

WIRELESS IN THE POST OFFICE

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Postmaster-General the Statutory Authority

THE connection of the Post Office with wireless telegraphy dates from 1896, when Senator Marconi gave his first demonstration in this country at the request of the late Sir William Preece, who was then Engineer-in-Chief, and from that time onwards the Department has been intimately connected with all developments of wireless communication.

The Wireless Telegraphy Act of 1904 made it illegal for any person in the British Isles to install or work wireless apparatus in any place or on board any British ship except under, and in accordance with, a licence granted on behalf of the Postmaster-General, and further it stipulated

that wireless could not be used in territorial waters by foreign ships otherwise than in accordance with regulations made by the Postmaster-General. The Postmaster-General thus became the Statutory Authority for wireless telegraphy and telephony in this country.

Coast Stations

In 1908 the first Post Office station for commercial work was opened at Bolt Head for communication with ships, and in the following year the other coast stations, which belonged to the Marconi Company and Lloyds, were taken over by the Department.