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THE TELEGRAPH AGE.

No. 1.

NEW YORK, JANUARY 1, 1902.

VOL. XIX.

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to the duplex, the quadruplex, storage battery and other telegraph matters, which have appeared in this journal during the past three years under the caption of "Some Points on Electricity," will be published, and the book substituted for "Pocket Editions of Diagrams," by Willis H. Jones. Those desiring a copy of the new book should send in their names at once.—Editor.]

Nothing causes more confusion and delay to the traffic in a telegraph office than a guessless search for "trouble" in a set of instruments which has been wired without conformity to any prearranged plan. In a small office where a few instruments are installed by one man he may possibly remember just where each connection is made, but in large offices the chief operators in charge are not usually the men who actually did the wiring, hence a systematic method of arranging the apparatus and connections is not only advisable, but really necessary. Each separate apparatus should occupy an identical location on or under the desks. The manner in which single line relays and sounders are arranged has already been shown.

We will now proceed to arrange the multiplex apparatus according to the latest and most approved method.

The first and second diagrams show the actual binding post connections of a polar duplex operated by a dynamo current, with every instrument, switch, wire and other accessory in their proper position on the desk.

For the purpose of preventing confusion in

SOME POINTS ON ELECTRICITY.

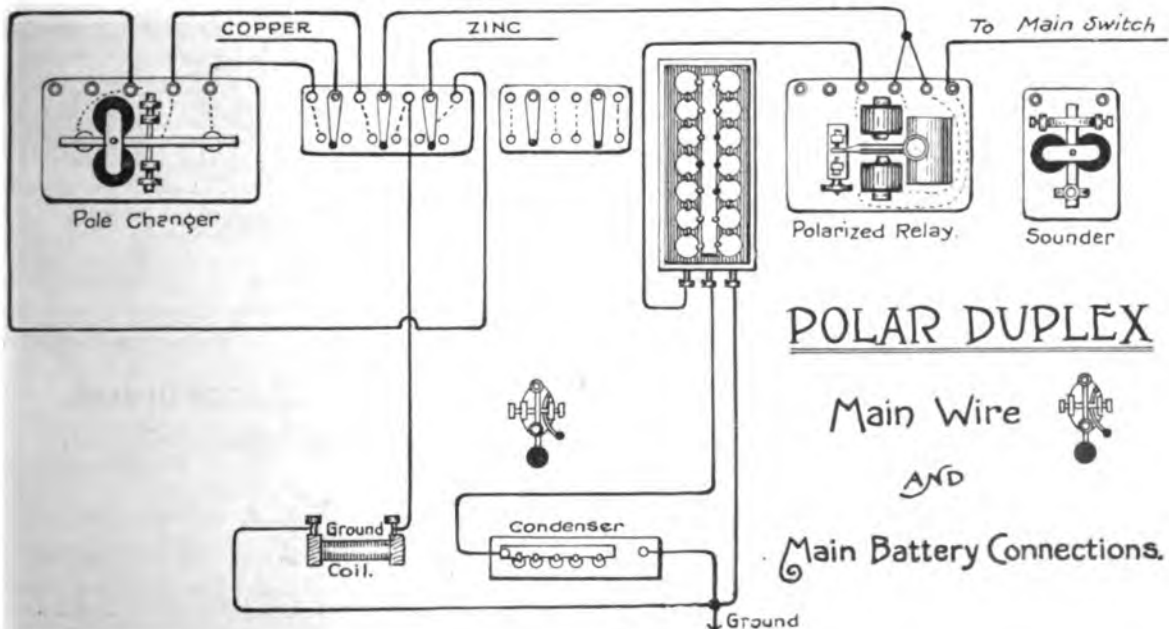
The Equipment of a Modern Telegraph Office.

(Continued.)

THE WIRING AND ARRANGEMENT OF APPARATUS.

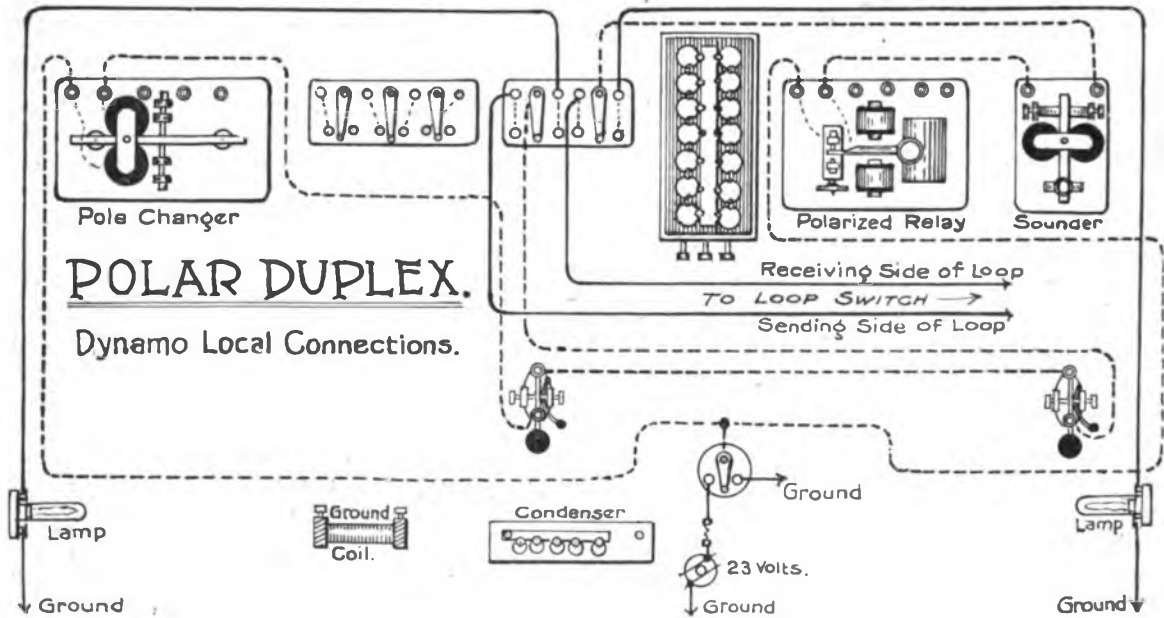
BY WILLIS H. JONES.

[In a few months hence this series, together with the most valuable of the articles appertaining



tracing the desk wires from one point to another, we have omitted the local connections in the first cut and the main wires in the second. The two cuts make an ideal "blue print" for linemen, and

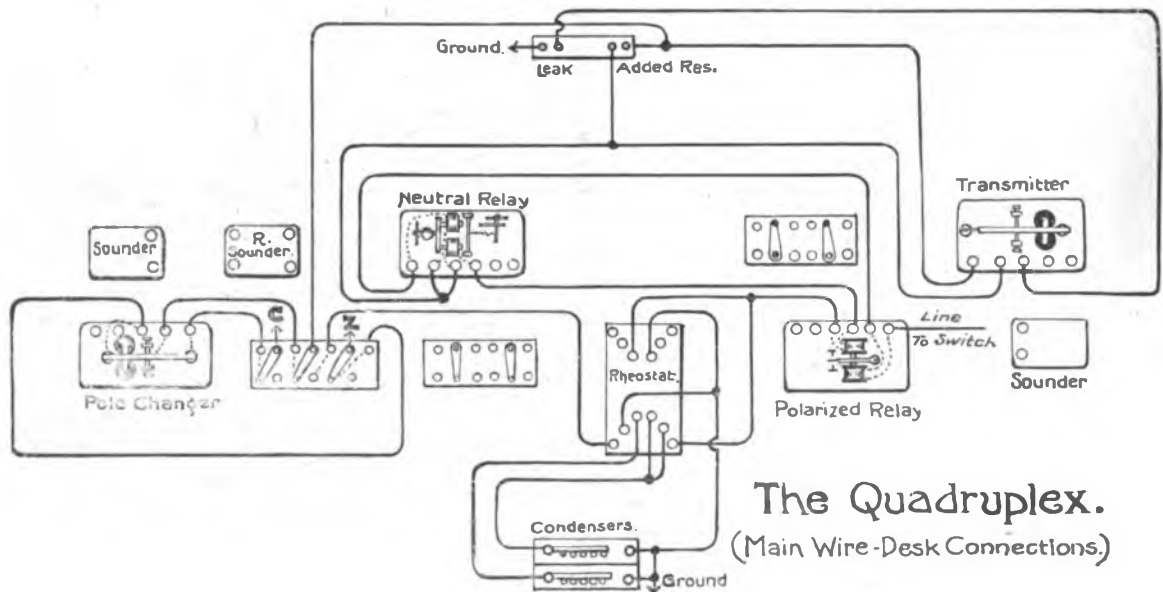
The resistance of the ground coil for duplex apparatus should be just the same as that of the main line battery lamps at the home station, usually two ohms per volt employed. The third and fourth



anyone with ordinary intelligence should be able to set up a duplex without other suggestions than are contained therein.

All the apparatus shown are placed on top of

cuts in like manner show the main wire and local desk connections of the quadruplex apparatus separately. The local connections are practically the same as those of the duplex, with the excep-



The Quadruplex.
(Main Wire-Desk Connections.)

the desk except the lamp resistance, the ground coil, condensers, and the round base, three-point battery switch, which should be placed at convenient points underneath the table.

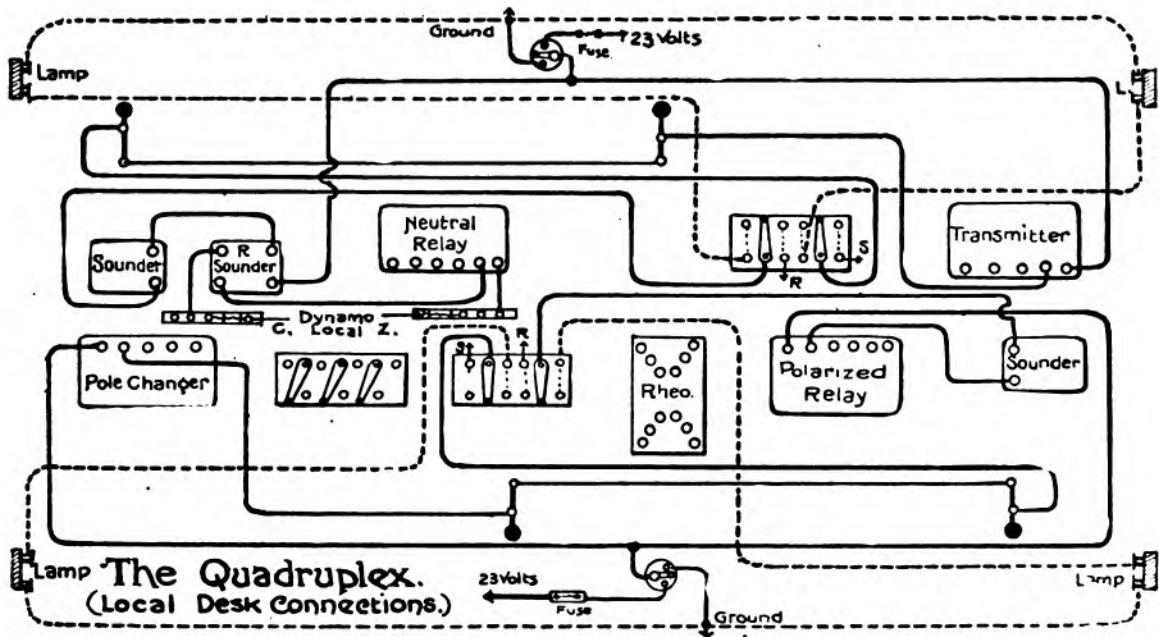
tion of what is necessary to add a repeating sounder to the neutral side. As the diagrams speak for themselves, there is but little further information necessary.

Where resonators with flexible cords are connected to binding posts screwed into the top of the desk, as is usually the case, the two posts should be placed near the front partition, one behind the other, as viewed by the operator seated in his chair, and not side by side. They are thus arranged in order that the circular metal base of the resonator stand cannot possibly touch the two at once and thereby "cut out" the sounder.

The resistance of the ground coil for quadruplex apparatus should always be exactly 600 ohms, where the dynamo arrangement of "leak box" and "added resistance" obtains, regardless of the elec-

the profession, of which he was once a member, for all time. My plan, in brief, is simply to return to an old time charity—buy a worthy workman his tools.

Throughout the country to-day it is almost absolutely necessary for an operator to provide himself with a typewriter, and if he be of forethought, a key which will prevent lost grip and telegrapher's paralysis, ailments which, in more or less degree and sooner or later, attack every operator. These instruments are in the open market. Typewriters of all makes to relieve the penman from writer's cramp, and the Twentieth Century key, which will



tromotive force or length of the circuit, because the joint resistance of those coils offer exactly 600 ohms resistance to the incoming current with our transmitter open, and we must maintain that value when we "ground" for the distant station, so that when we "cut in" again we will not add to or deduct from the value of his line balance.

(To be continued.)

Business Notice.

"I see you've got an operator at Brownville now that can send, Mr. Train Dispatcher." "Oh, no; it's the same old operator—he bought a 20th Century Telegraph Key!" Address Foote Pierson & Co., 82-84 Fulton street, New York.

The Carnegie Proposition.

Editor TELEGRAPH AGE:

Relative to the recent articles in your journal asking suggestions as to the best manner in which Mr. Andrew Carnegie could aid the telegraphists of the United States, permit me to suggest a plan, which, in my humble opinion, were it put into practice, would endear that great philanthropist to

enable a victim of lost grip to transmit dots and dashes, which he could not do on the regulation key, and which will prevent paralysis. But these instruments cost money; the companies will not buy them, and while many operators purchase them on the instalment plan at the highest figure, many are not able to buy them at all and struggle along as best they may.

It has been said that the most noble form of charity is to help a man to help himself. What better plan than this—buy a worthy workman his tools.

I am sure that if Mr. Carnegie would divert a sum of money to this purpose the results would be most gratifying. The purchases could be made under the supervision of local managers and the individual benefited would be in a position to at once demonstrate the value of the gift.

Very respectfully,

JAMES P. WILLIAMS.

New York, December 23, 1901.

Shade of Benj. Franklin to Signor Marconi: "Hello, Marc., I believe I've seen that kite arrangement of yours before."

Telegraphers, Rhymsters and Poets.

A correspondent, who was evidently a reader of my versified narrative of "Pat and the Anarchists," has written me over a *nom de telegraphique* (X), and asks if I can explain why so many telegraphers are moved to write rhymes. "Scarcely a telegraph office," he adds, "but shelters a poet. How do you account for it?" He (or she) also suggests that I deal with the subject in TELEGRAPH AGE.

I am not an authority on such matters—let that be distinctly understood—but since I received X's letter I have turned the query over in my mind, and I think it reasonably can be claimed that the environment of a telegrapher is conducive to rhythmic outpourings, or even poetry in its truer sense. Between these two classes of writing there is a wide difference. The poet of occasion and the bard of inspiration are not in the same class. "But (as Kipling says) that's another story," and not necessary to the development of my theory.

Rhythm is abundant all about the telegrapher. It permeates the atmosphere of his daily labor. He hears it in the hum of the telegraph wires after his day's labor is done. It appertains to the "tools of his trade," so to speak.

To the uninitiated the ticking of a single telegraph instrument or the clatter of a number of them in unison is discord—noise, pure and simple. But this sound falls upon the trained ear of the telegrapher in an altogether different manner. The combination of dots, dashes and spaces blend together in a harmony which varies in degree, according to the quality of expertness attained and exhibited by the "sender." "Good Morse" is musical even. It is soothing to the nerves. There is a rhythm and a metrical exactness about it that lends to it an almost poetical grace. It is a truism that the man or woman with "an ear for music" makes the best telegrapher; and as music and rhythm and poetry are closely allied, there is nothing surprising to my mind in the fact that among the thousands of expert telegraphers all over the country, there should be a rather large percentage of those whose sense of rhythm finds expression in verse-making.

But just as there are poor musicians and poor telegraphers, so, too, there are poor verse-makers and poets, even though they be telegraphers as well. There are rhymes without rhythm, and so-called poems without many, if any, traces of poetry, just as there is "bad Morse" of the jerky and unspaced order. But it is sometimes hard to make a poor telegrapher, a poor musician or a poor verse-maker realize the fact that he offends. In each case the "poor one" has probably missed his calling. But how few of them admit it!

Anybody can become a "plug," just as anyone can become a nuisance to his neighbor by thumping a piano, or just as anyone can make jerky, inelegant sentences rhyme. But the good operator, the good musician and the good rhymster must have some inward qualities behind the mechanical touch, even though it be deft, as applied to the telegraph key, a musical instrument, or the pen.

So much for the purely rhythmical aspect of my theory. And now for the poetical aspect.

The poet of nature goes to wind-tossed forests; to fragrant flowers, diffusing their perfume on the summer's balmy breeze; he goes to the babbling brooks; to the music of the song birds; to—in short, all of the idyllic conditions which move his heart to inspiration. There is the poet of bloody war, the poet of peace and civilization, the poet of the heroic and of the pastoral; of Love (and his name is legion) and of hate (for some poets are spiteful).

As Byron satirically put it:

"Behold! in various throngs the scribbling crew
For notice eager, pass in long review."

And all these have their theme.

Then why not a Poet of the Telegraph—not a mere rhymmer, or writer of jingling verse, but a real poet?

The inspiration lies ready at hand, and it is magnificent, mysterious and awe-inspiring.

Let some telegrapher arise and do it justice.

Consider the subtle force that produces the rhythmic ticking of dots and dashes; consider, too, the continents traversed in the twinkling of an eye by the same subtle agency, as it carries across their broad stretches the messages of mankind. Consider the oceans likewise spanned. Consider time annihilated. Or imagine—as a poet has the right to imagine—all the clicking instruments in the universe blended into a thundering chorus for the purpose of acclaiming the great deeds which the electric telegraph has done for humanity. And, finally, consider the marvelous mystery which surrounds the vital and potent electric flash, whether it be harnessed for the purposes of mankind, or unloosed, high in the heavens, to hurl at affrighted Earth the thunderbolts of Jove.

Let X dwell upon this and he must surely ask, as I have asked, "Why not a Poet of the Telegraph, or a dozen of them?"

And let X no longer wonder that telegraphers make rhymes, feel constrained to mount Pegasus, or plume their wings to poetic flights—even if editors, at times, are unsympathetic and refuse to publish their verses. BRENTON A. MACNAB.

Telegraph Breakdown in England.

The effect of the recent big storm in England, which practically severed all telegraphic communication between the southern and northern portions of that country, has been to revive agitation for the completion of an underground service to all the great centers. The great advantages of the underground wires to Birmingham were never more clearly demonstrated, as that city was the only one in full communication with London for two days.

It is estimated that the storm cost the country \$5,000,000.

It is well to think well; it is divine to act well.—Horace Mann.

No up-to-date telegrapher can afford to be without TELEGRAPH AGE. Send for a sample copy.

A Case for Inquiry in the British Post Office.

The September number of the Westminster Review (England) contains the following interesting article by Charles H. Garland, one of the foremost telegraph writers and expert operators in England:

The traveler in Rome is met with the following aphoristic comment on the absence of marble in the Coliseum: "What the Barbarians left the Barbarinis took." It may be some distant echo of this aphorism which has led to the current saying in the post office on the causes of mortality among the employees. The generalized experience is summed up in the following grim sentence: "What consumption leaves the madhouse takes." This is perhaps not literally true, but it is a clear popular expression of the prevailing impression among the employees of the lower grades of the indoor postal service. Among the large bodies of sorters and telegraphers there is an ineradicable belief that consumption claims an abnormal tribute of lives, and among the telegraphers there is an equally deeply-rooted belief that their work is productive of mental disease in all its forms, from the more severe and pronounced types which find treatment in an asylum to those less serious cases which result in an amiable softness or express themselves in abnormal craving for alcohol. Nor are these beliefs confined to English postal employees alone. They are equally prevalent in the Continental countries. At the International Congress of Telegraphers held in Como in June, 1899, this became especially obvious. Delegates from Italy, France, England, Switzerland, and Austria made frequent references to the widespread belief, and their references were of such a character as to point to an underlying assumption of this as an incontrovertible fact.

Up to the present the science of statistics has furnished no complete data by which these beliefs can be accurately tested. But it nevertheless remains a most remarkable fact that such a universal belief should exist, and it would be still more remarkable should it turn out to be unwarranted. The electrical condition of the atmosphere is known to affect abnormally nervous persons, hysterical subjects and the like, producing changes which result in depression or excitement. But no detailed investigation exists upon the influence of an electrically charged atmosphere upon normal persons. Dr. Damian, a French scientist, and Dr. Charles Feré, a physician of the Bicêtre Hospital, have both separately studied the subject of the influence of the electrical condition of the surrounding air upon their subjects, and there is every reason to believe that very profound nervous effects result from changes in electrical tension. Dr. Arlidge, who died recently, collected together a considerable mass of information and published it in a treatise on the "Disease of Occupations." His book became a classic, and undoubtedly led to the reduction of the mortality of most dangerous trades. In a letter dated April 9, 1896, he tells me: "I had hoped to get some returns of the longevity, the health, and prevalent

maladies, especially of those constantly engaged in connection with electrical agencies and instruments. . . . I wrote to the officers of the Central Office, and was curtly told that it was contrary to the rule of the department to give information respecting the employees. Why it should be so I have never comprehended."

Far be it from me to assert that the electrically charged atmosphere is the chief or only cause of the insanity of telegraphers. I believe it to rest rather in other conditions of his work, chief of which is its monotony. I was discussing this question one day with a celebrated French electrician, and he said to me, "Imagine a man repeatedly writing or sending such phrases as 'Expect me at 6.30,' 'Shall be late to-night,' hundreds of times per day for years on end! Is it not enough to drive any man mad?" This is a very fair description of the mass of the telegraphers' work, and I am inclined to agree with the French expert.

Despite the refusal of official evidence on so important a subject it is still possible to get some figures, and these point wholly to the justification of the belief of the employees. If better statistics prove the contrary, which I doubt, it is obviously the duty of the postal authorities to produce them, and thus kill this bogey of the telegraph operator. An endeavor was made to kill the consumption bogey, which failed, and it remains incontrovertibly established that both in England and France hundreds of postal employees die of preventible pulmonary disease.*

Let us look at the justificatory evidence for this widespread belief of the telegraphers. In 1885 and 1886 particulars were given in the post office estimates of the causes of retirement among telegraphers. They showed in 1885 that of a total of thirty-two pensions granted twenty, or 62.5 per cent., were on account of nervous disease. The following year the same heavy percentage was shown. There were in 1886 thirty-four cases of pensions, of which eighteen, or 52.9 per cent., were of nervous complaints. The remainder were mainly respiratory complaints. These figures immediately attracted the attention of the medical papers in England and America, the Lancet being especially strong in its comments. The postal department shielded itself by discontinuing the publication of the details! But no inquiry was made, such as M. Millerand has recently instituted concerning consumption and its ravages among the French postal employees.

