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HARRISON, A.T.&T. VICE-PRESIDENT, GETS IMPORTANT POST AS COLONEL IN ARMY

WILLIAM H. HARRISON, Vice-President and Chief Engineer of the American Telephone and Telegraph Co. on leave of absence, whose work during the past two years in Washington has made one of the outstanding contributions to the national defense program and the war effort in his important posts with the OPM and the WPB, retired June 18 from the Directorship of the WPB Production Division to be sworn in as a Colonel in the Army where he heads, starting July 1, the production, procurement, and distribution division headquarters of the Services of Supply of the Army.

The shift of the production activities of the War Production Board to the Army and Navy has been viewed for some time by the government leadership in Washington as the logical and inevitable step of progress in the war machinery, since the day-by-day production work is now wholly a task to be followed up by the armed services, with the WPB becoming more and more concerned with the problems of materials and labor supply. The furnishing of production facilities has also become a less pressing task of WPB than a few months ago. Thus it is understood authoritatively that the transfer of Mr. Harrison into the Army from his important WPB Production Division Directorship was entirely in furtherance of this objective to place all war material production activities under the aegis of the Armed Services.

Col. Harrison in his new Army post on July 1 will succeed Brigadier General C. D. Young, former Vice-President of the Pennsylvania Railroad, who retires from active duty. General Young went on active duty with the Army last February 20.

The selection of Col. Harrison for his Army post was made by Undersecretary of War Patterson and Lieutenant General Brehon E. Somervell, who commands the Services of Supply and was cited authoritatively to have been in full accord with the desires of WPB Chairman Donald M. Nelson. *It is well known that Col. Harrison, because of his recognized abilities and accomplishments, is held in the highest esteem by the Army and Navy top-most leadership. He has done notable work with the OPM and WPB and has closely coordinated activities with the Armed Services. It was understood that months before his entrance into the Army Col. Harrison had been offered a number of times highly responsible posts by both of the Services. When he was sworn in as a Colonel late in the afternoon of June 18, it was reported that the ceremony was witnessed by Undersecretary Patterson, Lt. General Somervell, and Lt. General William S. Knudsen, with whom Col. Harrison had served with the old National Defense Advisory Commission and then with the OPM.

One of the most outstanding and best-known executives of the Bell System, Col. Harrison has been engaged in full-time service in Washington in the war effort since July, 1940. In his first



WILLIAM H. HARRISON

post, for which he was selected by Mr. Knudsen, he was in charge of the Construction Division of the National Defense Advisory Commission, during which time he assisted the Army and Navy in the building of the first group of hundreds of Army Camps and Airfields and Naval Bases, Shore Stations, and Air Stations. Then on Jan. 18, 1941, when the OPM was created, he became Chief of the OPM Shipbuilding, Construction and Supplies, other than Aircraft and Ordnance Division. In the following September he was appointed Director of the OPM Production Division in place of John D. Biggers and with the creation of WPB on Jan. 18, 1942, he was continued in that post by WPB Chairman Nelson, being one of the few OPM top officials carried on in his same capacity.

R. C. D.

British Communications Chief Here

Sir Campbell Stuart, Chairman of the British Imperial Communications Commission, flew to the United States on May 30 to exchange views on major communications policies with the U. S. Government agencies and the American communications companies.

No reason for the visit was given, although it was speculated that it had something to do with the prospective merger of American communications companies. It was also thought that Sir Campbell would discuss plans for the opening of Mackay Radio links with Great Britain.

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