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RADAR BEATS MANX FOG

Voyagers to the Isle of Man are promised safer and speedier docking through installation of Radar control at Douglas Harbour. Following record speed erection of a lattice tower built locally, Air Vice-Marshal Sir Geoffrey Bremet, Governor of the Island, opens the service. He starts rotation of the scanner-beam which sweeps a three mile arc to sea.

The Steam Packet from Liverpool provides the first test, as the captain calls up Douglas for a bearing. To him the service means safe passage through the piers when fog blots them from sight.

At the control tower the harbour-master takes a bearing on the approaching ship as it takes shape on the indicator screen. The vessel appears as a moving speck of light on what is virtually a lighted map of its surroundings.

The bearing is read direct from the indicator unit, and passed to the ship by radio telephone. Acknowledging the signal, the Master gives directions for the change of course and the packet swings round on to a line which takes her straight into the harbour.

By installing the world's first harbour radar control the Isle of Man cuts out the dangers and delays to shipping caused by summer fog and thereby earns the thanks of Britain's holidaymakers.