The postal service has an insurance association known by an official misnomer as the United Kingdom Postal and Telegraph Service Benevolent Association. It is in every respect an insurance association, and as all postal lives are carefully selected lives, in consequence of the medical entry examinations, all members of this society are selected lives. Pick up its reports haphazard and we immediately see the justification for the belief that consumption and the madhouse take all

*Vide my paper, "Consumption in the Post Office," read before the British Congress on Tuberculosis on July 24, 1901.

the lives. I pick up the report for 1895. Forty-seven telegraph deaths are recorded, of which nine are from nervous disease and 32 from pulmonary disease. The last report for 1900 shows a total of thirty-seven telegraph deaths, of which two are suicides, six from nervous disease, and nineteen from respiratory disease.

Such a condition is indicated each year by the reports of the society. The official figures, published in the Postmaster-General's report for the last few years, confirm the unofficial figures for consumption. It certainly behoves the postal department to publish well-classified and detailed statistics on the nervous and other complaints of telegraphers.—London Telegraph Chronicle.

Line Construction in the Klondike.

BY GORDON SMITH.

When the linemen who are looking it up locate "the trouble" on the Klondike telegraph line it is not unlikely that it will be found that somewhere up in the north on some out of the way Indian rancherie they will find a piece cut from the wire which the untutored Siwash needed to mend his fence, or make a guy line for a tottering totem. The Indian does not take kindly to "the medicine wire" which has been stretched over his illahces in the forests of the north. When the line was being built the construction parties had several experiences of this antipathy, and the shocks administered to those who clutched the strange medicine wire which went from pole to pole did not increase their liking.

It was soon after they started from Telegraph Creek that the telegraph men first encountered the Siwash in numbers opposed to the line. They were about twelve miles out from the Stikine head stringing the wire through the village of the Tahltans there, when the Indians crowded around them and tried to prevent the stringing of the wire. Numbers clutched the wire as it lay on the ground and tugged it from the linemen on the poles. They could not be made to let go, until one of the operators started the current along the wire—and then the wire became known as "the medicine wire." The Indians dropped it with a howl, and there was a great "wa-wa." They could not understand the strange properties of this wire, and it looked as though there would be trouble when the construction superintendents explained through an interpreter what the line was for. Then some of the Indians were induced to take light shocks, and gradually a knowledge of the first rudiments of electricity came to the people of Tahltan, and one man, who could stand the thrills of the current longer than his fellows earned renown as a shaman. Such are the superstitions of the Indians.

At New Kitselass on the Skeena river where the wire was strung over the village of some of the Skeena river Indians there was a great to do. The Indians tore the wire down, stamped on it, and threatened that as soon as their chief came home from the Naas where he was fishing they would soon make short work of the wire. The line was

strung over the totems of the Siwash graveyard, and this was the main grievance, this and the superstitious dread of the wire which had made one of the barefooted ones jump when he suddenly trod upon it as it lay "alive" on the ground.

When the superintendents and the construction men continued to carry on the work and strung the line over the illahces on the Skeena's banks the Indians formed in a circle and held a great powwow, at the end of which they ran in a body to the line intending to demolish it there and then, but a current being placed on the wire, there were yells and shrieks as soon as they grasped it—and the linemen prevailed.

At Kitgegalum on the Skeena a potlatch was in progress when the linemen reached the village with the wire, the occasion of jollity being the raising of a new totem. The Indians were dancing when the men arrived with the wire, and the Indian curiosity overcame the love of ceremony. The potlatch was abandoned to protest against the starne wire being spread from post to post. The missionary resident there satisfactorily explained the workings of the wire to the Indians and trouble was averted there. At a number of rancheries there were objections by the Indians to "the medicine wire," and there were incidents galore where the shock which followed contact with the wire brought yells of terror and wonderment from the Indians.

Up on the line from Telegraph Creek the Indians looted two of the store cabins of the telegraph men and including in the stolen goods, which included flour and provisions of all kinds, was a telegraph instrument which was perhaps taken to set a new medicine man up in business to foster superstition among his fellows.

Several traces of the old Western Union wire built in days long ago were discovered by the line builders, and six miles south of Iskoot summit the line builders went right through the old company's right of way. Traces of the old wire were found on many Indian fences and many pieces which had been carried away by the Indians for various purposes were found.—Seattle Times.

A Mexican Cable.

Consul Canada, of Vera Cruz, Mexico, reports that the Mexican Government has contracted with a New York cable manufacturing concern for a submarine cable to be laid between Vera Cruz, Frontera, and Campeche. The cable is to be 472 nautical miles long. It is to be made of nine copper wires, protected by sixteen galvanized iron wires for the deep sea and eighteen additional steel wires for the coast. The manufacture of the cable will be under the supervision of the Mexican Government. The company furnishing the cable is to receive for the work \$600,000 gold, of which \$283,000 is to be paid when the cable is placed in service and the balance in two and four months thereafter. The cable must be ready for service on April 2, 1902.

You can't afford to be without TELEGRAPH AGE.

The First Telegraph Lines in Texas.

D. P. Shepherd, of Houston, Texas, contributes the following interesting recollections of the events incident to the first establishment of telegraph service in the Lone Star State in ante-bellum days:

The first telegraph line in Texas, built chiefly with Galveston and Houston capital, was from Galveston through the broad prairie, without reference to any road, railroad or other, as there was none, to Houston. Thence by wagon road to Huntsville, thence to Palestine, Rusk, Henderson, Marshall and Shreveport; thence, I think, via Alexandria, crossing the Mississippi at Natchez, there connecting with the primitive system in operation east of that great waterway.

The chief actors in this work were T. C. H. Smith, a telegrapher of that day of prominence; C. A. Burton, a long time engineer, conductor and superintendent on the Houston and Texas Central Railway before and after the war, and afterward superintendent of the Texas and New Orleans road; Mr. L. K. Preston, an old ante-bellum citizen of Houston, and, I think, the venerable city treasurer of Houston was also connected with this work. He was a telegrapher in his native country, Hungary, too long ago to talk about.

To support a telegraph line plenty of people and consequent large business centers are essential, but this line, 600 or 700 miles long, running through a wilderness, with stations in comparative villages, had nothing to support it but its frail sap poles, and for want of a little stimulating financial influence the wire went down of its own dead weight in quite a short time. Few dispatches reached their eastern destination from Galveston and Houston over this line.

In 1859 the lamented E. H. Cushing, proprietor of the Houston Telegraph (newspaper); Col. A. M. Gentry, who built the Texas and New Orleans railroad from Houston to Orange; Dr. I. S. Roberts, who first projected the Western Narrow Gauge road to what is now Sealy, west of the Brazos, and other citizens of Houston, and, if I mistake not, also The Galveston News, organized a new company with C. C. Clute, a practical telegrapher, to execute their will and resuscitated, as it were, that part of the line between Galveston and Houston, by raking together the scattered fragments of the defunct line of 1853 and patched up a frail thing that answered fairly well, all things considered, the purposes of a telegraph line between the then two most important commercial points in the state.

This line, being only fifty miles long and otherwise favorably situated, "did well," financially speaking. It continued to do good service until the close of the war, at which time Mr. Davis—I regret I have forgotten his initials—was its superintendent. Mr. Clark and Messrs. E. and Mose Raphael, now prosperous and prominent men of this city, were among its operators.

Some time during the war the company extended its line east over the Texas and New Orleans railroad to Beaumont, 80 miles from Houston, with some of the old style three-ply black wire. This portion of the line distinguished itself

by doing very inefficient service. Constructed of poor material and in a very cheap manner, and like our line of 1853, having little or no business to stiffen its backbone, it soon crumbled. The objective point of this line was to New Iberia, La., where it was to connect with a line built in 1861-62 by your humble servant for the New Orleans, Orange and Great Western Railroad Company and for the military authorities at New Orleans to aid in the defense of that city.

I would fain avoid referring to "the writer" myself so frequently, but there is no other way out of it by the nature of things. In 1863 I had my headquarters at Monroe, La., whither I had been dispatched by General Superintendent Van Horne of the Southwestern Telegraph Company in contemplation of being cut off by the impending blockade of Vicksburg by the federal fleet. Much of my time was within the sound of "Whistling Dick" and the deep-mouthed, thundering voice of other heavy, booming artillery at that military strong-point. Mr. L. C. Baker, superintendent of the Arkansas State Telegraph Company, with headquarters at Little Rock, began to understand simultaneously with myself that a dignified, if possible, retreat out of Arkansas and Louisiana would have to be undertaken without delay.

My orders were when I was sent to the trans-Mississippi to push the extension of the southwestern lines to Camden, Ark., in co-operation with the military. Failing in this by reason of natural or other obstacles I was to push the extension toward Shreveport and into Texas.

Texas was a much coveted objective point by Mr. Baker and his company. So that when the retreat began it was "on to Shreveport," and as our late honored superintendent, Mr. Baker, was more fleet of foot and perhaps worse scared, he got the start out of Arkansas ahead of me and was the first to land at the goal.

When the retreat began both companies, with the indispensable aid of the Confederate military, had to pull down, reel up and haul on wagons the wire from those parts into Texas. The extension from Shreveport, the headquarters of Gen. E. Kirby Smith, commander of the trans-Mississippi department, was to the most important point to be reached, that is, the headquarters of the district commander, Gen. J. B. Magruder, and afterward Gen. J. G. Walker. Neither company had wire enough to span the entire distance. Mr. Baker having won the go, started his line at Shreveport and ran to Crockett via Marshall, Henderson and Rusk. The Southwestern company, beginning at Crockett, ran to Huntsville and thence to Navasota, where it reached the railroad, thence on that road to Houston. Many hardships and difficulties attended this work, as it followed a serpentine stage road, through dense wood, and with no end to the lack of facilities and conveniences incident to a wild, unsettled country and war times. Trees were bracketed and poles used where necessary.

At Crockett the terminal operator on the Arkansas state line was Mr. G. M. Baker, the present manager of the Dallas office, if I remember cor-

rectly—quite a difference between that and the ponderosity and altitudinosity of his present position.

On the forward end of the Southwestern line I think was Mr. F. V. Daniel, who was afterward the manager of the Galveston office when it had come into the possession of the Southwestern company. On the Houston end was the lamented Harris (initials forgotten), who acted as foreman of construction during the building of the line. Being a first-class operator, he had earned that coveted position and filled it ably and satisfactorily. He had the yellow fever in Houston in 1864, and though recovered sufficiently to come out, did so prematurely, took a relapse and died. Peace to his ashes. I'll never forget his plaintive song while "on the work," "When the Ivy and the Myrtle Were in Bloom."

This work completed, "having conquered the world," new worlds were sought to conquer. San Antonio was the next most important point, both from a military and commercial point of view. It was really of immense importance. Through that gateway from Mexico came immense stores of goods, military and other, overland by wagon. Goods came into Mexico at Bagdad and crossed the Rio Grande, and then over that seemingly endless road by wagon, reached San Antonio, thence to Houston and other points. The military began to clamor for a telegraph line and offered generous assistance. The Southwestern company undertook to do the work with the limited means at its command, together with private aid in the way of a partnership interest, money enough was raised and the work begun. By this time an operator, whose initials I have forgotten, named Osborne, with G. W. Carter, "the fighting parson," a man of transcendent talent, who was a very important adjunct in Washington just after the war, and whom it was said wrote many of the important papers for less gifted officials, at his back, essayed the construction of this line. It became another struggle as to who should find favor with the military and who should get the bulge in this important and eventually profitable undertaking. Materials were not to be had in Texas, nor anywhere else short of Europe, through Mexico. Mr. Osborne went to Mexico to arrange for wire. In the meantime the Southwestern company set the poles, bracketed what few trees there were and had everything ready for the wire, which had been ordered.

About this time, the spring of 1865, the work having been begun in the fall of 1864, the news came that that ineffable military genius and hero of scores of battles at great odds, Gen. Lee, had delivered up his sword to Gen. Grant. Of course the work was suspended, as in fact, it was completed as far as practicable at that time.

(To be continued.)

Labor to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire called conscience.—Washington.

A Quick Recognition.

It is as curious as it is true that hardly two operators finger the key alike, remarked the late A. H. Seymour, and on the wire are readily recognized by their working associates before they give a signal or finish the first word. This characteristic is so marked that the recognition is just as quick if one hears the same hand after a lapse of a year or more and on an entirely different circuit. This fact led to many thrilling and amusing incidents on the military telegraph wires during the Civil war on both sides of the line. In 1863, it will be remembered, the Confederates invaded southeastern Pennsylvania and for some days held the territory around Chambersburg. A well-known operator attached to Gen. Lee's staff cut into one after another of the wires running through that section connecting Philadelphia and Pittsburg, lying in wait for messages that might give some information as to the movements of Union troops. Knowing that some able and daring operators were at Lee's headquarters our office was on guard continually, and while the Confederates were in that section all important Government messages were sent over another route. Every day we were aware of their presence by the action of the current, when they came and when they went. A day or two before Gettysburg, Lee's operator, getting desperate, cut off the west, tried to disguise his writing and using the signal of an office further west called up Philadelphia and in a conversational way asked the prospects of a battle, etc. The Philadelphia operator who answered his call said immediately in reply: "Hello, Jack—, is that you?" Hesitating a moment the latter answered, "Yes," and after a brief chat about old times the rebel operator abruptly quit and got out. It was learned afterwards that Gen. Lee had obtained all the information he wanted and more, too, from another source and rapidly changed his base. The Philadelphia man had worked with the "Johnny Red" on a southern circuit some years before.

War Telegrams Sell High.

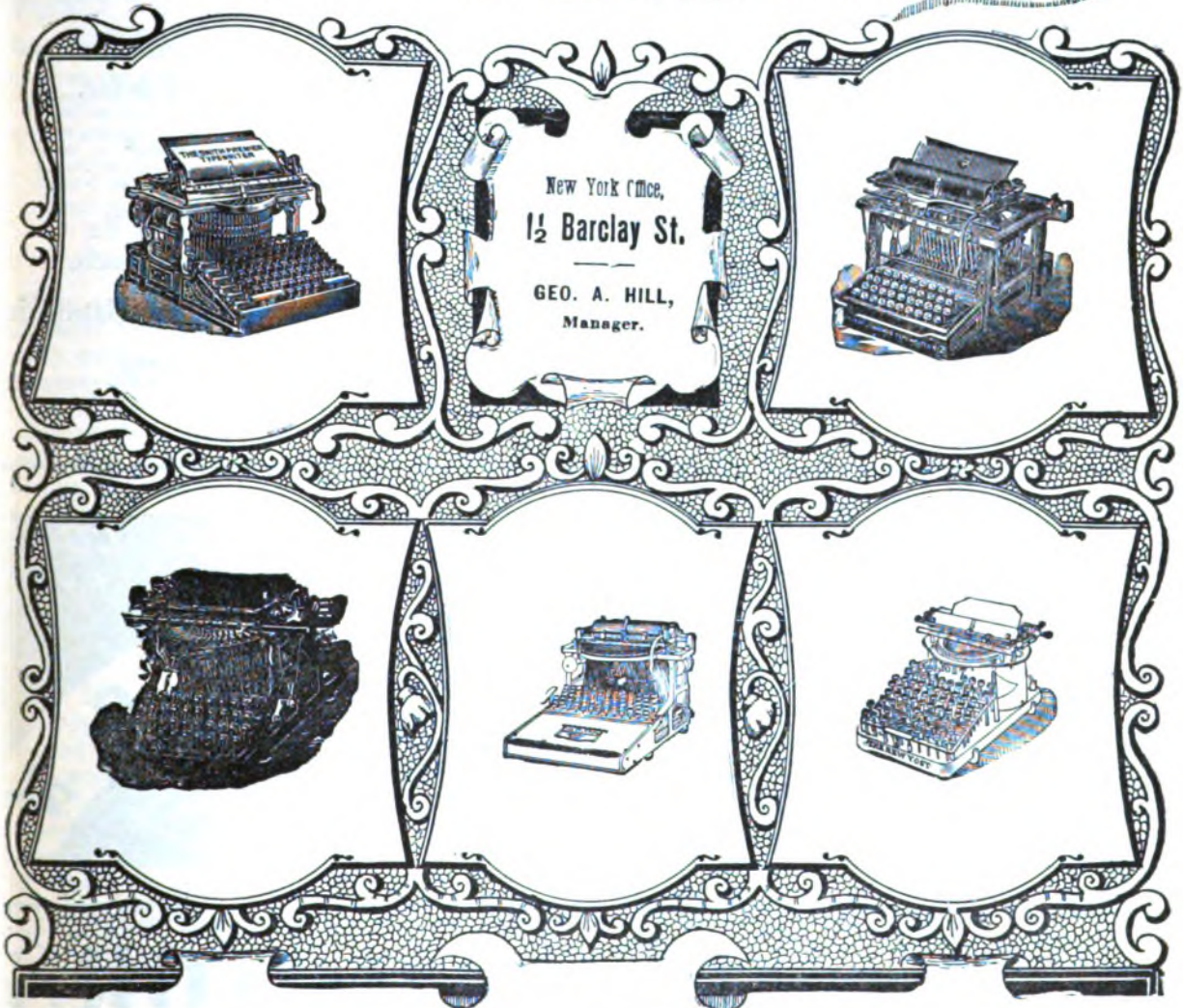
The original of Gen. Grant's telegram to Secretary Stanton announcing in Grant's own handwriting the surrender of Gen. Lee was sold in New York city for \$760 recently. It was among the literary possessions of the late Gen. Adam Badeau, military secretary to Grant. The despatch is written in Badeau's field orderly book and, although in lead pencil, has been so carefully preserved that the writing is as legible as when Grant wrote it thirty-six years ago.

The original of Lincoln's telegram to Grant on April 7, 1865: "Gen. Sheridan says: 'If the thing is pressed I think that Lee will surrender.' Let the thing be pressed," was also sold.

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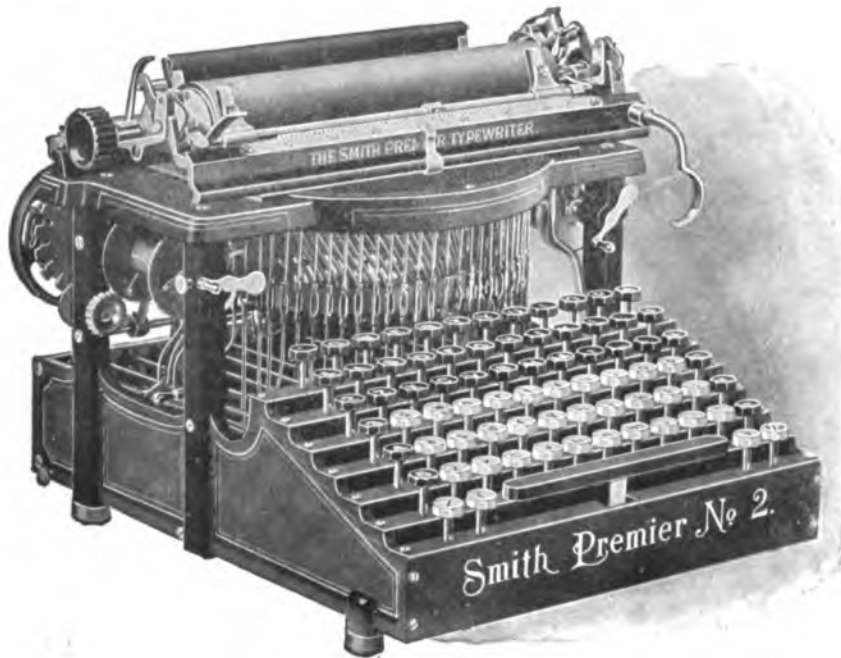
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NEW YORK, January 1, 1902.

NOTE.—We desire to state that back numbers of this paper, those issued more than six months prior to any current date, will be charged for at the rate of twenty-five cents apiece when they can be furnished. This price is fixed because of the necessarily limited stock we carry, and of the difficulty we commonly have in filling an order. Oftentimes the request is for papers of a more or less remote date, with the expectancy of being supplied at but ten cents a copy, whereas in order to obtain the desired issue we are ourselves frequently obliged to pay the larger sum, or even more. The growing value of complete files of TELEGRAPH AGE should cause our readers to carefully preserve their issues.

THE ROBBERSON QUADRUPLEX.—The Roberson Quadruplex System, which has been recently adopted by the Western Union Telegraph Company, and which will be put into extensive use throughout that system, was illustrated and described in our issues of March 16 and April 1 of this year. Those who desire copies of these issues can obtain the same at 10 cents apiece. As there are only a few of these numbers left, we would urge those who wish to become posted on this new system to procure copies before they are entirely out of print.

The Pension Fund Proposition.

The question of establishing a pension fund for the benefit of aged and infirm or disabled telegraphers, first referred to in this journal in its issue of November 16, in furtherance of which the name and probable co-operation of Mr. Carnegie has been closely associated, has attracted wide attention and excited considerable discussion, as our correspondence columns bear witness. Yet at the same time there appears to be a rather

misty and indefinite idea entertained on the part of many concerning the proposition and its plan and scope. For while the average member of the fraternity seems to favor the suggestion of a pension fund per se, the impression held regarding its true functions, together with the belief that the individual would forfeit all money paid in if for any reason he became unable to continue his payments, or in the event of retirement from the telegraph service, causes many to reject the plan altogether as one offering no attractions.

In the first place Mr. Carnegie has only promised the payment of a substantial sum as a nucleus for a pension fund. To follow out his plan it is incumbent upon those who might wish to participate in the benefits of a pension fund to contribute thereto during their earlier and younger years in order to secure the guarantee of return payments when old age and decrepitude shall render them incapable of work. A fund of this character, it should be borne in mind, is different from that of a mutual aid society, or any plan of benefit insurance. When a person contributes to the latter he immediately begins to receive an equivalent in return, even though he later permits his insurance to lapse. This is not the case with a pension fund. A man may pay regularly into such a fund for ten, twenty or thirty years, as the case may be, and if at the end of any period his membership lapses for any reason, the return of the amount he has already paid in is liable to be disputed, although its repayment cannot be, perhaps legally and certainly not justly, withheld, for he has received no equivalent for his money. In the State of New York, and possibly in other states, the retention of such money payments is illegal. Yet the fact that the question is raised, and it is possible that the individual may lose his money under certain unfortunate conditions, makes such a form of investment providing against old age an unattractive one. And this very reason has within the past month caused the employees of the Michigan Central and of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroads to vote down similar pension schemes.

