



Reginald Fessenden

Wins \$2.5-million in 1928 Suit

1928 Inventor Wins Suit Against 'Radio Trust.'

"Big Business" was defeated by the Aged Expert; Gains \$2,500,000 Decision; Will Continue to work; Likes cooking and fishing.

(Los Angeles Examiner)

NEWTON, Mass, Oct. 13, 1928: Prof. Reginald Aubrey Fessenden, called the "Father of Modern Radio" has upset the serenity of Wall Street.

The internationally known inventor, whose home is at 45 Waban Hill road, Newton, has forced the so-called Radio Trust to pay him \$2,500,000 in cash, and name him as -- "the father of Radio."

In addition, the Boston physicist and engineer has secured from eight great corporations acknowledgment of the validity of all his inventions in the field of wireless communication.

Thus ends, in so far as Professor Fessenden is concerned, his suit for \$60,000,000 against the Radio Corporation of America, The American Telephone & Telegraph Company, the General Electric Company, the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, the Western Electric Company Inc, the International Radio Telegraph Company, the United Fruit Company and the wireless Specialty Appliance Company.

CLAIMED \$60,000,000

At the time of filing his suit in the United States District Court at Boston against the above named corporations, nearly three years ago, Professor Fessenden alleged that by organization of a monopoly and by restraint of interstate commerce they had damaged him to the sum of \$20,000,000, and that he was entitled to "Triple indemnity" under the Sherman Anti-Trust Law.

Despite the fact that Professor Fessenden and the defendant corporations settled their differences on April 4 last, no word as to the calling off of the suit has been allowed to reach the general public. Everyone concerned in the case was enjoined to strict secrecy.

As a result, however, of investigations made by the Boston Sun day Advertiser, there is presented today for the first time the inside story of how "Big Business" was given a sound drubbing by a 70-year-old engineering savant.

Immediately upon receipt of the "out-of-court" settlement of \$2,500,000, Professor Fessenden went to Bermuda for a long holiday. It was most pleasing to the defendant corporations that he had taken himself out of the reach of inquiring newspaper men. In fact, a "gentlemen's agreement" provided that there would be "no publicity" given to the settlement out of court.

TOO MUCH PUBLICITY

Attorney Sherman L. Whipple, declined to admit that his client had made a settlement. Counsel for the Radio Trust, a brilliant array of legal talent, also proved uncommunicative regarding the Fessenden suit.

That there already had been too much publicity concerning the charges made by Fessenden in his suit for damages, to say nothing of the large cash settlement that had been made, was the feeling in high financial circles.

Of course, Wall Street did not rejoice in the triumph of the Boston radio wizard. The heads of certain great banking institutions and industrial organizations could not forget that Professor Fessenden was the star witness for the Federal Trade Commission during its recent investigation of the trading methods of the eight companies forming what the Boston inventor calls the Radio Trust. And it was these same eight companies that were forced to pay \$2,500,000 to Fessenden.

Most embarrassing to Wall Street was the unexpected return of Professor Fessenden from Bermuda to the United States. And the embarrassment is due to the fact that there could be no padlocking of his lips.

The man known as the "Father of Modern Radio" is one of those individuals who does not mince words. He is bluff and outspoken. With him, a spade is a spade.

FIGHTS FINANCIERS

His contempt for the leaders of "Big Business" and their methods is well-known. He has yet to back down in a fight with Wall Street, of which he has had quite a few. When seen at his home in Newton, Professor Fessenden not only told how he beat the radio Trust at its own game, but aired his opinions in general about how "big business" treats the "Little Fellow."

"Just how much did you settle for against the Radio Corporation and the rest of the organizations listed in your suit of December, 1925?" he was asked. "Exactly \$2,500,000 in cold cash!" -- answered Professor Fessenden.

There could be no mistaking the words, which came forth like the coming of a gun, from a man exceeding six feet two inches in height and representing 200 pounds muscle and brawn.

That's quite a bit more than the Radio Corporation of America and Associates admit giving you is ...illegible " pursued the reporter. "Likely it is," Professor Fessenden answered, "but you know I don't want any publicity about it."