The railroad companies which have inaugurated pension fund systems, recognized the facts we have here recited, and consequently decided to make their pension funds wholly corporation affairs, the funds being maintained and the pensions paid out of money set aside for the purpose, employees not being called upon to contribute, at least directly, a single dollar for its support. This action was deemed not only just to faithful employees, but wise in its execution, inasmuch as it avoided all friction and maintained a proper control of the fund, restraining its workings strictly within the circle of employees for whom its benefits were intended.

The adoption of a pension fund system, then, as a measure of relief to telegraphers, as a distinctive body, is attendant with serious objections, and we believe that its presentment to be not only ill advised, but, as will be seen upon reflection, impracticable.

It is no doubt a fact that the railroad com-

panies, for instance, as it has been said, are gainers by the workings of a pension fund system exercised in behalf of their employees, because the latter realize fully that they will be taken care of after they have spent the most useful years of their lives in the railroad service. With telegraph companies, however, apparently no pension scheme has as yet been presented which appeals to them with sufficient force to cause any corporate action to be taken.

It will be well, therefore, to assume that the telegraph employees themselves must establish a pension fund if they wish one, regardless of any aid that the companies might extend to them.

Now, if Mr. Carnegie is disposed to aid the telegraphic fraternity, and we have assurances that this is his intention, in our opinion, the best way to confer benefit on all telegraphers would be for him to turn over to a trust company, or a board of trustees, made up of telegraph people, such a sum as he wishes to present to his old associates, that sum to be placed at interest, the increment of which to be distributed among the various telegraph, insurance and beneficial organizations already established. If, for instance, the Telegraphers' Mutual Benefit Association received a sufficient sum to warrant it in reducing its number of assessments each year, its five thousand members would each receive a direct benefit. The Gold and Stock Life Insurance Association, with its membership of one thousand, and the numerous aid societies throughout the country, with their local facilities which reach every member of the craft, would also be benefited proportionately, according to the amount available; thus every member of the telegraphic profession in the United States and Canada would derive some direct benefit of Mr. Carnegie's fund. The individual operators would not have to contribute to the fund, but they would continue to receive their share in it for all time to come.

This plan, which is briefly outlined, is feasible and simple and would meet apparently the desires of Mr. Carnegie, who wishes to do something that shall be of practical aid to all telegraph operators, large numbers of whom are already members of the various insurance and aid societies. The doors of these organizations are not closed to those who so far have not availed themselves of the benefit of these institutions. Of course the Carnegie fund would have to be made available only to telegraph, insurance and aid societies, and thus be kept within prescribed limitations.

Marconi's Motto is, "Time Is Everything."

"I cannot remain idle. Ever since I was a child I have had this feeling. Time means everything. If you cannot do a thing here do it elsewhere. An hour saved is an hour gained, and in that hour gained may be accomplished the one thing you have been striving for."

He is not only idle who does nothing, but he is idle who might be better employed.—Socrates.

A Testimonial to the Late M. H. Redding.

A handsomely engraved set of resolutions, appearing on a scroll, artistic in design and bordered with oak and laurel leaves, on the death of M. H. Redding, has been prepared, and for a few days was on view at the Western Union Cable office, 46 Broad street, New York, of which Mr. Redding was the late superintendent. The text is as follows: "The managers of branch Western Union telegraph offices in the down town New York city district, in meeting assembled, on November 18, 1901, adopted the following preamble and resolutions: Whereas, in his infinite wisdom the Almighty has seen fit to remove from our midst Michael H. Redding, assistant superintendent of the Western Union Telegraph Company; and, whereas, by his energy, perseverance and zeal he gained the implicit confidence of his superior officers; and, whereas, his fairness and consideration and manifest desire to assist the employees under his jurisdiction, endeared him to those having official relations with him; therefore, be it, resolved, that the branch office managers give expression at this time to their keen sorrow at his death, their regret at the loss of so able an official, so just a chief and kind a friend, and extend their deepest sympathy to those near and dear to him; and it is further, resolved, that these resolutions be engrossed and be presented to the bereaved family. Signed by:

"Misses Amelia M. Prime, Kate F. Kelly, Mary A. Fitzpatrick, Laura E. Hennessey, Hattie E. Brown, Julia L. Schrikker, Kate M. Kinnier, Mary E. Saunders, Nellie A. Scully, Mary T. Hopkins, Nellie F. Swords and Mrs. Elise R. Kemp. Messrs. P. J. Tierney, A. H. Swanwick, R. F. Murphy, B. H. Reynolds, W. J. Austin, R. G. Wilson, R. Tomes, W. P. Scully, Frederick Simmonds, J. W. Heermance, T. C. Eipper, P. F. Sullivan, J. R. Kirchner, H. Holland, P. K. Donohue, E. C. Thackeray, Geo. F. Lane, G. Knittel, J. J. McCabe, J. T. Carberry, T. F. Stern, H. H. Atwater, J. B. Jordanorfer, John Simmonds, J. W. Wood, W. A. Schutt, F. H. McDonald, W. S. Mack, J. J. Costello, W. B. Coleman, F. A. Karl and A. Neilson."

Eastern seaside resorts have been famous this year by extraordinary entertainments, pig races, Wild-West improvisos and other extravagancies. But society at one of these places of heretofore unblushing repute literally had an eye put out when a receiving operator hit the letter "u" instead of "i" and made a paragraph announce that one of the wealthiest lady entertainers of the summer colony was going to give a "bug demonstration" at her villa on a certain night.

"No; the editors are not in," said the janitor to the early morning caller; "can I do anything for you?"

"I don't know," remarked the visitor, doubtfully; "are you connected with the poetical department?"

"Yes; I empty the waste baskets."

Sidetracked.

Freight train No. 306 rolled into Leesburg ten minutes late, and the conductor, Jim Bedford, strolled into the depot to sign his name to the trainbook and receive his orders. He glanced at the piece of yellow, flimsy paper the operator handed him, and read instructions from the train dispatcher to hand No. 306, his train, over to Leary, and for himself to wait at Leesburg for orders. Leary was standing outside of the station on the depot platform studying the order he had received to take Bedford's train out of Leesburg, says the Chicago Tribune.

"What's the matter with 'The Bug' this morning?" asked Mr. Leary, solicitously. "Funny thing sidetracking you here."

"No telling what 'The Bug' is liable to do," answered Bedford. "I'm glad he didn't tell me to take poison or run the train into the river. Great 'Bug,' that."

"The Bug" was the poetical name given by the trainmen on the I. K. & J. W. to Joplin, the chief train dispatcher of that division. He had originally been dubbed "The Bughouse," for the reason that it was generally believed along the line that Mr. Joplin's proper place was behind the bars in some State institution dedicated to the tender, fostering care of people with impaired intellect. Later the name had been shortened to simply "The Bug."

"I don't understand this thing at all," said Bedford. "But I suppose he wants to put me on 674 this afternoon and have me take it back to Rantoul. Well, I'll get a good rest, anyhow, and I need sleep like everything."

Bedford hunted up the only hotel in the place, after leaving instructions with the operator where he was to be found. An hour before time for No. 674 to pull in he was up and dressed, and after a lonesome lunch in the hotel went over to the station to await the expected order. But none came; No. 674 pulled in, and the conductor, Martin, received two orders from the dispatcher, but there was nothing for Bedford.

"Nice place this," called out Martin from the top of the caboose as it went slowly bumping along at the end of the train. "Going to stay long, Jimmy?" Bedford merely swore softly, and moved off to a shady place across the track where he could sit down and think it over.

What was "The Bug" going to do with him? Was he held at Leesburg for some special duty, and if so, what could it be? There was only one more freight train that day, and it was hardly to be expected that he was going to be put in charge. He sat around and studied the situation all the afternoon, and finally decided that he was to be ordered to go in on the passenger train to report at the end of the division to the Superintendent. He couldn't imagine why he should be called in after that fashion. He was not in trouble that he knew of, although a man could never tell whether he was in trouble or out of it as long as "The Bug" was in a position of authority.

But the passenger train pulled in and out again,

and still Bedford had received no orders. He hung about the station all the evening, but finally gave it up and went over to the hotel to sleep. He was down at the depot bright and early next morning, and told his troubles to Kane, who came in on No. 893.

"Funniest thing I ever heard of," said Kane. "I should think if he wanted to fire you that he would find the ordinary way about as good as any. Why don't you wire and find out?"

"Wire nothing," answered Bedford. "Only last week I wired 'The Bug,' and asked him if I should do so and so, and you ought to have seen the roast I got. Told me I was to obey the orders I received to the letter, and not bother asking him questions. Declared he would let me go on the instant that I wired him again asking what I should do. He said he was the man who was to tell me what I should do, and that he would tell me without any suggestions on my part. He also said that he would fire me at any station I happened to be, the instant I made another insinuation that he did not know enough to handle trainmen and give them proper orders. Oh, I sha'nt bother him to explain this order. He told me to stay here in Leesburg until further orders, and here I stick."

Kane thought it all over, marveled exceedingly at the marooning of his friend, Mr. Bedford, and returned to his train.

The word had gradually spread among the trainmen that Bedford was hung up in Leesburg, and every train crew that passed through the town had considerable to say on the subject, but Bedford treated all their remarks with a supreme indifference. At the terminal no one dared to speak to "The Bug" about Bedford, and besides all the trainmen began to have a quiet notion that "The Bug" had blundered, and after giving Bedford the order to wait in Leesburg, had forgotten all about it. The trainmen resolved not to speak Bedford's name at the terminal, and do nothing to remind "The Bug" of the lonely James waiting patiently on the platform at Leesburg.

Two more days passed away and Jim Bedford still remained at Leesburg. He had grown to be a great object of interest to the villagers by this time. They wondered what a real live conductor could do hanging around Leesburg day after day, and apparently having nothing to do but sit under a shade tree across the tracks and watch the trains go through.

James grew tired of the monotony of the station platform and the tree and began spending more of his time down town. In three days more he knew the name of every man, woman and child in Leesburg. He attended the revival services at the Methodist church at night, and because he had a strong bass voice was asked to sing in the choir and accepted the offer, and at every meeting he was to be found in his place, seated in his chair near the organ. He went to a barn-raising a half-mile from town, and worked with might and main all one day to put up the framework of Hi Hollister's new barn.

There was a fire in town one night and Jim was

the first man on the spot, and after organizing a bucket brigade to fight the fire, climbed up a ladder and rescued old Mrs. Tompkins from being suffocated. Through his efforts the town was saved from a conflagration that might have wiped out the whole of the town of Leesburg. So at a mass meeting of citizens the next day Bedford was presented with a gold watch as big as a biscuit, and with a detailed account of his heroism engraved in the case.

Another week passed by. Jim in the meantime had repaired the engine in Kaiser's flour mill, and cured old man Johnson of the rheumatism. He played the fiddle at a dance at Cyrus Hunter's and Rev. Nathaniel Boggies being ill from the effects of the protracted meeting, Jim preached the funeral for old Si Hannerkin, one of the old settlers of Towers Township.

It was a beautiful sermon, too, in its way. Jim said that Mr. Si Hannerkin had always done his duty and run right on time, and that he always stood where his superintendent, Providence, had placed him, and that he always kept a full head of steam on, and had run straight and true all his life. The Towers County Review that week said it was the finest funeral sermon that had ever been heard in Leesburg.

The next week Jim taught the school for two days while the teacher took a vacation trip home. He also mixed the paint and directed the work of painting the engine house. He had become quite accustomed to life in Leesburg, and was considering an offer of the miller to take him into partnership.

One day "The Bug" was talking to one of the telegraphers in the division superintendent's office at the terminal.

"What ever became of that man Bedford?" asked "The Bug." Got mad suddenly and quit without a word, didn't he?"

"No," said the operator. "Jim wouldn't do that. He was too sensible a fellow to do a crazy thing like that."

"Well, he's not here, any more," snapped "The Bug." "I didn't discharge him. He must have quit of his own accord."

"How do you know he quit?" asked the telegraph operator.

"'Cause he ain't here," said "The Bug."

"When did he quit?" asked the operator.

"I don't know," snapped "The Bug."

He started an inquiry to find out when and where Bedford had quit the road. One of the clerks, after a long hunt, came in and showed "The Bug" the copy of a message.

"Here's the last record we have of Bedford, sir," said the clerk.

"The Bug" read the order. It was to Bedford, conductor train No. 306, and was to the effect that Leary was to bring train No. 306 from Leesburg, and that Bedford, conductor, was to wait there for orders."

A cold sweat began to break out on "The Bug's" forehead.

"Is that the last train order in regard to Bed-

ford?" he asked in a low, halting voice. The clerk said it was.

"The Bug" turned to the operator and asked him to call up Leesburg, and ask where Bedford was. The answer came back in an instant:

"Sitting under a tree across the track waiting for orders."

Bedford left Leesburg that night on the first good-bye, and the choir of the church sang "Till We Meet Again," and made it doubly effective by breaking down and weeping. The parting would have been much harder had not Bedford assured the gathering that he would be back again the next day on top of the caboose of train No. 306.

And he was. "The Bug" never showed by the slightest sign that anything unusual had happened, and Bedford received half pay for the three weeks he had been waiting.

"I'm sorry 'The Bug' woke up and asked after me," said Conductor Bedford to the head brakeman the next day as his train rumbled out of Leesburg. "I would have owned that town in two months more, and been drawing pay as a conductor at the same time. 'The Bug' is a great institution."

Lawful to Send Racing News.

The Kentucky Court of Appeals in an opinion by Chief Justice Painter on December 18 holds that a telegraph company is not liable for transmitting a message to gambling places and in no-wise responsible for the uses to which information transmitted over its lines is put.

The case in question was Commonwealth against the Western Union Telegraph Company. It grew out of an indictment charging the company with unlawfully maintaining a common nuisance in furnishing "The Kingston," a Louisville, Ky., pool-room, information about horse races and unlawfully enabling the patrons at "The Kingston" to bet on the results of races in all parts of the United States. The lower court found the company not guilty.

Justice Painter holds in construing the statute that a telegraph company's position toward the public is like that of a railroad company and other common carriers. As to the point on which the indictment was found, he says:

"At common law a gambling house is a common nuisance. It is detrimental to the public, inciting citizens to crime. Persons owning or occupying and controlling such houses are guilty, but the telegraph company is not in co-operation or control. The simple fact that persons receive the information and as a result of it are guilty of unlawful practice cannot make the company responsible. If that were true the transmission to newspapers of prize fights would be unlawful."

It has been estimated that the Marconi waves travel at the rate of seven times around the earth in a second. On this basis it would take nearly three minutes for a message to reach Mars when it is at its nearest point to the earth.

A Prominent English Telegrapher.

Charles H. Garland, the secretary of the London Branch of the Telegraph Clerks' Association of the United Kingdom was born at Witham, in the County of Essex, England, thirty-four years ago. When eleven years of age, he went to London and entered upon his first employment when about twelve and a half years old. He received an ordinary primary education, which has been augmented by continuous home study along many lines. He entered the Post Office telegraph service January 7, 1882, and soon rose to a position of prominence among his associates. In 1892 he was elected secretary of the London Branch of the Telegraph Clerks' Association, in which position he has displayed such uncommon zeal and fearlessness in advocating and advancing the interests of the telegraph clerks that he has been re-elected each year. He is at present a member of the operating staff of the central office in London.



CHARLES H. GARLAND.

In 1895 he gave evidence on the health of staff before the Inter-Departmental Committee on Postal establishment, making a strong impression by his complete knowledge of the subject and the admirable manner of its presentation. In 1899 he was a member of the English delegation to the International Volta celebration at Como in Italy. His fluent and eloquent command of the French language, combined with rare ability in debate, secured for him the leadership of his delegation and a leading place in the deliberations of the International Congress.

In the many social functions incident to the celebration he was also a prominent figure and was always a favorite speaker at the banquets. Mr. Garland's important place in the celebration was recognized by the Italian government, and the decoration, "Order of the Italian Crown," was conferred upon him by the late King Humbert.

In 1900 he was a delegate to the Congress which met in Paris and which in a measure was a continuation of the Italian deliberations of the previous year. He was a delegate to the Trades Union Congress at Plymouth in 1899, at Huddersfield in 1900 and at Swansea in 1901, in the deliberations of all of which he took a prominent part. In 1901 he was also a delegate to the British Congress on Tuberculosis which met in London, where he read a paper on "Consumption in the Post Office," which attracted extended notice and which appears elsewhere in this issue. He has for years attended Postal Congresses in all parts of England. Mr. Garland is rapidly acquiring fame as a writer, and has for a number of years been a contributor to many well known journals. This year he contributed a study of "Women as Telegraphists" to the Economic Journal, the great English review of economics and organ of the British Economic Association, and an article on the "Post Office and Prevention of Tuberculosis" to the *Lancet*, the leading medical publication of England. In addition to his many other activities he finds time to edit the *Civil Service Magazine*. Among his friends and admirers are many members of Parliament, before whom he has appeared in the interest of his Telegraph associates.

Mr. Garland's rise to leadership of the Postal Telegraph Clerks' Association of the United Kingdom at such an early age is due to his marked ability, his fearless independence, his aggressive and intelligent insistence upon remedial regulations and his high sense of integrity. He is withal a man of pleasing personality and the architect of his own fortunes.

Telegraph Poles Damaged by Woodpeckers.

At a meeting of the British Ornithologists' Club, held in November last, there was exhibited the top of a telegraph pole which had been sent from the government contractors at Cardiff. It was pierced by a hole about three inches in diameter. The damage to the poles in that neighborhood was considerable, and was done by woodpeckers. Mention was made that some years ago there were complaints of the damage done by woodpeckers to the telegraph poles in Germany. Articles on the subject appeared in the ornithological journals, and eventually the plan of impregnating the wood with chemicals was adopted and was efficacious.

Among telegraphers, where there are so many professional gentlemen, every man ought to carry his "shingle" with him, so office associates would know whose advice they were seeking.

Recently a man went to one of these and asked: "Doctor, what can I get to prevent losing my hair?"

The man addressed, it appears, was a lawyer, not a doctor, and he promptly replied: "To prevent losing your hair? Why, get a divorce!"

One of the sublimest things in this world is plain truth.—E. B. Lytton.

General Mention.

Manager Edgecomb of the Postal Telegraph-Cable office at Portland, Me., recently invited the teachers and pupils of the public schools of that city, much to their pleasure, to visit his up-to-date office and examine the actual workings of the telegraph from an educational standpoint.

We are in receipt of the following, which was accompanied by an artistic desk pad for 1902:

"That all which is good—and none that is bad—and that happiness and contentment be your lot for 1902, is the sincere wish of your friend, Henry L. Shippy, treasurer John A. Roebling's Sons Co., of New York.

The father of a thirteen-year-old boy, who it is claimed is a very good operator, has reason to be proud of his son's ability, but he cannot expect us to proclaim him the youngest operator in the country. Compared with others of tender age who have shown exceptional ability as telegraphers, he is an old timer. Our records show that good telegraphic work has been done by children, both male and female, at five years of age.

President Roosevelt at Washington, D. C., on December 12, closed a telegraph key which opened the proceedings of the convention of the Woodman of the World at Seattle, Washington. The telegraph circuit was about 4,000 miles in length. It is not on record that the manipulator of the lightning at the distant end endeavored to engage the President in Morse conversation. The President enjoys the personal acquaintance of a large number of well known operators, who occasionally talk "shop" with him.

Mr. L. C. Hall, chief operator of the Western Union Telegraph Company, Norfolk, Va., contributes an interesting article, entitled "Telegraphic Talks and Talkers," to the January number of McClure's magazine. It will attract attention not only among telegraphers, but of the general public as well, for it successfully presents the humanly side of the craft, and ingeniously draws a parallel between "Morse" and a spoken language, from the fact that "Morse" is the language into which all telegrams have first to be translated and from which a re-translation becomes necessary before they can be read by the outside world. The article is a welcome contribution to the literature of the telegraph.

The large relay office maintained by the Western Union Telegraph Company for many years at Ogden, Utah, is being transferred to Salt Lake City, and the working force in the latter place is to be increased to the extent of from 15 to 20 operators. Heretofore every message sent out or received at Salt Lake City had to be relayed at Ogden. The result was that there were many delays, and, in times of great rush of business, much confusion and loss of time. Now Salt Lake City is to be one of the transcontinental stations, the others being Chicago, Omaha, and San Francisco. Assistant Superintendent Belvidere Brooks of Denver is in charge

of the transfer. The consolidated offices in Salt Lake City will be under the management of J. B. Twiford, for many years manager of the Ogden office.

It is reported that Dennis J. Hern, general manager of the Mutual District Messenger Company, Boston, Mass., is mentioned as possible Wire Commissioner under Mayor Collins. Mr. Hern is an expert electrician, also an old time telegraph operator. He was superintendent of the Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Company and held the same position in the Mutual Union Telegraph Company, at Boston. He is President of the Boston Low Tension Wire Association, composed of all companies haing wires underground in that city. His position with the Mutual District Messenger Company is one that he thoroughly enjoys. Should he be tendered the position by Mayor Collins there is sure to be a howl from about five hundred youngsters—his messenger boys, who are as devoted to him as he is to them.

New York Visitors.

Mr. E. B. Pillsbury, superintendent of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, Boston, Mass.

Mr. C. C. Adams, superintendent of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, Philadelphia, Pa.

Mr. J. W. Kates, general superintendent of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, Richmond, Va.

Mr. L. A. Tanquary, chairman Board of Directors, Order of Railroad Telegraphers, Cucharas, Col.

Wants Uncle Sam to Buy the Telegraphs.

Representative Jackson, of Kansas, has introduced a bill in Congress providing that the Government purchase the Western Union and the Postal Telegraph-Cable companies and thereafter operate them in connection with the Post Office Department. Provision is made for appraisal of the property of the companies and for the payment of its appraised value when the amount is reported to Congress.

MAGNETIC CLUB.—The annual business meeting of the Magnetic Club will be held in Room 60, No. 195 Broadway, New York, on Thursday, January 9, at 5 P. M., for the election of officers for the ensuing year, of four members of the Governing Committee to serve for two years, and for the consideration of such other business as may properly come before the meeting. It is also proposed to amend Article V of the Constitution to read: Meetings shall be held in the months of June and November, etc.

TELEGRAPH AGE is the only telegraphic paper published in America. It is up to date, covering its field thoroughly, and no telegrapher, official or operator, can afford to be without it.

Death of Charles W. Lundy.

Charles W. Lundy, superintendent of the Direct United States Cable Company, Halifax, N. S., died in that city on December 16, aged sixty-four years.

Mr. Lundy was undoubtedly the dean of transatlantic telegraphers, and his removal reduces to its narrowest limits that small heroic band of pioneers who, following the success of the English channel cable, went forth into the undiscovered country of deep sea cable possibilities with little to guide them but research, experiment, and above all, an indomitable will, which enabled them to lay the foundation of that vast network of cables that now connects the different countries of the world. The laying of an Atlantic cable to-day is comparatively a small matter, but it was not so in the earlier days of the subject of this sketch, when the scheme was visionary to many, and ridiculed by some, so that all the more honor is due to the first workers, who were not to be discouraged by difficulties, nor suppressed by failure. Mr. Lundy served in the cable expedition of 1858, and was stationed at Bay of Bull's Arm, in Trinity Bay, Newfoundland, which was the first transatlantic cable station in America. In conjunction with his companions there he received and forwarded the earliest cablegrams of which authentic evidence is preserved. Unfortunately this cable was soon interrupted and abandoned. In 1865 following the vigorous energies of that great man, Cyrus W. Field, and his worthy associates, who never yielded to despair, of the enterprise, Mr. Lundy again went to Newfoundland to await, at Hearts' Content, the arrival of the expedition of that year, but alas! was subjected to an even greater disappointment, for the cable broke in mid-ocean, and could not then be recovered. Then came the dark days of doubt, depression, and despondency, but, like the evening star, the light was ever present except when obscured by the passing clouds of temporary failure, which could not suppress the inherent energies of Mr. Field, who went to London, and by his personal solicitation and influence enlisted the sympathies and assistance of a small number of philanthropists and capitalists whose names and work, then probably unknown beyond their own circle, will last for ever in history as an evidence of a desire to rescue from temporary oblivion a work, the success of which they knew would be a dominant factor in the world's prosperity and friendship of nations.

As it is said that all things come to him who waits, so the Atlantic cable expedition of 1866 was a complete success, for not only was that cable laid, but the mid-ocean end of the cable lost the previous year, was recovered and continued to Newfoundland, thus connecting the two hemispheres. This was undoubtedly the starting point of the gigantic deep sea cable service, as we find it to-day. Mr. Lundy served in this expedition on board the "Great Eastern," and remained a while at Heart's Content, in charge of the station, shortly afterwards going to Madras, India, to continue work in the same field.

With the organization of the Direct United

States Cable Company in 1874, Mr. Lundy was made that company's representative on board their new cable steamer "Farraday," during the laying of the cables, and afterwards represented the company at Torbay, N. S., until the different sections were transferred to Halifax. Here he remained as superintendent until the time of his decease. He was endowed by nature with exceptional gifts, for he was recognized as one of the most brilliant men in the cable service, while his distinct personality and bonhomie were proverbial as also his unimpeachable honor and integrity.

Obituary Notes.

John W. McRoy, operator at Mobile, Ala., died on December 13, 1901, aged 38 years.

John Swinton, a journalist well known to the older members of the New York telegraph profession, died at his home in Brooklyn on December 15, in the seventy-second year of his age.

Robert W. Jaggard, assistant electrician of the City Electrical Bureau, of Philadelphia, Pa., died on Dec. 22. Mr. Jaggard rose from the telegraph ranks, beginning as a messenger, graduating as an operator and studiously developed into an expert electrician.

Richard S. Gough, manager of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, Union Stock Yards, Chicago, Ill., died suddenly of heart disease on December 17. Mr. Gough was born in England in 1844, and went to Chicago in 1859, where he learned telegraphy, securing a position as operator at the Union Stock Yards the year following. Mr. Gough's entire telegraphic career was spent at this point with the exception of a brief period during the Civil War, when he was in the United States military telegraph service. He leaves a wife and four adult children.

E. Warren Fish, of Toledo, O., died on December 6 after an illness extending over a period of several months. Mr. Fish was born at Bellevue, O., March 18, 1846. He entered the telegraphic field first as a messenger at the age of 14, and soon became an expert telegrapher. In 1860 he was appointed manager of the old Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Company at Cleveland, O., but resigned this position two years later to enter the service of the Western Union Telegraph Company at St. Louis, Mo., remaining there but a short time, when he came to Toledo for the same company. In 1866 he accepted the managership of the Union Depot office of this city, which position he held up to the time of his death. Mr. Fish was a member of the Telegraphers' Mutual Benefit Association, and was widely known. He leaves a widow, who has the deep sympathy of the entire profession. The funeral services were held Sunday afternoon, December 8, and were largely attended by Lake Shore railway officials and by Toledo telegraphers.

An honest man is able to speak for himself, when a knave cannot.—Shakespeare.

LETTERS FROM OUR AGENTS.

[Advertising will be accepted to appear in this department at the rate of five cents a word, announcements to be enclosed with a border and printed under the name of the place of the advertiser. The special local value attached to advertising of this character will be apparent. Our agents are authorized to solicit advertisements for these columns, and further information on this subject may be obtained on application.]

CLEVELAND, O., NOTES.

A. Behner, formerly wire chief of the Western Union Telegraph Company, has resigned to go with Lamprecht Bros. & Co., taking the place of C. C. Daugherty, who is now working for the Western Union Telegraph Company.

J. Robert Maynard has also been added to the force of the brokerage firm, thus making five regular men at their main office. About a month ago the firm opened up a new branch office at Youngstown, O., with W. B. Stephens as manager and W. F. Fiedler as operator.

At their branch at Akron, O., C. App is manager and E. H. Roth operator.

E. C. Monroe was in charge at Youngstown for a couple of weeks, but he is back at the main office again.

BUFFALO, N. Y., WESTERN UNION.

Mr. Albert J. Fowler and Miss Agnes McNerny, of this office, were married recently. *THE AGE* and their many friends extend congratulations and best wishes.

Mr. W. H. Newall has accepted a position with the Michigan Investment Company, and Mr. M. Williams has gone with Spader & Co.

Miss Elizabeth Fitzmaurice is still confined at her home by a long siege of sickness.

Harry Leipman has changed from the night force to days.

Miss Nellie McCann has returned after the close of a busy season at the Anchor Line office. Fred J. Keller has also returned from the Dock Office.

William B. Phillips, formerly solicitor here, and for the past three months employed as clerk in the city freight office of the New York Central Railroad, committed suicide by hanging.

ST. LOUIS, MO., WESTERN UNION.

Wm. N. Manley has returned to St. Louis, having been absent for some time, conducting a poolroom in the South.

E. C. Leppere, who has been manager for the Western Union at Alton, Ill., for the past two years, is now one of the force here.

Miss Annie McLaughlin has resigned and gone to Atlanta, Ga., to work for the same company.

Patrick Hogan, Peter Johnson and Henry Horstman have also gone to Atlanta, where they will be employed in the Wheatstone service, which has just been inaugurated at that place.

Born.—To Mrs. and Mr. C. A. Willis, formerly of Cairo, Ill., now of St. Louis, a daughter.

NEW YORK CITY.

All popular music at less than half price. "Utopian Waltzes," "Whirlwind March," "Ben Hur Chariot Race," "Belle of Manhattan" March and Two-Step, "When You Were Sweet Sixteen," "My Old Virginia Home," "Left on the Battlefield," "Dolly Gray," "The Sweetheart That I Loved In Boyhood Days," "Spider and Fly," 18 cents each. "Palms," "Popular Gems," "Lang's Flower Song," "Calvary," "Rusticana," 10 cents each. Pianos—all makes—sold, \$1.00 per week. B. L. Brannan, 195 Broadway, New York.

WESTERN UNION.

Resigned—G. U. Morris, P. A. McGriff and W. E. Gilbert.

Mr. George A. Newton has resumed work on the call wire loops. The outings he has had at the different offices and race tracks during the open season has fully restored his health.

Mr. George W. Boyle and wife of Little Falls, N. Y., were recent visitors.

George M. Murphy, a brother of Frank D. Murphy, died suddenly in San Jose, Cal., December 15.

Appointments—J. F. Stacom, C. E. Bridgeman, A. J. Tierney, C. W. Minier, H. H. Riggelman, J. L. Boyle, P. S. Sprouse and W. L. Wilkinson.

Mr. Henry Holland, the veteran manager of the Western Union telegraph office in the Maritime Exchange, New York, is well and favorably known to the entire shipping community of the metropolis. His acquaintances not only comprise the owners and agents of vessels, but it also embraces the captains and other officers of ships hailing from all parts of the world. Although having been connected with the shipping service since it began to utilize the telegraph, Mr. Holland is a young man in appearance and movements, which is no doubt due to his long association with seafaring men, who have the reputation of being young when the dwellers on land are thinking of the hereafter.

Mr. Jas. A. Griswold, formerly of The Associated Press in Boston, Mass., is now with C. I. Hudson & Co., Wall street brokers.

The sympathy of his friends is extended to Mr. George B. Scott, superintendent of the Gold and Stock Telegraph Company, New York, on the death of his daughter, Susie Duer Scott, which occurred at his home in Yonkers, N. Y., on December 17.

Mr. Jacob Tuck, for many years a prominent operator of this office, who sometime since was admitted to the bar, has opened law offices at 346-348 Broadway, where he is conducting the general practice of law.

At a meeting of the stockholders of the Serial Building Loan and Savings Institution, and the Electric Building and Loan Association held at the room of the associations, Western Union Building, December 17, the following nominations were made: David B. Mitchell, president; John Brant, vice-president; Thomas M. Brennan, treasurer; Ed-

win F. Howell, secretary; John B. Sabine and Augustus A. Rich, attorneys. Directors, W. J. Quinn, Francis W. Jones, E. S. Butterfield, E. F. Cummings, F. W. Gregory, W. C. Burton, T. A. Brooks, M. J. O'Leary, A. E. Chandler, M. F. Gaffney, T. E. Fleming, H. G. King, G. H. Schnitgen, G. S. Blanchard and A. P. Stirling. Practically the same persons were nominated for both associations. The election will take place the third Tuesday in January, the 21st inst., and as there is no opposition those nominated will be elected. The auditors chosen and elected for the Serial are: R. M. Nesbitt, James R. Beard and George H. Murphy.

At the annual election of officers of Amaranth Council, Royal Arcanum, Walter C. Burton was elected first representative to the Grand Council of New York State, and J. C. Watts, vice-regent, both of this office. Among the past regents of this council are W. C. Burton, W. H. Jackson and W. A. Van Orden of "195." Quite a number of telegraphers are members of Amaranth Council.

John Brant, secretary of the Old Time Telegraphers' and Historical Association has lately been hard at work getting out the report of the Montreal meeting, and it is now about ready for distribution. A full discussion of the Telegraphers' Home project is printed in this book.

POSTAL.

J. Bert Roloson of the eastern division, who has been absent on account of severe illness, has returned to duty.

Harold Rhodes, who has been away for three weeks, owing to severe illness, is back at the office again.

Mr. W. H. Mathews, chief clerk, has in a short time made his department a model of efficiency which would be well nigh impossible to improve on. He has everything systematized to a nicety and confusion among his force is unknown.

G. F. Randolph, for the fifth year, is engaged in doing the artistic lettering on franks of this company.

Mr. W. I. Riker has returned for the winter, after spending a season on his farm in New Jersey.

The following were away on holiday vacations: A. E. Whitaker, J. T. Good and P. O. Purcell.

Douglas D. Forbes, an old time telegrapher, a veteran of the Civil War, and for the last ten or twelve years an operator in this office, died after a severe illness of several weeks at the residence of his brother in Brooklyn on December 14, aged 67 years. Mr. Forbes, who had been connected in the past with nearly all of the different telegraph companies, was highly esteemed by all, and he was regarded as a first class operator.

TOLEDO, O., WESTERN UNION.

A very pretty home wedding took place here on November 26, when Mr. Charles Olsen, "one of the finest" on the day force, was married to Miss Edna Grace Eicher. The boys remembered the pair handsomely with a beautiful mantel clock and two candelabras to match.

WASHINGTON, D. C., WESTERN UNION.

Mr. Raymond B. Dickey, of the all night force, is spending the holidays with friends and relatives in Indiana.

Miss Maud L. Robinson has accepted a position with the Western Union in Jacksonville, Fla.

Additions to the waiting list: Messrs. Evans, Gaskell, Casterlin, Howe, Davin and Hickok.

J. L. Carney has resigned.

Mr. F. Fernandez is confined to his room on account of illness.

Mr. W. E. Durnin of Philadelphia paid us a visit recently.

Mr. Edward Libbey is in charge of the Capitol office for the coming season, assisted by Messrs. Rodier and Winters.

SEATTLE, WASH., WESTERN UNION.

Harry Reynolds has arrived from San Francisco.

Departures: W. C. Neele, to Vancouver, B. C.; J. Frank Holder, resigned to accept a position with the New York Life Insurance Company, this city.

Visitors: Col. R. C. Clowry, C. H. Bristol, Chicago; F. Jaynes, L. McKisick, San Francisco, and J. Levin, Minneapolis.

As a result of the visit of these officials we expect better facilities for handling our increasing business in the near future.

A son has been born to E. S. Swift.

CHICAGO, ILL.

Typewriters bought, sold, rented and repaired. Renting a specialty. Also Agency for "Telegraph Age." Telegraphers' Typewriter Co., Room 5, 122 La Salle St., Chicago, Ill. Be sure to mention TELEGRAPH AGE.

SOMETHING NEW—no operator should be without. The Eacutt-Cawthern Typewriter Cleaner is a simple little brush; can be inserted in machine in two seconds, type thoroughly cleaned in 30 seconds without soiling fingers. Formerly required 15 minutes, and soiled and inkstained fingers. Price 50 cents, postpaid. Agents wanted. Eacutt and Cawthern, Room 704, 86 La Salle St., Chicago, Ill.

WESTERN UNION.

Frank Stevens took a trip to Buckley, Ill., to attend his sick mother.

Miss W. C. Priess, of Glendale, Ill., and B. A. Burdick, of this office, were married November 16, and our congratulations are most hearty.

Mrs. Mark Smith, who has been nursing a broken arm, is back again at the office.

Traffic Chief Frank Richardson has been on the sick list.

Division Chief Frank Crittenden, who has been away sick for two weeks, was represented during his absence by Bert Johnson.

Chief B. F. McKee is developing much talent as an amateur photographer, and is producing some excellent pictures.

The chief operator, assistant chief operator, wire chiefs and division chiefs have been hustling in

order to overcome the trouble on hundreds of wires caused by the recent cold snap, which has impaired the telegraph service over a wide reach of country.

The complimentary military ball given by the Signal Corps, I. N. G., at the armory, Friday, December 6, proved to be one of the most enjoyable events of its kind this season. The grand march was led by Capt. J. W. McConnell, commanding the Signal Corps, and Mrs. W. J. Lloyd, the charming wife of our ex-captain. Six hundred couples did homage to the occasion.

The orchestra was directed by Prof. A. F. Welton, leader of the 2d Regiment band, and flattering comments were heard from all sides upon the superb quality of the music.

As was expected, the Chicago telegraphers were liberally represented and no one was heard to say he did not have a delightful evening.

The armory was tastily decorated with the national flag and Signal Corps flags.

A word of praise for the members of the Signal Corps should not be overlooked. Soldierly and neat in appearance, uniformity of dress, buttons and brasses aglow, combined with courteous and strict attention to their guests, elicited commendation and assures them of the good wishes and support of their adherents at the next reception.

At the annual election of Morse Council No. 347, National Union, the following officers were chosen: Henry Jahn, president; O. B. Sims, vice-president; Edward Hearn, speaker; F. J. Scherrer, recording secretary; Henry Behl, financial secretary; G. J. Schoenfeldt, usher; W. M. McLean, chaplain; Mr. O'Brien, sergeant; Mr. Dorien, doorkeeper; Doctor Seidscheck and J. Leary, delegates to the cabinet; F. M. Crittenden and J. McCurdy delegates to the general assembly.

Fully three hundred telegraphers attended the "stag" given by the Chicago Telegraphers' Athletic Association Saturday evening, November 30, an attractive programme being presented. Mr. Tom Burke, in opening the evening's entertainment, stated that the object in bringing about the social affair was to further the principle of good fellowship among telegraphers. He then presented Mr. Thos. Hanley as master of ceremonies for the evening, and Mr. Wm. Hefferman as referee for the boxing contests.

Mr. Reading presented an interesting and laughable monologue. Mr. John McClure, of the Buckingham Department, next sang the "Holy City," accompanied by Mr. Bert Forbes on the organ.

An agreeable surprise was the Shakesperian acting of Mr. Dugan, of the first Cleveland wire, days. He acted his parts in a creditable manner. Two spirited boxing contests were marked features of the evening, between the execution of which refreshments were served.

POSTAL.

Messrs. Darby, Cowdrey and Hatch have returned to work. Mr. Hatch spent a vacation in Ohio, while Messrs. Cowdrey and Darby were sick.

Business has continued very good, and will no doubt last until after New Year's.

Messrs. J. M. Strong, Thomas Manning, Frank Lowe, Ulerich, Diefenderfer, Girard and Goss have been transferred from extra to regular force.

L. M. Strong has left for St. Louis. Mr. Mendelsohn has returned from a trip to the South; he visited Memphis, New Orleans and other Southern cities.

Among recent arrivals on the extra list are: Miss German, F. Smith, Mr. Morton, Mrs. Reynolds, Mr. Knolley, Miss McLean, Mr. Lawrence. Mr. Bowman is working a new trick, 10.30 A. M. to 7.30 P. M.

B. I. Gable, formerly operator at Madison, Wis., is said to be dangerously ill at Belle Point Hospital, Ft. Smith, Ark.

The Skirrow Arm Extension Resonator has been placed on the New York bonus wire. It is far ahead of the old style in use in this office.

Mr. Gilpin, who recently joined the United States Army, was a recent visitor to this office. He is leaving for signal service in the Philippines. He was formerly an operator at the Board of Trade office.

J. Newell Smith, of this office, a musician of local repute, has composed a song entitled, "Laurilee, My Laughing Blue-Eyed Baby," which has been well received.

MONTREAL, QUE., GREAT NORTHWESTERN.

Eighteen lockers for typewriters have been placed in the operating room. This is a great improvement, as every "mill man" will have his own apartment securely locked. Our circuit manager, Thomas Rodger, cannot be too highly praised for the way he studies the comforts of his operators.

C. W. Soules has resigned and secured a position with the Postal, at Augusta, Georgia. He was very popular here.

Arthur Ross has accepted a position with Broker Barclay, Metropolitan Stock Company.

Enquiries at the Montreal General Hospital elicit the fact that Miss Malvina St. Pierre, of this office, who has been ill for some time, is progressing satisfactorily.

Business continues good and consequently there will be no reductions made in the staff.

TORONTO, ONT., GREAT NORTHWESTERN.

A busy season for the Great Northwestern in Toronto has just ended, and the staff, even at this late date, is fairly large. Mr. Charles E. McManus, chief operator, is ably assisted during the day by Mr. John B. Rogers, wire chief, and Messrs Archie Pedan and James F. Middlemiss, traffic chiefs. Mr. J. L. Curry is night chief operator, Mr. Charles W. Dawzy traffic chief and Mr. H. Clark all-night chief. Mr. A. B. Smith is superintendent of construction. Mr. J. Duckworth, inspector.

Although some of our best known men are employed in outside offices, many familiar names will be recognized in the following list:

Day staff: Messrs. R. Burns, Frank Burns,

Willard Chalmers, James Cormack, W. J. Dillon, Charles Eggett, George Flannery, Edward Flannery, V. Fleury, W. J. Hill, O. Hitchcock, Edward Hiscock, W. Ide, J. Kirkup, H. Lewis, Frederick Lee, C. Lillie, Geo. McBain, Harry Phillips, W. D. Toye, J. Watson, Frank Worsley, Mrs. Baird, Misses Carine Brown, Amy Brown, Alice Briggs, Jennie Clark, Edith Curry, Jennie Cunningham, L. Euart, Hattie Hill, Grace Hiscock, Daisy Holding, Dot Holding, Helen Kidd, E. Kinsman, Margaret Lothead, Louise Martin, Louie Phillipeau, G. Quigg, R. Rothwell.

Night: Messrs. R. A. Baker, L. Douglas, H. Kirkpatrick, A. Moysey, J. McCarthy, A. Richardson, Harry Rowntree.

Miss Mayme Dawson at the Evening Telegram, and Mr. Geo. Curry at The World.

Ticker girls: Miss Yvonne Douglass and Miss Berenice Kaiser; Miss Annie Coakwell, business clerk.

Day checks: Messrs. Harry Bucklee (chief), Fred Sylvas, Geo. Funston, Wm. Pittfield, K. Miller, F. Craine.

Night checks: W. Smart (chief), E. Byron, F. Halliman, I. Brazil.

BOSTON, MASS.

Typewriters for sale, to rent and repaired. Remington, Smith, Densmore and all makes sold or rented on easy monthly terms to telegraphers. Send for samples, catalogues and full information to E. M. Bennett, Manager, The Typewriter Exchange, 38 Bromfield Street, Boston, Mass.

WESTERN UNION.

"Deacon" Smith has been appointed on the night force and assigned to the first New York wire, vice J. J. Hannon, who has gone to the Boston Globe.

F. J. Sullivan succeeded "Deacon" Smith, Edward Paine, who has been recently appointed to an all-night trick, taking Mr. Sullivan's place and Nathaniel Goodwin Mr. Paine's.

Mr. Thomas Lawrence, from Superintendent Roche's office, has resigned to accept a position as manager for the Metropolitan Stock Exchange, Brockton, Mass. Samuel Tracy, who has been working on Manager Henderson's desk, is filling in Mr. Lawrence's place temporarily and Mr. Buzzell vice Mr. Tracy.

The Telegraphers' Savings and Purchasing Association of Boston, Mass., which is organized on the same lines as a similar institution in Washington, lately declared an 18 per cent. semi-annual dividend. Mr. Frank T. Viles is the president.

CINCINNATI, O., NOTES.

A son has been born to Mr. James Pigman.

R. D. E. Rowe, formerly of Pittsburg, Pa., now a resident of Newport, Ky., was a recent visitor.

Frank Duffy has left the Murphy Brokerage Company, to take a position with the Odell Broker Company.

Martin Cook has accepted a position with the Murphy Brokerage Company of this city.

William Lukens is back again to work after an operation having been performed for appendicitis.

J. Van Cullen Jones, the old timer, well known throughout the country, is lying dangerously ill in this city from an attack of pneumonia.

George D. Holbrook has left here to engage in commercial business at Savannah, Ga.

Harry Horn, late of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat telegraph department, but for some time engaged in the brokerage business at Vincennes, Ind., and Louisville, Ky., made a flying visit to the city a few days since. He was called to Dayton, Ohio, by the sudden death of his father. Mr. Horn will locate in New York at an early day and make that his home in future.

The annual meeting and banquet of the Morse Mutual Benefit Association to be held in the early part of January promises to be of unusual interest. Some very important matters will be brought before the meeting and possibly some radical changes made in the constitution and by-laws.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

My motto—Honorable Dealing. D. A. Mahoney, Special Representative, **FAY-SHO TYPEWRITER**. Main office, W. U. Tel. Co., Philadelphia.

SPECIALTIES.—Rebuilt Fay-Sho. Remington, Smith, and Jewett "Mills." \$40 to \$50. Send for telegraphers' special prices and terms. Discount to members O. R. T. Agent for Alexander Word Register.

WESTERN UNION.

Mr. Frank E. Maize, president of the Electrical Aid Society and well known to the fraternity at large, has received a well-merited Christmas gift in the shape of a promotion to be assistant manager in the city electrical bureau, of which he has been a member for some years.

Thos. J. Fahy, a well known old timer in the employ of J. B. Fleischman & Co., died recently.

Deafness Cannot be Cured.

by local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube is inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; nine cases out of ten are caused by catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces.

We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of Deafness (caused by catarrh) that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. Send for circulars, free.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.

Sold by Druggists, 75c.

Hall's Family Pills are the best.

The news of his death was a shock to many friends.

As we write, another old timer, Joseph Bradley, is lying at death's door.

POSTAL.

Mrs. C. W. Power was made very ill in consequence of vaccination and had to remain at home.

Chief Operator C. A. Stimpson was absent for a number of days superintending the opening of new offices in Delaware and Maryland.

The office check boys and girls both day and night workers, were gladdened by liberal donations made by the operators for their Christmas cheer.

The holiday season did not pass by very propitiously for Robert Mecredy of the Commercial Exchange office; he encountered his old enemy, the gout, which held him in its clutches the greater part of the time.

The following changes have recently been effected in the Delaware-Maryland district: Mr. E. H. Bacon, assistant train dispatcher at Salisbury, Md., has resigned to accept the managership of our office at Seaford, Del., vice G. R. Moffitt, resigned.

Mr. Frank Ulman, formerly messenger at Salisbury, has, by dint of energy and persistency, so qualified himself as to be considered a worthy successor of Assistant Train Dispatcher Bacon, to which position he has been appointed.

PITTSBURG, PA., POSTAL.

With the passing of the old year, another merry Christmas has vanished. We had the usual half holiday, and the check girls and boys were remembered by the force. Judging from the smiles and satisfied looks which flitted on their countenances before and after the day of days, all fared well, both as givers and recipients of the compliments of the season.

We now have two bonus circuits, and they are manned by good, reliable men—Frank C. Barr and H. W. Watterson on New York, and E. M. Love and L. R. Kerins on Chicago.

Mr. A. B. Lafferty has returned to his desk after a spell of sickness.

Mr. A. M. Smith, chief operator, who had been confined to his room with a severe cold, is again around and his return was pleasing to the force.

Resignations: M. L. Swinger and T. M. Wilson.

Arrivals: H. W. Watterson and F. W. Powers.

KANSAS CITY, MO., WESTERN UNION.

John Dowd is the happy father of a son.

Frank Howe is temporarily upon the retired list, having sustained a dislocated shoulder, the result of a street car collision.

Our sympathies go out to Frank McCarroll in the death of his father.

Wm. Exley, of the Chicago Western Union office, was recently renewing acquaintances among us after a lapse of nearly twelve years. Mr. Fred Lesem, of Chicago, and Harry Lesem and wife, of St. Paul, were also recent visitors, having been called here on account of the serious illness of their father, Mr. Louis Lesem.

Among recent arrivals we note the following: Miss Alice M. Depue, from Omaha, Neb.; Mary M.

McGinnis, from the Postal, this city; Earl Hulse, Alfred T. Hickey, Floyd A. Grace, Ft. Smith, Ark.; Edw. R. Wakefield, Joplin, Mo.; Chas. W. Clowes, Colorado Springs, Col.; Burt L. Dunbar, Chas. H. Hanson, C. C. Comstock and Mrs. L. R. Hart.

Departures—E. R. McLaughlin, to Hot Springs, Ark., Western Union. Frank M. Meisburger resigned to accept position in the Postal service in this city.

Mr. T. M. A. Haston having grown tired of the hardships of a postman's life, has returned to the key in this office.

WACO, TEX., WESTERN UNION.

Mr. L. G. Hamilton, formerly of the Beaumont, and more recently of the St. Louis, Mo., Postal offices, relieved Mrs. Eva Boutz of this office, who spent the holidays at Beaumont, Texas.

Mrs. E. H. Rogers, of The Associated Press, has been transferred from the Times-Herald, of this city, to the Express at San Antonio, Tex.

Marconi Receives a Signal Across the Ocean.

The wonderful success of Marconi, the Italian scientist, in transmitting a signal by wireless telegraphy 1,800 miles across the Atlantic ocean, from Cornwall, England, to Newfoundland, caused a profound sensation in all parts of the world. Many electrical experts doubted Marconi's claim that he had actually received the letter "S," which is the simplest one in the Morse alphabet to transmit, and for that reason is one that could easily be produced on a sensitive instrument by atmospheric current. Unfortunately these interesting experiments, which looked so hopeful, were suddenly brought to an end by the action of the Anglo-American Telegraph Company, which exercised its right of its exclusive grant of a telegraph monopoly in the colony of Newfoundland in serving notice upon Marconi through its attorneys enjoining further experiments in wireless telegraphy.

The communication from the telegraph company's solicitors ran thus:

"Sir: We are instructed by the Anglo-American Telegraph Company that you are at present in this colony engaged in the work of telegraphic communication and that you have appliances erected within this colony to carry on said work.

On behalf of the Anglo-American Telegraph Company we hereby give you notice that the sole and exclusive right to operate and construct any system or means by which telegraphic communication is brought about from any place or places in this colony or within the jurisdiction of the government of the colony to any place or places outside the colony is owned and possessed by them. Consequently the work that you are now at present engaged in, within the colony is in direct violation of the rights and privileges of our clients.

Unless we receive an intimation from you during the day that you will not proceed any further with the work you are engaged in, and will remove the appliances erected for the purposes of telegraphic communication, legal proceedings will be instituted to restrain you from the further prosecution of

your work and for any damages our clients may sustain or have sustained.

And we further give you notice that our clients will hold you responsible for any loss or damage sustained by reason of your trespass upon their rights."

Having read this threatening letter, Marconi delivered this utterance:

"The world must have my invention. Who will oppose it?"

Upon receipt of this letter Signor Marconi wrote to the Anglo-American Company saying he did not wish to interfere with its rights, and that he was about to remove his apparatus. The Anglo-American Company then sent its second letter. This letter was received after the press of Great Britain and the United States had pronounced upon the attitude of the Anglo-American Company as disclosed by its first letter. In its second letter the company offered to consider proposals for a compromise. This led to the opening of negotiations which are now in progress in London between the Anglo-American and the Marconi companies.

Due allowance being made for the marvelous rapidity with which science progresses in these days, and the fact being recalled that only fifty years ago the world was laughing at transatlantic cable projects, and commercial electric light and power had then hardly been dreamed of, the more conservative among scientific men will be inclined to agree with a telegraph expert, who recently said:

"As an experiment, Marconi's achievement was magnificent. Personally, however, I must question the practicability of the system. I think that foreign currents of electricity will make the perfection of his plan well-nigh impossible. Frequently in sending messages over cables we are greatly troubled by these strange currents. If we have difficulty in transmitting through regular channels, it seems to me Marconi will meet insuperable obstacles in attempting to overcome these same difficulties. A flash of lightning five hundred miles away will affect signals; what would the same flash do with a message in the air? I appreciate that Marconi's system is only in the embryonic stage, and for that reason one should not criticise it harshly. As I have said, Marconi has made a beautiful experiment. But I shan't be satisfied until I hear that something more than the letter 'S' has been transmitted across the ocean."

After the actual outcome of the Cornwall-Newfoundland experiments, the methods employed therein are likely to command attention from both the electrician and the unscientific public. It will be noticed, for instance, that Marconi did not maintain the ratio once deemed necessary between the height of his vertical wire and the distance covered. The elevation of this part of the apparatus at Poldhu, England, was apparently no greater than that needed for merely crossing the English Channel. The curvature of the earth does not now seem to be so formidable an obstacle as it was once believed to be. There is a bulge over one hundred miles high between Cornwall and Newfoundland.

Again, one great essential to increasing the range of Hertz waves is to use more power in generating them. Like light and heat, these vibrations diminish rapidly in intensity as they spread out from the point at which they emanate. If after a message has been transmitted two miles it is sought to send one five, the energy required for the second test would bear the numerical relation of twenty-five to four to that employed in the first. In other words, the strength of the impulse decreases as "the square of the distance." Early in the year Marconi covered nearly four hundred miles by his system. To reach 1,800 miles he would need to create a disturbance more than twenty times as violent.

The cost of doing so at present is far from trifling. Marconi talks about spending \$60,000 on his station in Newfoundland. Eventually, perhaps, he or some one else may simplify the requisite apparatus and reduce the expense. But Hertz wave telegraphy will hardly compete with land lines, if what is saved in wire is lost in the equipment of a station. Besides, it must be remembered that at present fewer words a minute can be sent by the new system than the old. The chief advantage to be derived, apparently, will be in communicating with vessels at sea. Submarine cables may be costly affairs, but they will remain in service for many years yet.

Personal Mention.

Signor Marconi will visit New York some time in January, when he will be married to Miss Josephine B. Holman.

Mr. George Clapperton, traffic manager of the Commercial Cable Company, New York, arrived from Europe on December 21.

Mr. E. C. Bradley, vice-president of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, New York, is making a business trip to the Pacific Coast.

Mr. Thomas F. Clark, vice-president of the Western Union Telegraph Company, New York, spent the holidays at St. Augustine, Fla., where Mrs. Clark has for some time past been visiting.

Col. A. B. Chandler, chairman of the Board of Directors, Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, New York, has been confined to his home in Brooklyn by illness, but he expects soon to be able to return to his office.

Mr. Charles P. Bruch, assistant general manager of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, New York, distributes during the holidays hundreds of presents for his company, in the shape of complimentary franks.

Mr. Thomas A. Edison, the telegrapher, inventor and all-around wizard, has been reported of late as seriously ill. The report is not credited by those who know him, as they realize he has no inclination to experiment with time-consuming sickness.

Mr. Charles A. Tinker, general superintendent of the Western Union Telegraph Company, New York, has returned from North Carolina, where he spent three weeks hunting and fishing, which greatly benefited his health. Mr. Tinker proved

himself to be an excellent shot, for on the first day's hunt he brought down a fine deer.

Mr. John H. Smart, superintendent of the Commercial Cable Company of New York, who has been acting traffic manager of the same interests for the past four months in the absence of Mr. George Clapperton, at 253 Broadway, has returned to his former office at 20 Broad street.

Mr. Henry C. Payne of Milwaukee, Wis., has become Postmaster-General in President Roosevelt's Cabinet. Mr. Payne has been closely identified with electrical pursuits for many years. He is an expert telegrapher, having mastered the art at an early age, but he never engaged in it for any length of time.

Colonel Robert C. Clowry of Chicago, vice-president and general superintendent of the Western Union Telegraph Company, was in a train wreck on the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company's road near Dallas, Ore., on December 6. His private car was attached to the train, and was the only one that did not leave the track. Neither Colonel Clowry nor any of the passengers were injured. With Col. Clowry at the time of the accident were Mr. Frank Jaynes, superintendent at San Francisco, and Mr. C. H. Bristol, general superintendent of construction, Chicago, Ill. As a result of Colonel Clowry's visit to the Pacific Coast, the wire facilities of the company will be at once greatly increased. The great development of that section of the country, particularly the portion covered by the States of Oregon and Washington, makes it absolutely necessary to provide many additional wires in all directions in order to carry the rapidly increasing business.

To Push the Pacific Cable.

In a recent interview George G. Ward, vice-president and general manager of the Commercial Cable Company, said that the possibility of legislation by Congress would in nowise interfere with the construction of the Pacific cable, work on which has already begun. Several cable bills have been introduced in Congress, providing for Government construction and control of a cable between the Pacific coast and the Orient, or for private construction under a subsidy from the Government. Mr. Ward advanced a number of reasons why, in his opinion, it would be unwise for the United States to undertake the construction of the cable, both from a practical as well as an economic point of view. The company which is now going ahead with the work, he said, has complied with all requirements and asks no aid from the

Government, but on the contrary assumes all responsibility.

"It would be inadvisable for the Government," he said, "to undertake to construct a cable. In the first place, there is the matter of expense, not only of laying the cable, but also of keeping it in repair. It is doubtful if the Government could make as complete working arrangements with connecting lines so as to give complete service, as could a private enterprise, for diplomatic and business difficulties would quite naturally surround such a project if undertaken by the Government. It should be borne in mind that the Commercial Pacific Cable Company will be obliged to make arrangements with existing companies for business between various points in the Orient and Europe. This country could hardly expect to secure landing privileges or concessions where exclusive grants have already been given in foreign countries, notably Japan, to cable companies now in operation, and it is doubtful if a working arrangement could be made with such companies by this Government looking to any division of the business that these foreign countries now enjoy. No diplomatic difficulties, however, would be in the way of a private corporation making such arrangements. The Commercial Pacific Cable Company assumes all responsibility in the construction and maintenance of the new cable, thereby relieving the Government of any expense whatever, either for construction or operation."

Cuban Telegraph Company Incorporated.

The Cuban Telegraph and Telephone Company, organized with a paid-up capital stock of \$2,000,000 to construct and operate telephone and telegraph lines in Cuba and the West Indies filed articles of incorporation in Trenton, N. J., Dec. 13. The incorporators are Francis C. Prest, Edmund G. Vaughan, Edgar Park and William J. Patter-son.

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New York, New Haven & Hartford R. R. Co.	Central of Georgia R. R. Co.
Lehigh Valley R. R. Co.	Chicago & Grand Trunk Railway.
Central Railroad of New Jersey.	Standard Oil Co.
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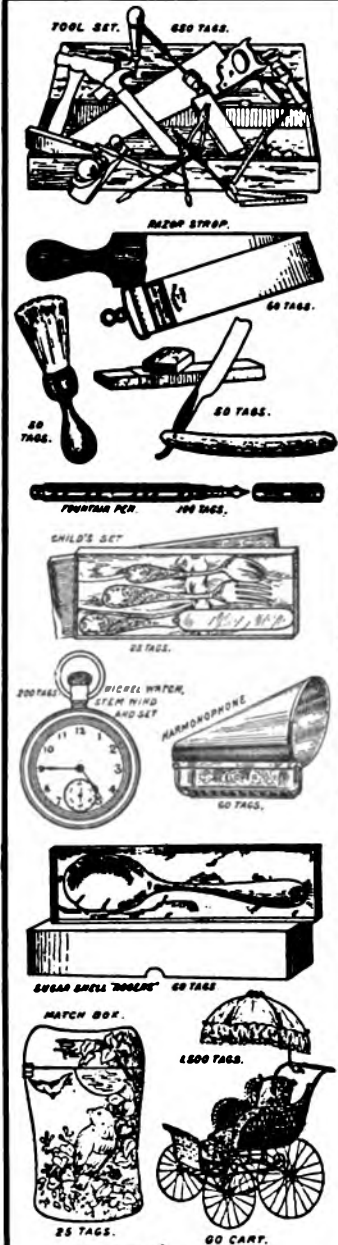
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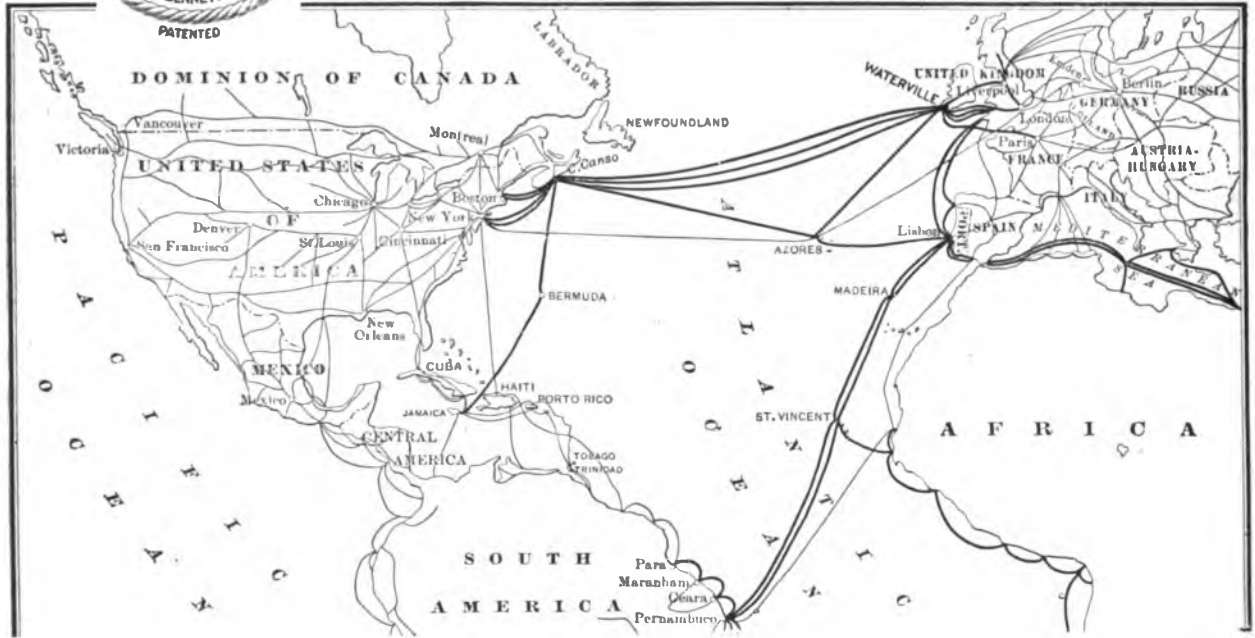
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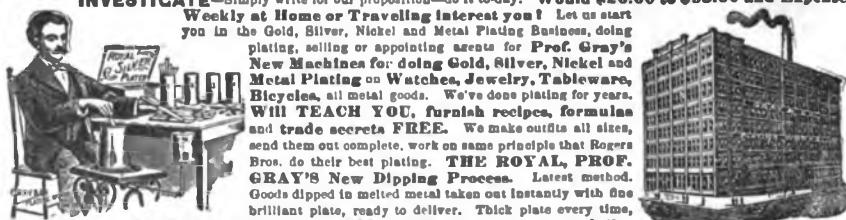
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THE TELEGRAPH AGE

No. 2.

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VOL. XIX.

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this journal during the past three years under the caption of "Some Points on Electricity," will be published, and the book substituted for "Pocket Editions of Diagrams," by Willis H. Jones. Those desiring a copy of the new book should send in their names at once.—Editor.]

REPEATERS.

A repeater is a device which controls two separate circuits in such a manner that the action of either half of the combination will open and close the circuit traversing the apparatus of its twin partner in precisely the same way as if an operator repeated the signals on another wire by means of an ordinary key. The simplest form of a repeater is the armature of single line relay opening the local sounder circuit at its contact point.

On such local circuits and on the receiving side of all multiplex apparatus which contains no key for the purpose of breaking, the relay armature and contact points is all the apparatus required for making a perfect repeater, but for two single circuits where operators on one wire must be able to break the sender on the other the problem becomes more difficult.

Without a special mechanical arrangement, the sending operator on one circuit would find his battery cut off at the repeating station and his wire left open there the moment he attempted to make a signal, and neither sender nor receiver could close it again.

Now, the feature of all automatic repeaters lies in the various mechanical means devised for keep-

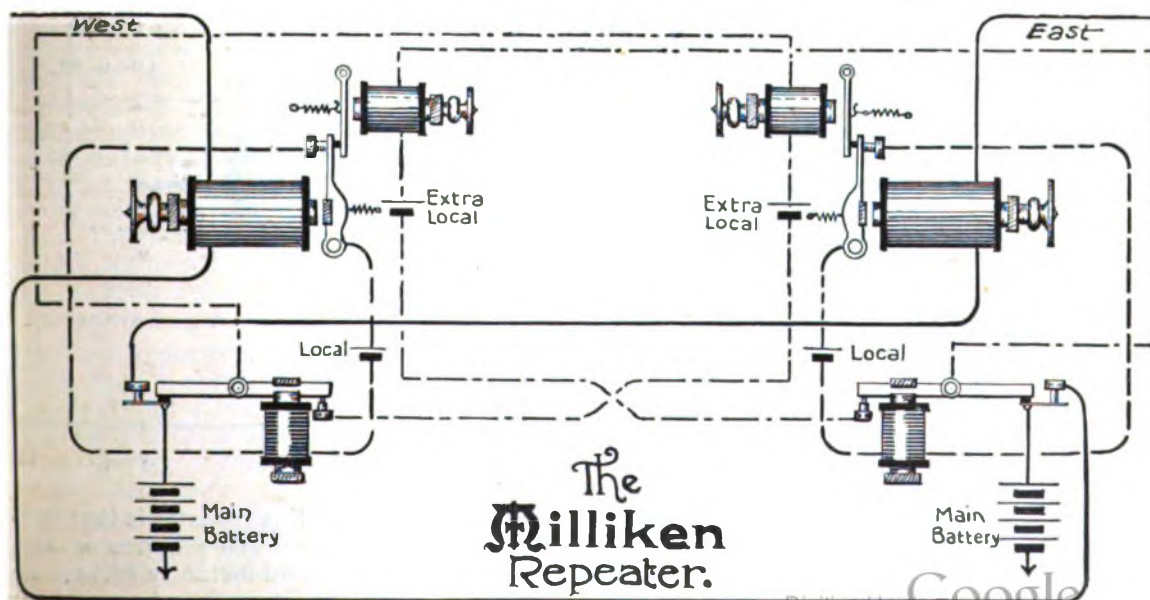
SOME POINTS ON ELECTRICITY.

The Equipment of a Modern Telegraph Office.

(Continued.)

BY WILLIS H. JONES.

[In a few weeks hence this series, together with the most valuable of the articles appertaining to the duplex, the quadruplex, storage battery and other telegraph matters, which have appeared in



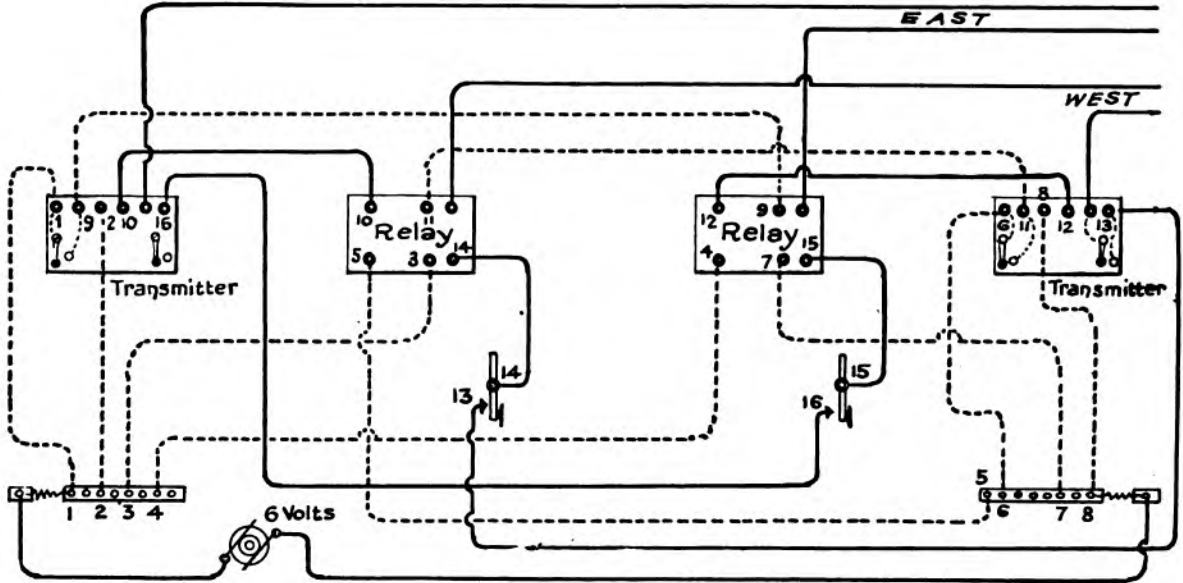
ing the sender's battery and circuit intact at the repeating station while the instruments there are repeating into the other wire.

As the contact points of the two relays at the repeating station open and close opposite cir-

sounder controlled by the relay points, as the latter instruments insure a stronger and steadier action of the moving parts.

WOOD'S BUTTON REPEATER.

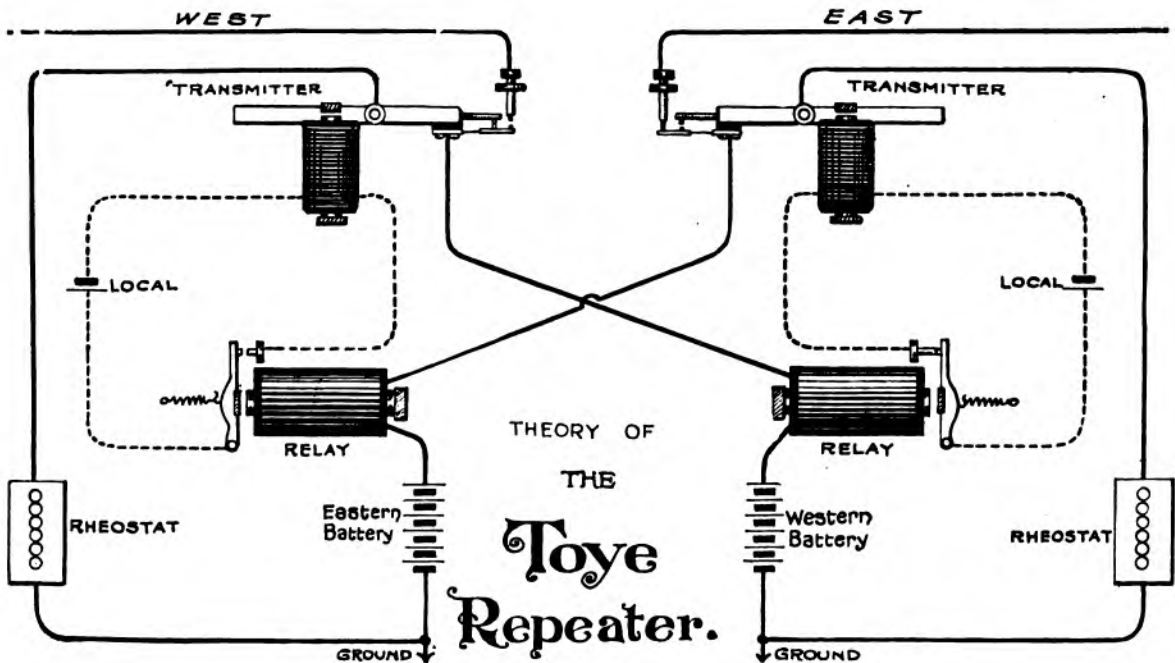
The first means of surmounting this difficulty



~ THE MILIKEN REPEATER ≈ ACTUAL DESK CONNECTIONS ~

cuits it follows that no matter which wire opens first, the repeating relay in that circuit will open the other also through its contact points. This must not occur, the companion relay must be

was that shown in Wood's button repeater, where an extra path around the repeating points of one relay is provided for the current when its points open and close through the manipulations of the



kept closed while a message is being transmitted. For simplicity we have stated that the two single circuits traverse the local contact points of the relays, but in reality they each traverse the tongue and lip of a transmitter or repeating

sender. The trouble with this repeater is that it only repeats in one direction and requires an attendant to listen for breaks and instantly reverse a switch which will enable the receiving operator in turn

to repeat his remarks into the first sender's circuit.

Later on several types of automatic repeaters were invented which dispensed entirely with the services of a constant attendant. All the attention they now require is proper adjustment when starting and possibly later for varying conditions of weather or circuits.

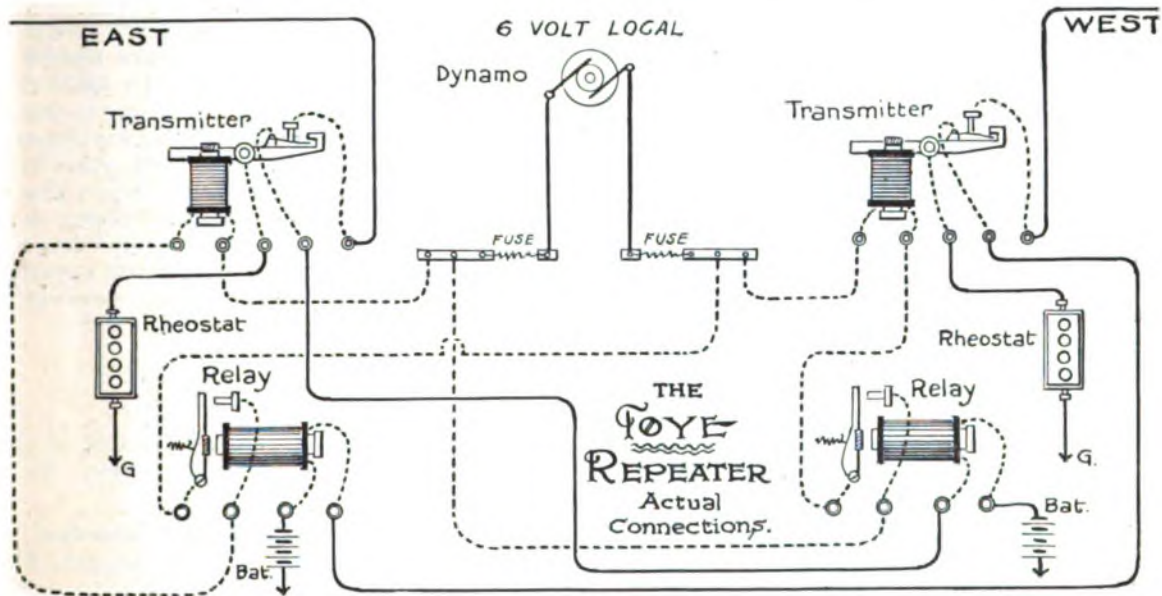
With the exception of the Milliken and the Toye repeaters nearly all of the leading patterns hold the contact points of the transmitter or repeating sounder controlled by the circuit into which an operator is repeating, closed, by means of an extra local battery which is shunted through the coils of those instruments the instant they become demagnetized by the functions of the apparatus at the repeating station.

The accompanying diagrams illustrate the theoretical and actual binding post connections of the two repeaters. Students should study them closely, as one can acquire a better understanding of the principles upon which they are operated by this plan than were he to wade through too much descriptive matter.

(To be Continued.)

Business Notices.

Mr. D. A. Mahoney, the well-known telegrapher of the Western Union Telegraph Company, Philadelphia, Pa., who carries an advertisement among our Quaker City notes, was one of the first practical telegraphers in the country to realize the importance of the typewriter to the telegraph,



THE MILLIKEN REPEATER.

In the Milliken repeater the transmitter is held in a closed position mechanically by means of a 75-ohm extra magnet, the armature of which presses backwards against the relay armature the moment the cores of the latter instrument becomes demagnetized. This extra armature possesses a retractile spring the tension of which is greater than that of the spring attached to the single line relay, hence the armature of the latter cannot fall back and open the local circuit of the transmitter except at the moment the strong extra magnet is attracting its own armature to its core, thereby giving the relay armature space to move freely.

THE TOYE REPEATER.

The Toye repeater requires no extra magnets, the relay itself is prevented from being demagnetized by shifting the main battery from the wire to an artificial circuit, of approximately the same resistance—usually a rheostat—via the tongue and lip of the transmitter.

These repeaters are very simple in construction but are not economical, because the main battery being constantly closed, is rapidly consumed.

and many years ago he interested himself in the typewriter and he has since then conducted a business among telegraphers, and on account of his honorable dealings it has grown to excellent proportions. Members of the fraternity cannot do better than to patronize Mr. Mahoney.

My wrist is so tired! Why don't you use a Twentieth Century Telegraph Key before you lose your grip?

Address Foote, Pierson & Co., 82-84 Fulton street, New York.

Recent Telegraph Patent.

Mr. Charles Shirley, manager of the operating department of the main office of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, New York, was on December 24, granted patent No. 689,426 for a portable telegraph key.

Edison is one prominent electrician who is not jealous of Marconi. He has congratulated the young Italian on his success in his wireless telegraph experiments.

General Mention.

Mr. T. P. Kibbe, of Raymond, Kas., in renewing his subscription recently, said: "While at present not employed in the telegraph service I like Telegraph Age just the same."

Mr. H. G. Haddon, general manager, Martha's Vineyard Telegraph Company, Woods Hole, Mass., in renewing his subscription, writes: "What is a telegraph office without the Age?"

Mr. W. E. Peirce, of the Western Union Telegraph Company, Washington, D. C., in a recent letter remitting for the renewal of his subscription, writes: "Telegraph Age grows brighter as it grows older."

Miss Margaret, the daughter of Mr. J. P. Cassidy, manager of the Western Union Telegraph Company, Minneapolis, Minn., was married on Christmas Day to Mr. William Warvelle Nelson, of St. Paul, Minn.

Mr. Ernest Van Every, son of J. B. Van Every, vice-president and auditor of the Western Union Telegraph Company, New York, is again at his desk in the auditor's office after his long siege with a desperate case of typhoid fever.

The Postal Telegraph-Cable Company of Texas recently purchased through Telegraph Age, a large number of electrical and telegraphic books for its Dallas, Texas, library, which has been established in the interests of the members of the fraternity in the employ of that company.

Mr. Charles C. Duvall, who is superintendent of telegraph and telephone of the American Tin Plate Company, whose system extends from New York City to Pittsburg, and to various points throughout Ohio, is in the Buckeye State on business connected with the further extension of his system.

The seventeenth annual ball of the Telegraphers' Mutual Aid Association of Boston, Mass., will take place at Grand Hall, Mechanics Building, that city, on Friday evening, January 31. A concert is announced from 8 to 9, the grand march at 9, and dancing will be in order from 9 to 2 o'clock.

A novel advertisement recently appeared, when the Navy Department announced that it would sell to the highest bidder, fifty-four carrier pigeons belonging to the Brooklyn, N. Y., Navy Yard. The introduction of wireless telegraphy in the navy has deprived these pigeons of the duties they have for many years previously performed in carrying communications between the navy yard and the various forts adjacent to New York.

Santos-Dumont with his dirigible balloon and Marconi with his wireless telegraphy have scored the greatest scientific triumphs in the first year of the new century. And both belong to the Latin race, a race which Anglo-Saxons affect to regard as effete and "played out." As a matter of fact Marconi's mother was an Englishwoman, if this affords any satisfaction to the critics; but as some

one said on another occasion, there is glory enough for all.

The proceedings of the thirty-fifth annual meeting of the Telegraphers Mutual Benefit Association, which took place in New York on November 20, 1901, has been issued in pamphlet form, and is now being distributed among the members. The book is replete with information covering the affairs of the association, and gives in detail the annual reports of the various officers, which also contains much information and valuable statistics and suggestions. Copies of this book can be obtained by non-members upon application to the secretary, Mr. M. J. O'Leary, 195 Broadway, New York.

The two greatest copper mines in the world are located at Butte, Mont., and Houghton, Mich. Mr. L. S. Wild is manager of the Western Union Telegraph Company's office at the former place, and Mr. F. C. Miller occupies the same position at the second named place. It came to our notice a few days ago that both of these gentlemen were born at Albion, Mich., about fifty years ago. It is certainly a singular coincidence that both should leave their native town at about the same time, wander in different directions for a number of years, and finally receive the appointment of managers of offices in cities, whose principal industry is copper.

New York Visitors.

Mr. F. H. Wavcott, superintendent of the Anglo-American Telegraph Company, Montreal, Que.

Mr. D. Budge, general superintendent of the Halifax and Bermudas Cable Company, Halifax, N. S.

Mr. S. A. Duncan, assistant general superintendent of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, Atlanta, Ga.

Mr. J. M. Creamer, manager of the Western Union Telegraph Company, Knoxville, Tenn. Mr. Creamer's visit to New York was in connection with his improved switchboard.

Mr. Joseph Carroll, chief of the repeater department of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, Meadville, Pa. His visit to New York was to settle the affairs of his brother, P. J. Carroll, deceased.

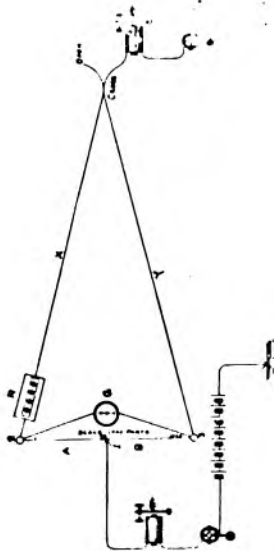
EASTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.—The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Eastern Telegraph Company was held in Portland, Me., Dec. 23, and elected Charles A. Tinker, of New York; Thomas Roche and Charles C. Bedlow, of Boston; Frederick Robie, of Gorham, Me., and Charles D. Livermore, J. W. Plaisted and J. D. Williams, of Portland, directors. At a meeting of the board of directors the following officers were elected: Frederick Robie, president; C. C. Bedlow, treasurer; C. D. Livermore, clerk.

Conductivity Measurements.

Editor TELEGRAPH AGE :

At the suggestion of Mr. F. W. Jones, electrical engineer of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, New York, I submit herewith a plan for making conductivity measurements, but more particularly for locating a cross upon two or more telegraph wires without disturbing the business operation of one of the wires that is crossed.

The plan embraces the well known slide bridge, and the application in practical work, herewith explained and illustrated, has been made by Mr. Robert C. Lord, an operator of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company at Missouri Valley, Iowa, at which place he has performed, with this testing method, some very valuable work, and it may be that the following brief description and simple formulas for its use may be of value to others similarly situated, beside according to Mr. Lord deserved credit.



ROBERT C. LORD'S PLAN FOR MAKING CONDUCTIVITY MEASUREMENTS.

In the diagram a slide wire bridge is employed extending between points 2 and 3. 1 represents the slide connecting the relay, battery and earth with the bridge at the testing station. G represents a suitable galvanometer. R is an adjustable rheostat connected in the "crossed" wire X at point 2; the distant end of the crossed wire X being open.

The working wire Y is connected to the bridge at point 3.

The slide wire bridge is divided into 1,000 equal parts numbered from left to right upon a suitable scale attached thereto, and the ratios of the arms A and B are varied by moving the slide 1 towards 2 or 3.

The galvanometer should be fairly sensitive and provided with shunts and short circuit key as usual.

To make a test set the slide 1 about midway on the slide wire with no resistance in rheostat R, then cut in the shunted galvanometer with needle

at zero and move the slide to the right or left until the needle points to zero (being careful to observe the relay of the working wire that it has not been left open during the time that the test is being made).

Take off the galvanometer shunt and again move the slide if necessary to cause the needle to point to zero, and then note the number of divisions at which the slide 1 stands on the scale, and record these divisions as A, which subtracted from 1,000 will give B. Then unplug resistance in rheostat R, and again move slide 1 to the right and secure a balance upon galvanometer as before. Note the number of divisions at which the slide stands and call them C, which subtracted from 1,000 will give D. The amount of resistance unplugged from R must be greater as the distance increases between the testing station and the cross.

The following formula will then give the resistance of the working wire Y between the testing station and the cross:
$$Y = \frac{B D R}{B C - A D}$$

For example: First reading—when the galvanometer at zero—slide 1 stands at 500 (A), which subtracted from 1000 gives 500 (B). Then insert 50 ohms in R and second reading shows slide at 600 (C), which subtracted from 1000 gives 400 (D). Then according to above formula

$$Y = \frac{500 \times 400 \times 50}{(500 \times 600) - (500 \times 400)} = 100 \text{ ohms}$$

being the resistance of the working wire Y from point 3 to the cross.

The resistance of this wire (being known) has a mileage resistance of 12 ohms, which divided into 100 ohms shows the cross about 8 1-3 miles distant.

W. J. MUNDELL.

New York, Jan. 2.

CALENDARS RECEIVED.—The Direct United States Cable Company of 44 Broadway, New York, Mr. A. C. Frost superintendent, has distributed its customary memorandum pad calendar among its friends and patrons. It is unique and thoroughly electrical in design and is a convenient adjunct of the desk.

The Commercial Cable Company has sent out with its compliments, a very pretty calendar lithographed in colors, a prominent feature of the work being a picture of the globe, showing tracings of the Commercial Cable Company's Atlantic ocean system.

"I am much pleased with my copy of A. B. C. of the Telephone, which is so simple, plain of language, and complete in its principles."—J. G. McNerny, Buffalo, N. Y.

A. B. C. of the Telephone costs but \$1 per copy, express charges prepaid. It contains 352 pages, and is profusely illustrated. Address J. B. Tallavall, TELEGRAPH AGE, 253 Broadway, New York.

The First Telegraph Lines in Texas.

(Concluded from page 8, January 1 issue.)

Close upon the heels of the close of the war the sundered parts of the Southwestern Company having been reunited, the general management came, saw and approved what had been done, produced the wire and finished the San Antonio line under the same superintendency, bought out other interests at a trifle and sought "new fields and pastures green."

The company at once set about acquiring the Star State line between Houston and Galveston and Houston and Beaumont, consummated the purchase, chopped down the poles, left the entire mass lying on the prairie and constructed on the other side of the road a substantial line of the best materials, cedar poles and galvanized wire. It also purchased the line between New Iberia and New Orleans from the railroad company, and in 1867-68 commenced the construction of a line through to New Orleans, there having been up to this date no telegraph connection with the cis-Mississippi country, save and except our defunct line of 1853.

The construction of this entire line, including the reconstruction of its eastern end, was done from this end under the auspices of the Texas district, of which I had the honor to superintend. This was a heavy task at that time. No railroad, except a small portion of the way, impenetrable swamps, no materials, no forage nor subsistence. Vessels had to be chartered and a train of wagons and mules purchased to deliver materials, etc., along the route. The line was finally finished under the sub-superintendency of Mr. W. A. Wherry, and admirably supplied a "long felt want."

At that time my venerable friend, Mr. G. L. C. Davis, was manager, and William A. L'Homme-dieu, chief operator at New Orleans, and A. J. Shepherd manager at Houston, and perhaps D. C. Blakeney, or Chase or Raphael, chief operator; in this my memory fails me. Mr. L. H. Korty was also here during or about this time.

Throughout this sketch I must beg pardon for omitting many names that no doubt are entitled to be mentioned, but as I am relying alone on memory this can not be avoided.

The next enterprise undertaken by this company, I am unable to say, memory failing me, what year the Southwestern Company, which inaugurated telegraph construction in Texas, was merged into the Western Union, but think it safe to say that it was at this time and perhaps had for some considerable time been the Western Union Company, was the building of a line to Brownsville and Matamoros, some 460 miles through the western wilds to the mouth of the Rio Grande. This, owing to physical and other obstacles, not forgetting financial considerations, was considered a "big job," having first to ship poles and other materials by sea, thence haul it 75 to 100 miles on wagons. There was no tempting allurements in the way of large cities or towns to connect, save perhaps Matamoros, with its 23,000 people and its considerable volume of business.

This, I think, was in 1871 or 1872. The company adopted the novel plan of asking a subscription from the towns of Indianola, Rockport, Corpus Christi, Brownsville and Matamoros, to be refunded in telegraph service, thus gradually and slowly canceling its indebtedness to the subscribers, which was faithfully and finally consummated to the satisfaction of all concerned. This amount was some \$12,000 or \$15,000, of which Matamoros was much the largest subscriber. I will not likely forget my experience in collecting some \$8,000 of "slick money," worn and defaced silver coins, and having to be escorted by a Mexican revenue official, polite as a Frenchman, across the Rio Grande with his swag.

When this line was finished, under the lamented Ed C. Burke, superintendent of construction of the district, Mr. Chase, with his beaming eye, sleek, smooth face and winning ways, was installed as manager and operator at Brownsville. He fascinated the dons and greasers for several years, but finally, yearning to see once more the cooler North, surrendered the office, to whom I do not recollect, but later was occupied by Mr. Sanborn, formerly of the Indianola office.

Indianola was a thriving business point, on which the city of San Antonio depended as a shipping point where its "prairie schooners" and Mexican carts met the Morgan steamships and hauled its goods to and fro 160 miles. Indianola is now an extinct town. The cyclone of 1875 almost destroyed it, drowning many people. What was left was finished by another cyclone and tidal wave some years later.

The line just described ran from Harrisburg, six miles from Houston, to Columbus, on the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio railroad, now a link in the Southern Pacific, to Columbus, thence through the prairie as nearly as possible by an air line to Victoria, thence to Lavaca, Indianola, St. Mary, Rockport, Corpus Christi and Brownsville.

The next work was the extension of the line on the Houston and Texas Central road from Calvert to Denison as fast as the road itself was built. This was done under new auspices, jointly by the railroad company and the Western Union Company, but under the supervision of the telegraph company. This was done without special incident.

I remember, however, that when the railroad was completed to the Trinity river, walking thence to Dallas, some five or six miles, one hot July day, to open the first telegraph office ever in Dallas. This was in 1873, I think, but I am not sure about the year. If Mr. Burton was not then installed as manager he was soon after, and held the position until the present incumbent, Mr. Baker, took charge.

When this line approached Denison a little incident occurred in which I again came out second best, having been turned down by our former honored assistant superintendent, T. P. Cook.

A struggle had been going on between the Missouri, Kansas and Texas and the Houston and

Texas Central roads as to the terminus of their respective lines, the Missouri, Kansas and Texas claiming it should be Denison, while the Central contended that it should be at Preston, on Red river, otherwise the State line. Mr. Cook was approaching the terminus much like Mr. Baker's retreat out of Arkansas, and as results showed, was very close to his objective point. My gang was about Sherman.

Although these respective lines were all Western Union, they belonged to different divisions and districts, those on the Missouri, Kansas and Texas being in the western division, Clowry's district, and those on the Central being in the southern division and Texas district. The rivalry, therefore, was something akin to that of the railroads and each was standing by his road.

The writer being on the alert, was in and about Denison, and being a poor, slow cavallo, started out to watch for Cook's "layout" to see how close they were to Denison, hoping to reach Red River before he could make it. Judge of my surprise and chagrin. After I had worked my way arduously and patiently on that played-out mustang for only a mile or two to meet Cook's "forces" reeling off wire. I poked back to Denison a sadder but wiser man, to say nothing of the physical condition as a result of the ride. I surrendered and joined with Cook in establishing the office at Denison.

Later we built the lines on the International road, from Hearne east to Longview, opening offices at Palestine and other points with the cooperation and assistance of the late H. M. Hoxie, general superintendent of the road, and Capt. Hayes, general manager. This brings me down to somewhat near 1874. To make a long story short, I severed connection with the company and engaged in other pursuits, some fifteen years later to take a hand again in the business, in a different, a more subordinate position, for the nonce at least.

As I am probably exceeding my allowance of time, I shall close this hurried and imperfect sketch by calling over a few names on the roll of honor and fame in the history of the early days of telegraphy in Texas, with a few observations.

Major Ed A. Burk, not Ed C., hereinbefore named, afterwards proprietor and manager of the New Orleans Times-Democrat, was an operator in the early days of telegraphy in Texas. During the war, under Magruder and Walker, commanders respectively of the military district, he was chief of field transportation, with the rank of major. Of his later career, with its foibles and fancies, errors and misfortune, we will not speak. He was "a man for a' that."

Of the superintendents in Texas in those days, were L. C. Baker in the district in northeast Texas and Louisiana; also later G. M. Baker, I think, of the same district. Mr. L'Hommedieu also had charge of this district at one time. I had charge of the southern and western portion of the State and in Louisiana to New Orleans, afterwards that portion east of Orange was cut out and added

to Mr. Merriwether's (now Stephens') district.

Among managers I name with pleasure that "Father of Texas Telegraphy" P. H. Fall, now with us in Houston; P. J. Huder, now paymaster on the Southern Pacific, and with us in construction, etc.; Bud Matthews, subsequently superintendent Houston, East and West Texas Railway and now a worthy alderman of Houston; Winfree Foreman, one of nature's noblemen; N. J. Petrich, manager for a long time of the San Antonio office, now in the New Orleans office; D. S. Ryan, formerly manager of Waco, Austin and I believe now at Little Rock; Westervelt of Corpus Christi; Schmitz at New Braunfels; Ellsworth, a very old-timer on the Galveston and Houston Line; J. H. Finks, manager of Waco, afterwards clerk United States Court, and Mr. S. H. Whitaker, now in the Dallas office, and there are many that I can not possibly remember, for which I am very regretful.

Eight years ago in Chicago I remarked to Col. Clowry that the business was taking tremendous strides, developing so rapidly that it was almost bewildering.

"Yes," said he, "we can not begin to keep up with it."

In closing, I can not forbear to pay tribute to "old-time" operators and to say, that in quality you can not excel them to-day. Better work never has been done than was done right here in Texas twenty-five years ago.

Heavenly in Morse Characters.

Editor TELEGRAPH AGE:

I have just read a Reading, Pa., dispatch describing the appearance of a cross athwart the moon at 5 A. M., Dec. 24, 1901, which reminds me of an incident occurring in the summer of 1898 while my wife and I were on the train in Arizona en route for the Grand Canon of Colorado and the Pacific coast.

It was sunset. The heavens were entrancingly beautiful. There were clouds enough to receive and mirror the rays in translucent colorings beyond description. I have seen but one other more resplendent massing and changeful combination of gorgeous shapes and hues, and that was on Mount Riga. Every passenger was awed into silence, marveling at the panorama of loveliness which light and shadow made. As the sun reached the horizon, by way of a parting benediction and good night, it threw its lingering rays upon a ribboned cloudlet, so broken by clear spacings, as to illumine the near-by heavens with these letters, in unmistakable telegraphic characters, . . . — — — — — (Heavenly). The letters were absolutely perfect, save only, that in the . . . — the space between the dots and dash was a trifle too long.

WILLIAM R. PLUM.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 26, 1901.

Order is Heaven's first law.—Pope.

W. C. Black Made Superintendent.

William C. Black, on January 1, was appointed superintendent of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company with headquarters at Denver, Colo. He was born at Detroit, Mich., in October, 1859. He began his telegraphic career under Mr. Sanford E. Griffith, manager of the Michigan Central Railroad, Detroit, in the Fall of 1869, and after a year's service quit telegraphy to enter the drug business. In 1873 he returned to the key, engaging with the Western Union at Detroit as assistant to Mr. Thomas W. Hill who was then bookkeeper and cashier. Leaving the bookkeeping department in 1876, Mr. Black entered the operating department of the same office as operator, and successfully worked the heaviest wires. From 1881 to 1883 he was assistant to M. S. Corbett, night chief operator, and during a period of ten years' service did not lose one day's time.



WILLIAM C. BLACK.

He was justly considered the most reliable member on the fine staff of the Detroit office at that time.

From Detroit Mr. Black went to the Western Union, Buffalo, N. Y., where he worked for fourteen months in Mr. J. W. Tillinghast's office, returning to Detroit in November, 1884, as chief operator for the Bankers and Merchants' and Michigan Postal Telegraph Companies at Detroit. He filled this position until 1890, when he accepted a transfer to Denver, Colo., as night manager of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company's office. On December 31, 1894, he was promoted to the position of assistant manager of the office. His next promotions were to the managership, and a year ago he was further promoted to be assistant superintendent. The present appointment has been fully earned, Mr. Black being considered in every way an excellent telegraph official.

Marcóni in New York.

Mr. Marconi was the guest of honor at the annual dinner of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers at the Waldorf-Astoria, New York, on the evening of January 13. The assemblage was a brilliant one.

The decorations were simple, consisting of smilax massed about tiny green electric lights. On the wall back of the guests' table was a black tablet set with electric lights forming the word "Marconi." Two smaller tablets, some distance apart, bore a similar arrangement, the word on one being "Poldhu," on the other "St. John's," the names of the towns between which the famous wireless test was recently made. These tablets were connected by a string of electric lights so arranged as to make the letter "S" in the Morse code. These were made to flash back and forth.

Mr. Marconi made an extended address. He said in part:

"I think it is right that I should correct prevailing popular belief. It appears to be the general opinion that when a message is sent into space any one with the necessary apparatus can intercept that message and read it. This, of course, would be very awkward for any kind of message. No one would wish to have his private affairs made public in that way. Messages can be read only when the receiver and transmitter are attuned. This attuned system as perfected is not at present in use on ships. It has been deemed necessary that each ship should be equipped with apparatus which will permit of its reading a message sent from any other ship, because of the possibility of aid being required in a case of danger. Therefore all ships are attuned so that one ship can call up any other ship."

Thomas A. Edison, in a letter of regret, wrote that he would "like to meet the young man who had the monumental audacity to attempt and succeed in jumping an electrical wave clear across the Atlantic ocean."

Postal Telegraph Changes.

The following changes in the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company's service took effect on January 1st.

Transfer of the headquarters of the Superintendent of the Second District, Western Division, from Cincinnati to Cleveland, Ohio,

The establishment of a new district, to be known as the Seventh District, Western Division, and the transfer from the Third District to the new Seventh District of lines and offices west of Coolidge, Kansas, and east of El Paso, Texas, and Albuquerque, N. M., not including Albuquerque.

The appointment of W. C. Black as Superintendent Seventh District, Western Division with headquarters at Denver, Colorado.

Transfer of headquarters of Third District, Western Division, from Kansas City to St. Louis.

Bad habits gather by unseen degrees. As brooks make rivers, rivers run to seas.—Dryden.

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NEW YORK, January 16, 1902.

NOTE.—We desire to state that back numbers of this paper, those issued more than six months prior to any current date, will be charged for at the rate of twenty-five cents apiece when they can be furnished. This price is fixed because of the necessarily limited stock we carry, and of the difficulty we commonly have in filling an order. Oftentimes the request is for papers of a more or less remote date, with the expectancy of being supplied at but ten cents a copy, whereas in order to obtain the desired issue we are ourselves frequently obliged to pay the larger sum, or even more. The growing value of complete files of *TELEGRAPH AGE* should cause our readers to carefully preserve their issues.

Co-operative Organization Badly Needed.

One of the greatest ills besetting the unfortunate, or improvident employee, is the operation of the money lending shylock. Taking advantage of the needy these unblushing gentry successfully ply their vocations, especially in all large cities, and judging from the way they flourish it would appear that victims are found a-plenty.

To such an extent has this deplorable evil become, frequently in its results heaping misfortune and undermining integrity on the part of the dependent, meshed in the toils of extravagant interest rates, that it is quite time a loud note of warning should be sounded and a halt demanded lest the schemes of these vicious loaners of money, whose initial approaches are always insidious and plausible, yet who always inexorably exact the "pound of flesh," should wreck prospects and lives even of thousands yet uncontaminated.

It behooves each profession or calling, then, to organize in some manner for its own protection as a guard against the prevailing iniquitous methods referred to. Telegraphers as a general thing are wont to make a success of any enterprise undertaken to benefit their craft. They have an opportunity presented to them now to assert their manhood and to join forces in an appeal to the pocket against the machinations of a common enemy, and deliver themselves from a thralldom which to many has become simply almost unbearable.

A shining example of a form of practical co-operation on the part of telegraphers, directly affecting the domestic and financial economy of the individual, and hence of the family, has been in successful operation for some time past both in Washington and Boston, as well, we believe, in a few other places. In these cities the members of the profession have organized loan and purchasing associations whose direct object is to ameliorate the condition of the operator. These associations have abundantly demonstrated from the very start their complete ability to serve the purposes intended, because securing to the individual measures of close economy in the matter of every day purchases and of money borrowing. The plan is a simple one, yet comprehensive in its operation, as it permits the buyer at retail to secure the advantages of low cash prices, and of borrowers to obtain money at comparatively low rates of interest. The result has been in the two cities named that the business of outside money loaners, at least so far as the telegraphers are concerned, has been almost entirely done away with, and an improved feeling of satisfied independence substituted for that of former and debasing dependence. Not only in these instances have the telegraphers been relieved from the oppression of the money lender, but while effecting a saving of money in the first outgo, have shared also in the benefits due to accrued profits derived from discounts obtained from accounts with tradesmen, and by loans to members, etc. The advantages, as will be seen, are double, working both ways.

The splendid success of the Washington and Boston associations, which under careful management have paid in dividends at the enormous rate of from 60 to 80 per cent. each annually, and which naturally under such circumstances have gained large and enthusiastic memberships, are fit illustrations of what may easily be likewise accomplished in New York, Chicago, St. Louis and other large commercial centers.

Nowhere does the money shark flourish to the extent as here in the metropolis. The best way to overcome the curse of his method is by the adoption of the co-operation plan. The field for its operation in all great cities, offers peculiar advantages, and it is to be hoped that the telegraph operators will show themselves enterprising and willing to act on the side not only of promoting good morals, but in putting themselves on a plane of comparative financial independence.

As a business venture the suggestion should

appeal to every man of family and to every one who values his own preferment.

Societies of this character wherever established have met with the hearty approval of local telegraph officials.

The Scope of Wireless Telegraphy.

We are in receipt of the following notation in a letter from one of our Canadian subscribers: "We look to TELEGRAPH AGE to keep us informed as to date when wires and cables are to be done away with, or to what extent the wireless telegraph system is going to interfere with the present telegraph system."

We beg to inform our friend, whose fears are no doubt shared by others, that if he remains in the telegraph business for the next quarter of a century, he will be found at the end of that time working the old reliable system. The wireless system has its field, and that field is an important one. We expect before many years to find the entire coast of America dotted with wireless telegraph stations, from which communication with vessels approaching shore can be maintained. The utility of wireless telegraphy in this connection has already been fully demonstrated and its development on these lines is rapidly progressing. The telegraph profession is already profiting by the introduction of the wireless telegraph system for maritime purposes, as quite a number of expert telegraphers have already been employed to work the system at various points along the Atlantic coast besides a number of English operators who fill the position of telegraph operator on ocean steamships.

Congressman Jackson's Ideas.

Congressman Jackson says he has received promise of support to his proposition for Government ownership of the telegraph from many members of the Post Office Committee, besides numerous letters congratulating him upon his revival of the movement.

"The sentiment is constantly growing," said he, "in favor of Government ownership.

"The present telegraph facilities are not as great as they should be. The Government could place an office in each and every post office in this country, and thereby the farmer, the laborer, and the mechanic could enjoy the service. At present the offices are located where they can make the most money. The Government does not aim at dividends, but at efficient service.

"Lower charges would be an immediate benefit to the people. Instead of a minimum charge of 25 cents, a ten, or even a five-cent rate would be possible. By the consolidation of the two existing companies, only one set of officers would be necessary. Then there would be no occasion to pay office rents.

"With the Government in control there would be no discrimination in favor of certain classes at the expense of others. The Wall Street gambler would have no advantage over the farmer or tradesman."

Congressman Jackson, to use a slang expression, is "talking through his hat." He knows as little about the telegraph as a ten-year-old child, but he will soon have his eyes opened to its importance and requirements if he will give the subject a little more study. He evidently has no use for statistics or the annual reports of existing telegraph companies. The profit now on a message is less than one cent after all expenses are paid, yet Mr. Jackson talks of reducing the tariff from twenty-five cents to ten cents, and from twenty cents to five cents. To begin with he starts out to absorb the telegraph property by issuing two and one-half per cent. Government bonds for the purchase of all telegraph property at par. He next declares that the profit placed in a sinking fund will pay off the bonds in twenty or twenty-five years. The people at large will derive the benefits of the telegraph at greatly reduced rates. Mr. Jackson has not yet discovered that there "aint a goin' to be no profit" for sinking funds or for any other purpose. If Mr. Jackson continues as a member of Congress and the Government takes over the telegraph he will be called upon to vote millions of dollars to meet what will no doubt be known as the "telegraph deficiency bill." The telegraph in its present condition cannot be cheapened. If lower telegraph rates are required by the people other and more speedy systems of transmission must be devised

Books on Wireless Telegraphy.

"Wireless Telegraphy" is the title of a new and popular exposition on this interesting subject by G. W. Tunzelmann, B. Sc., the author of "Electricity in Modern Life." The volume has 104 pages, is fully illustrated, and includes chapters on ether and ether waves, the discovery and development of the coherer, the systems of Marconi, Popoff and others. It is a capital book, and affords just the line of information now in such demand regarding the topic treated. It will be sent on receipt of price, 75 cents, to any point in the United States or Canada, express charges prepaid. Address J. B. Taltavall, Telegraph Age, 253 Broadway, New York.

"Wireless Telegraphy," by Richard Kerr, F. G. S., with a preface by Sir W. H. Preece, is a book just off the press, which is meeting a very wide sale, the subject treated being uppermost in the minds of the public at the present moment. This work, which comprises 116 pages, contains a good account of the discoveries in telegraphy without wires. The subject matter is arranged in readable form, the illustrations are excellent, and the descriptions of the experiments are accurate. Copies may be had at 75 cents each by addressing J. B. Taltavall, Telegraph Age, 253 Broadway, New York.

I hate to see things done by halves. If it be right, do it boldly, if it be wrong leave it undone.—Gilpin.

The Commercial Cable Dinner.

The first dinner of the New York staff of the Commercial Cable Company took place on Saturday evening, December 28, at the Pierpont Assembly Rooms, Brooklyn, and proved such a huge success that a motion to make it an annual function was carried by acclamation.

After the good things had been partaken of and just as cigars were lighted, Mr. John Shea, the Chairman, made a few felicitous remarks, and opened the programme by proposing the toast "The President and the King."

The toast to Mr. John W. Mackay, "Our President," was proposed by Mr. H. Lee.

Mr. George G. Ward, the vice-president and general manager of the company, responded and read a telegram from Mr. Mackay wishing the dinner every success and a Happy New Year to everybody present. A telegram was despatched to Mr. Mackay as follows: "The New York staff, 73 strong, assembled at their first annual dinner, have just drunk your health and pledged themselves to do their part in upholding the prestige and supremacy of the Commercial Cable Co."

The toast, "Our Vice-President," was proposed by Mr. Murphy who referred to Mr. Ward as the "general" who had led the Commercial forces through many difficulties to victory.

Mr. Ward was greeted with a tremendous ovation as he stood up to respond. He said, in part, he was delighted to be present and to have this opportunity of meeting the men, many of whom he had known personally for years. The Commercial had spanned the Atlantic and were now about to span the Pacific. He hoped to connect the two systems at 20 Broad St., and speak round the world.

He was pleased to be able to announce that commencing with the new year complete instead of partial payment for Sunday and holiday duty would be made, and payment for overtime would be made at a somewhat higher rate than formerly. He reminded his hearers of the intimate relations existing between the German and Commercial companies. The German cable must receive the same zealous attention and effort as the Commercial cables.

"The Executive" was proposed by Mr. Mason. Mr. George Clapperton, responded and said he had learned to look upon the New York staff with great respect. It had frequently been called upon to meet emergencies and had never yet been found wanting.

Mr. J. H. Smart followed with a few well chosen remarks. Three hearty cheers and a "tiger" were given for Traffic Manager Clapperton and Superintendent Smart.

Loud calls for Mr. S. F. Austin were then heard, but it was some time before the natural modesty of the popular Assistant-Superintendent could be overcome. There was no escape, however, and he reluctantly arose. He reminded the company that the hour was late and that he could add nothing to what had already been said by the

Superintendent. He concluded by wishing everybody a happy and prosperous New Year.

Mr. Vyle, who proposed the toast "Our Colleagues at All Stations," was heartily applauded. His description of the exodus from the various offices when Mr. Marconi entered the transatlantic field was greeted with much laughter.

The excellence of the musical programme surprised everybody. Messrs. Roberts, O'Keefe, Peck, Power, Lamond and Delehanty acquitted themselves most creditably. The two violin solos by Messrs. Hood and Blumenreiter were artistically rendered.

The original verses entitled "What's in a name" contributed by Mr. Pirie were a pleasing feature of the entertainment.

Before the proceedings closed Mr. Ward proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, Mr. Shea, and the Committee, Messrs. Morgan, Williams, Dickenson, Crickard and Carrington, complimenting them on the excellence of their arrangements.

The thanks of the staff were extended to Mr. Pirie for the beautiful manner in which he decorated the banquet hall.

Mr. Clarence Mackay sent a letter regretting his inability to attend, owing to absence from town and wishing the staff a pleasant and successful dinner.

Among those present were G. G. Ward, George Clapperton, J. H. Smart, C. E. Merritt, S. F. Austin, F. H. Dennis, Charles Cuttriss, Albert Beck, D. Breslin, G. Blumenreiter, E. A. Comans, J. Coghlan, J. Carrington, E. Crickard, R. Carswell, J. J. Cowhey, E. Cohn, J. Delehanty, T. Dickenson, J. Delaney, T. Drew, J. Dickie, D. Evans, F. Fisher, H. Forsdick, J. Finn, H. Glover, W. J. Geary, C. Gill, H. Kearns, W. Green, T. E. Hurdus, H. Harrington, C. H. Hood, W. Hutchinson, E. Jowett, G. Jones, G. Jenkins, P. Keating, W. Kirkwood, A. Lister, H. Lamberton, T. Lenahan, H. Lee, J. O. Lamond, A. B. McMillan, T. McGuire, P. D. Murphy, A. McCallum, D. McLure, F. Mason, J. O'Kane, W. O'Keefe, F. A. Pirie, P. Peck, J. F. Power, H. Ryan, J. H. Rudwick, F. J. Rose, A. Roberts, A. Rothwell, J. Rostron, J. Shea, F. J. Smith, J. O. Sword, W. D. Shea, A. Smethurst, T. Tovey, R. Turnbull, H. Vickers, W. G. Wenman, M. Williams, A. Wilson, F. Young, H. Wood, P. Vyle.

T. M. B. Association.—Assessment No. 387 has been levied to meet the claims arising from the deaths of M. H. Redding, at Brooklyn, N. Y.; E. B. Avery, at Coldwater, N. Y.; William Blanchard, at Boston, Mass.; Richard J. Murphy, at Cleveland, O., and Charles Carpenter, at Dunellen, N. J.

Although the United States Navy Department is clamoring for wireless telegraphy on the armored cruisers, the Government is not willing to negotiate with the Marconi people, and Government experts are at work endeavoring to perfect a wireless telegraph system that will not infringe the Marconi patents.

Rod Sexton's Change of Venue.

BY BEN. C. WILKINS.

The village of Bosler's Bend had grown from a box car to a community of several hundred inhabitants.

Just why it was called Bosler's Bend no one knew—or cared.

Every one stopped here because it was the end of the railroad, but the telegraph line continued overland to Deadwood and was a busy wire, it being at this time the only wire into the Black Hills and the business transacted thereon was enormous, and contributed largely to the quarterly dividend of a certain telegraph company.

There was one train a day which came in from the junction, ten miles east, in the forenoon and backed out in the afternoon.

The country was an undulating prairie which was green and beautiful during the spring months, but after mid-summer, was brown and bare, trying to the eye and to the mind.

The townsite was ten miles from any stream, and one hundred from trees; the lands were fertile and productive, were open to settlement under the homestead and tree claim laws of the Government, and were being rapidly occupied by a well-to-do class of people from the States.

The little town was prosperous and fairly law-abiding; with a few exceptions, there was none of the lawless element so characteristic of the usual frontier settlement; no one going around seeing how many notches he could get on his gun or how much "pizen" whiskey he could navigate under

Now and then a disreputable land agent would drift into town and thrive for a while by locating tenderfooters on vacant lands and not infrequently, on lands already occupied. This was termed plain jumping and often led to many bitter feuds and hardships.

It was not long before one of these sharks opened up shop and hung out his sign next to Seth Perkins' harness shop: "Roderick Sexton, land looker and dealer in contests."

The latter portion of the sign was the one thing which irritated Perkins like a thorn in the side; he had no time for a man who dealt in contests, although his own reputation was not above reproach.

A few days later when he learned that Sexton had located a down-east Yankee on his tree claim, the air around the little harness shop was sulphurous and Perkins threatened, unless the contest was raised in less than a week, he would shoot Sexton so full of holes that his best friend would not know him from a pepper box.

Thus the week drifted by and matters remained in statu quo.

Saturday night, as was his wont, Perkins threw the saddle on his pony and started for his claim to spend Sunday and watch with pride the wonderful growth of his ten acres of box elders. His stalwart form stood out silhouette like against the evening sky as he reached the brow of the hill and hallowed back "good night" to his compan-

ions who had accompanied him part way. That was the last time he was seen alive by any one, with one exception.

Monday he did not return and the shop remained closed. Tuesday and Wednesday passed and still he failed to put in an appearance. Becoming alarmed at his prolonged absence, Jim Skinner, the sheriff, who had some business in that direction, drove to Perkins' shack. There was no sign of life around the place; the curtains at the two small windows were closely drawn and the door locked.

Skinner forced an entrance and the sight which met his gaze was appalling; Perkins was lying dead on the floor with a bullet hole in his temple. He had evidently been dead for several days and had no doubt been shot while sitting at the table.

It would appear that the assassin had crept to the shack in the shades of the night and shot him from the open door, then drew the curtains, locked the door and left his victim alone with his God.

A pony's forward shoe was found about three hundred yards from the shack, and this the village blacksmith readily identified as belonging to the Sexton pony; he had in fact replaced it with another only that morning. This, with other clues which developed during the day, led to the arrest of Sexton who though stoutly maintaining his innocence, was placed in the town jail, a slimy affair, to await the verdict of the coroner's jury.

Thus matters remained as night stole upon the scene; the soft breath of the prairie wind fanned the face of the prisoner as he stood at the grated window and gazed out into the darkness. His faithful dog remained outside and licked his master's hand as he reached through the grating and patted him on the head. What, the bars were loose! With one jerk he wrenched them from the casing and leaped through the window into the darkness—and to liberty. The dog almost overpowered his master with affection, and together dog and master disappeared in the shadows of the summer night.

Not since the day that "Bud" Wilson rode into town on his cayuse and attempted to stampede the whole community by shooting out every pane of glass within range of his gun, had the village experienced such a volcanic eruption of public indignation. Seth Perkins had been foully murdered and the suspect had escaped. But the highest sea will, in time, seek its level, and so it was with the passing of Perkins and Sexton—out of sight out of mind.

If any man flatters himself that the old world will go into sackcloth and ashes at his demise, he will, in the language of the street, get left. Aside from his circle of friends—and creditors, his exit will be of no more importance than the shifting of the sands upon the ocean beach.

Summer passed and winter held the little town in its close embrace, and any one who has passed a winter in Dakota, knows what that means. The events just related had been almost forgotten, save by a few who congregated at the general

store of an evening and speculated upon the probability of the culprit ever being apprehended. But the hand of justice is far-reaching and frequently descends with terrible swiftness upon its victim.

There are many things pass over a telegraph wire which, if they should by accident get into print or become public property, would cause the old world to hide her honest face in contrition for her children's sins.

The telegraph office is the store house of the world's secrets, from the section boss to the Wall street magnate.

It is the telegrapher who first learns of the newborn baby, of grandpa's death, of the marriage of Jim and Jennie, of the elopment of the book agent and the widow, of the senator who telegraphed ahead for his pretty cousin (?) to meet him at Hotel B—, and so on. But to the operator all these incidents are of little consequence; he is merely a piece of machinery, an automatum, as it were, who turns the crank of the hopper from which flows the joys, sorrows, trials, and tribulations of his fellowmen.

Ned Ashby was the operator at the "Bend" and unlike most operators, he read his Bible daily, in fact he had read the good book through twice and—was baldheaded.

There were two things which Ned loved, his Bible and his pipe. He was of an economical turn of mind and slept in the office, because as he said, it was more comfortable than the cold, cheerless room assigned him at the hotel. He was in his seventh heaven when he could sit with his feet on the table, his Bible in his lap, blow rings of smoke towards the ceiling, watch the fantastic shadows and dream of the time when he would be superintendent, ride in a special car and own an orange ranch in the San Gabriel Valley.

One night as he sat thus dreaming and listening to the wire he heard a message going from Deadwood to Chicago, signed: "R. Sexton." Now there was nothing strange about that as there was probably more than one R. Sexton in the territory, and even if it was the "Rod Sexton" of the "Bend" had he any right to divulge the secret?

It would be a breach of trust and the law was very explicit on this point,—six months in the county jail and a fine of five hundred dollars, to say nothing of being blacklisted by the telegraph company forever. But Ned cared little for the law or the telegraph company, he would act as his conscience dictated, hew to the line let the chips fall where they may.

Taking a piece of plain paper he wrote in a disguised hand: "Mr. Sheriff: If you want Sexton go to Deadwood quick." Signed, "A Friend."

The next day the sheriff received a plain envelope in the mail which no doubt contained important news, as he had a long consultation with the business men and while the letter might be nothing but the work of a crank, Skinner felt, he knew not why, that it had the true ring about it and if he acted quickly, as the letter directed, he would no doubt land his man.

It may have been the close atmosphere of the office or only imagination, but when the sheriff tapped at the window and asked for a stage ticket to Deadwood, Ned never before appeared so pale and frustrated. He read his Bible more closely that day and appeared like one in a dream, although his bearing was dignified and firm.

A week later Skinner returned with his prisoner, who had confessed and was willing to stand trial and throw himself upon the mercy of the court.

There were no demonstrations at the station on his arrival, and if the great crowd who gathered there expected to witness a lynching, they were disappointed, for it was as orderly as a prayer meeting.

The prisoner was confined in the jail from which he had escaped six months previous, and two men left with him to prevent the law (?) from being cheated of its victim a second time.

Ned slept little that night; the fire from the open door of the cannon stove cast lurid shadows upon the walls and ceiling shaping themselves into ghastly figures now disappearing only to reappear again in hideous contorted imps and devils until his brain was bursting.

Several times he awoke with a start thinking he heard subdued voices, a feeble cry and the tramping of many feet outside; but he sank back on the couch and mused: its only the moaning of the wind down the flue.

He pulled the coverlids over his head and quoted scripture to himself and anxiously awaited the coming of the dawn which could alone drive the awful visions from his fevered brain.

Was it any wonder that every article of furniture and shadow in the room was transformed into the face of a human being in distress? Was it any wonder that the angel of mercy refused him succor in his midnight delirium? Was it any wonder that he could not sleep when there was being enacted within a few rods of his couch one of the most thrilling tragedies of the frontier, which he was directly responsible for.

The wind died down, the cold increased, the wires hummed until the little station fairly trembled from their vibrations in the cold, crisp, arctic atmosphere.

The clouds drifted away, the moon came out in all its splendor and looked down upon the world asleep—and a lifeless form suspended from a telegraph pole. Rod Sexton had been granted a change of venue to a higher tribunal.

"Did you ever read 'Ten nights in a bar-room'?"

"Only once, when I put ten short reds in my pocket one night to help out my average and forget them. I read them in a bar-room three hours after I got off!"

"I would like some practical experience with X-rays," said the scientific man.

"Well," said the matter-of-fact man, "you'll experience no X-raise in this office!"

The Annual Meeting of the Magnetic Club.

The annual business meeting of the Magnetic Club was held at the Western Union Building, 195 Broadway, New York, on January 9.

It was called to order by President F. W. Jones who expressed great pleasure that the membership of the club was steadily increasing. The dinners and summer outing during the last year were very largely attended and proved most enjoyable to the members and guests, among whom were included many prominent telegraph and telephone officials and representatives of leading electrical industries. Mr. Jones said the success of the club rested, not on the president, but on the active co-operation of its officers and members. The dinners afforded about the only opportunity for the reunion of old friends, and therefore the club was becoming more appreciated by the members and there were no names of delinquents on the books.

The club has at present 218 members. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$5.00 on hand and all outstanding bills paid.

The former presidents, embracing Messrs. C. P. Bruch, E. C. Cockey, W. H. Baker, E. H. Johnson, W. J. Dealy, who had been appointed a nominating committee, handed in a ticket through Mr. Bruch placing in nomination all of the officers of last year. This ticket was adopted, and by motion Secretary Murphy was authorized to cast a ballot as follows: F. W. Jones, president; Walter C. Burton, Michael J. O'Leary, John Brant, Frank D. Murphy, vice-presidents; D. W. McAneny, M. W. Ravens, Thomas E. Fleming and Marston R. Cockey, governors; R. J. Murphy, secretary and treasurer. An amendment to the by-laws which proposed to have only two meetings yearly was rejected after considerable discussion, it being the sense of the members that three meetings yearly were none too many. A motion extending the sympathy of the club to Vice-President Burton on the death of his brother Robert was passed and ordered telegraphed to him at Dandas, Ont. A vote of thanks was given to Mr. T. A. Brooks for his successful efforts in procuring entertainment, arranging for the dinners, and otherwise taking care of the interests of the club for many years past.

Among those present were C. P. Bruch, R. J. Murphy, M. J. O'Leary, T. E. Fleming, F. W. Jones, F. D. Murphy, M. H. Kerner, D. W. McAneny, W. L. Ives, J. F. McGuire, J. McParlan, G. F. Fagan, Reuben Fagan, George E. Roehm, A. E. Chandler, J. F. Cleverdon, I. K. Calvert, T. M. Brennan, E. S. Butterfield and John Brant.

It is suggested that if the Marconi system of wireless telegraphy is made practicable across the ocean, daily papers containing the latest telegraphic news, will be issued regularly on the ocean steamers while crossing the Atlantic.

You find yourself refreshed by the presence of cheerful people. Why not make earnest effort to confer that pleasure on others.—L. M. Child.

A New Telegraph Money Order Swindle.

Harold W. Barrows, alias John Huebner, has been sentenced to the Connecticut State's Prison for forging a telegram in the name of John Huebner asking for money to be transferred by the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company. Barrows learned that John Huebner had been in New York and had left there for the Buffalo Exposition, after which he was to proceed to his home in Toledo. Barrows then sent the message asking for money, which was promptly responded to. As is the custom of the telegraph company, the amount was paid to the sender of the message by check drawn to the order of John Huebner. Barrows had exhibited to the telegraph company letters in his possession addressed to John Huebner, but being unable to further identify himself as Huebner at any bank in New York, he went to New Haven and registered at a hotel there as John Huebner, remaining a day or two and then tendering the check in payment of his hotel bill.

In the meantime the real John Huebner had arrived at Toledo and the telegraph company had been notified to cancel the money transfer, and payment on the check had been stopped at the bank. When the check was tendered to the clerk of the New Haven hotel he immediately made inquiry at the telegraph office as to its genuineness and was promptly informed by the New York office of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company that Barrows was a swindler and should be arrested. In order to secure his conviction it was necessary to bring to New Haven several witnesses, including John Huebner, from Toledo. The Postal Telegraph-Cable Company assumed all expenses for witnesses, etc., and caused the case to be vigorously prosecuted. When arrested, Barrows claimed to be the son of John Huebner. Although Mr. Huebner, Sr., testified at the first trial that the prisoner was not his son and was a total stranger to him, the prisoner had the assurance to maintain that he was John Huebner, Jr., the son of the witness, and defied the witness to prove to the contrary; and, according to newspaper reports, the attorney for Barrows contended that, notwithstanding the testimony of Mr. Huebner, it was the duty of the State to prove that the man on trial was not his son. Barrows was, however, held for the higher court, in which he pleaded guilty and has been sentenced.

Resignations and Appointments.

Mr. P. J. Faulkner, formerly circuit manager of the Long Distance Telephone Company, New York, has been appointed manager of the same interests at Phoneton, O. Mr. Faulkner is one of the finest telegraph operators in the United States and his New York friends wish him every success in his new field of labor.

"Does the chief operator here treat you like a gentleman?" asked a fresh arrival.

"Shoo, no;" was the rejoinder. "I've been here eight years and never knew him to treat anybody!"

A Ten-Mile Shouter.

There is apparently no limit to the achievements of the modern wonder-workers. No sooner have we got a little accustomed to wireless telegraphy than the news comes that a phonograph that shouts so loud that every word can be heard at a distance of ten miles has been made and successfully tested at Brighton, England. The machine is the invention of Horace L. Short. In appearance it is merely an ordinary phonograph with a large trumpet, measuring four feet in length. Inside this trumpet there is a small, delicate piece of mechanism that looks something like a whistle. This is the tongue of the machine. Instead of the "records" being taken on wax in the usual manner a sapphire needle is made to cut the dots representing the sound vibrations on a silver cylinder, and when the needle travels over the metal a second time the vibrations cause the whistle to produce a series of air-waves, and the machine thus becomes a talking siren, which transforms the human voice into a deafening roar. The experiments were made near the Devil's Dyke, Brighton, where the inventor has his workshops. The instrument was placed on the roof of the laboratory, and was made to repeat a number of sentences. At a distance of ten miles the sounds were plainly heard by a large number of people, every word being perfectly distinct, and at a second trial, with a favorable wind, it was found that an unknown message could be taken down in shorthand at a distance of twelve miles. Over the water the sounds will carry still further, and under favorable circumstances they might easily be heard by persons on a vessel fifteen miles out at sea.

This is going to be an interesting world. Perhaps we shall soon be able to hear the grass grow, or even to hear ourselves think. Then we can know that we do think.

The Very Latest.

After all Marconi is late. No matter how successful, he is undeniably not at the "head of the procession." He may use his wireless telegraphy, but it is cumbersome, slow and liable to troubles which the latest invention overcomes. One Horace L. Short is long on inventions and his latest is a magnified megaphone, attached to a phonograph that sends out the phonographic record in a voice audible for ten miles. There is a piece of mechanism inside the megaphone which greatly enlarges its scope while preserving the distinct articulation of the ordinary phonograph. But if this machine can talk ten miles and be heard and understood, there is no reason why, when properly perfected, it should not talk a hundred or two hundred times as far, and then every man will be his own "wireless" Atlantic, Pacific and trans-continental cable. All the possessor of such an instrument will have to do if he lives in Boston and wants a man in San Francisco, will be to yell till he gets him. The people in San Francisco will see that the message is an-

swered out of self-defence, to stop the noise, and the same will be the fact in Europe when some one on this side calls up a man over there. To be sure a thousand or two such instruments shouting out their messages across the ocean, or over the continents, or around the world all at once, might be confusing, but we are content with the improvement as it is now projected and shall dispose of the drawbacks when we reach them—perhaps. It is evident that Marconi is a back number.—Bridgeport (Conn.) Standard.

Harships of Wireless Telegraph Operators.

Messrs. Tierney and McKenzie, two prominent telegraph operators belonging to the South Shoal lightship off Nantucket, Mass., had quite a thrilling experience on January 2, which almost cost them their lives. They had finished their month ashore and were on their way to the lightship to relieve the operators on duty there. They left New Bedford on the lighthouse tender *Azalea*, and reached the vicinity of the lightship after dark on January 4.

A transfer boat was lowered and stocked with supplies containing all the Christmas gifts for the boys aboard and their own personal clothing and instruments for the wireless telegraph system. Hardly had the boat left the side of the *Azalea* when a heavy sea capsized her and the occupants were thrown into the water, and but for the life lines and air bags attached to the boat, all of them would have been lost.

The attempt to make a transfer was then given up and the *Azalea* returned to New Bedford. The captain and crew fitted the boys out with dry clothing and when they arrived in port and reported their condition to the New York "Herald" that concern promptly wired them to get a complete outfit at its expense.

At first they seriously contemplated giving up their positions on the lightship, but their courage soon returned, and a few days later they succeeded in relieving their associates who now, in turn, have a month on shore, after two months constant work at the lightship.

Mr. Tierney was one of the first operators to go on this station, and he holds the record for transmitting messages by the Marconi method.

Mr. R. Pfund, manager of the shore station at Siasconset, states that the successful working of the system from Nantucket lightship depends in a great measure upon Mr. Tierney's presence there.

Telegraph Conference Postponed.

The British Department of Posts and Telegraphs announces that the International Telegraph conference which was to have been held in London in February next, has been postponed until the Summer of 1903. The actual date will be announced later.

They are never alone that are accompanied with noble thoughts.—Sir Philip Sidney.

The Carnegie Pension Fund Proposition.

We are authorized to say that Mr. Carnegie, in his desire to aid telegraphers, is not in sympathy with any proposition other than that embodying the pension plan. It will be wise, therefore, in the further consideration of this matter to distinctly bear this understanding in mind.

Apropos of this idea, we are in receipt of a petition signed by nearly every telegraph employee of the Western Union Telegraph Company at New Orleans, La., and vicinity, accompanied by cogent arguments endorsing a pension scheme above all other plans suggested for the care of the members of the craft in their old age. These documents, together with others now in hand, as well as those which may be received on the subject in the future, will be turned over to the proper authority.

JUSTICE AND NOT CHARITY FOR EMPLOYEES.

Editor TELEGRAPH AGE:

The establishment of a system that will insure relief to telegraphers incapacitated by age from active duty, is of such great interest that it should receive our careful attention, and there is no doubt but if we come to some agreement upon a plan that receives our undivided support, and that embraces practical features, that the plan will receive the cheerful co-operation of the managers of the various telegraph lines in the United States.

It is better to summon our best judgment and face the situation like sensible men and women, than to carp and nurse unavailing discontent at our lot which, undoubtedly, is greatly lacking in present sunshine and future bright prospects. We are better off in some instances, and no worse off in others, than persons in other branches of industry. There should be no war between those who employ and those who are employed; they both rise or sink together. A successful plan of aid or relief must be of mutual advantage to both sides. No other can be permanent. It will be wise to consider carefully the well-considered pension systems that have been accepted by several of our great trunk railroads. The earliest was that of the Baltimore and Ohio in 1808, the contributions being made up wholly by the company. On the 15th of last June there were 328 pensioners receiving annually \$61,174. The total amount expended by the company since the plan was started has been over half a million dollars.

The most elaborate pension system ever started was put into operation by the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1900 and 1901 with a credit to its employees' saving fund for the year 1900 of nearly two and three-fourths million dollars, receiving interest at 3½ per cent. Other large railroads have put in operation similar systems which tend to give courage and contentment to honest toilers, assuring them of shelter and comfort at the end of a reasonable period when the tired brain and the worn body should have rest.

The telegraph business is of sufficient import-

ance to warrant a permanency in its service for all of its faithful employees until they have arrived at a stage of superannuation, at which period a proper system of pension and insurance will make the heart glad.

The cheerful co-operation of telegraphers generally in a feasible system will easily warrant the managers, at least, of our two great telegraph systems, in agreeing to very liberal conditions.

Much expectation has been raised as to some substantial aid from Mr. Andrew Carnegie, but nothing has yet transpired in the way of help from him. The history of the benevolent efforts of the Pullman Company in the town of Pullman, Ill., and the National Cash Register proprietors in Dayton, Ohio, goes to show clearly that what intelligent, faithful laborers require, is fair play and not charity.

Mr. Carnegie, so far as known, did not make his money out of the telegraph business, and what appeal could be made to him by telegraphers that would merit his favorable action? He certainly will not put himself in the shoes of the two great telegraph employers and take care of their consumptive and worn out employees, their widows and orphans. He would first wish to know who are telegraphers and where to draw the line if he offered aid. Surely no one of us will go to him as a mendicant.

The proposed erection of a home for consumptives or incurables is entirely too contracted a proposition to satisfy the most pressing needs of the whole mass of employees, and there does not seem to prevail such a great demand for homes that would render generally acceptable the aid of our employers in any buying and building plan.

Let there be suggested to the two telegraph companies, some plan that will superannuate a man at say 60, and a woman at say 40, with a good pension, and the plan also to embrace, if desired, a policy of life insurance; no one being required to draw the pension at such age limit, if it was mutually desired that the employee continue in the service, any amount which the employee has contributed during employment towards such pension, to be returned in case the employee desires to go into other business, and such other stipulations as shall be just and reasonable.

If there is properly presented to our employers such a plan which conserves the dignity and respect of the employees, and which contains the elements of fairness and practicability, the matter cannot fail to receive most careful and favorable consideration.

JUSTICE.

New York, Dec. 31, 1901.

Editor TELEGRAPH AGE:

If not too late I respectfully submit to those interested in the philanthropic subject of pensioning the telegrapher an idea which I believe will be favorably considered.

A majority of the male portion of the telegraph profession advance to their respective positions in the service from the messenger force at the

age of from 14 to 17 years, an age which allows a very limited education at best, say that obtained in the highest grades in the grammar schools. That, however, seems sufficient in order to make a start in the smaller offices. Experience from business contact with all classes of trade constantly suggest a more lucrative field for occupation, where advancement in the telegraph profession require considerable more technical education.

This, I believe, is the cause of many of our best men leaving the profession early in life.

Of course, we could not all expect to be a president, vice-president or a superintendent, but every office should have men qualified to fill such positions if called upon, and the distinction is well worth trying for.

I would suggest a standing offer of a scholarship in the International Correspondence Schools of Scranton, Pa., in telegraphy or telephony, either subject of which they teach thoroughly and systematically to all operators who display a desire to advance in either profession, and the pension idea will then have the support of all and be participated in by those who fail to reach the goal.

L. C. M.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 25, 1901.

Editor TELEGRAPH AGE:

Your note at head of page 519, of the December 16 issue, effectually disposes of the idea which in this discussion seems to be current in many minds; namely, that it is only necessary, in order to start a pension fund, for a given number of persons to pay in until a certain stipulated age is reached, and then proceed to reap the benefits, entirely ignoring the fact, that no matter how alluring the prospect, there are many who would not for various reasons, undertake to pay into a fund for the large number of years necessary to such a purpose; while on the other hand statisticians have estimated that of any given number of persons in good health at age of 25, nearly 30 per cent. will be dead before the age of 60; and that to retain the contributions of such persons would be illegal, while to hold the same subject to call whenever they should wish to drop out, or after death, would be impracticable.

Your correspondent's (M. W. R.) idea of a "merger" for all existing societies, is good, but unfortunately like others that have been advanced, is so far ahead, that even if agreed to by the different bodies, would necessarily consume so much time in arranging the various details, that the end sought by this discussion could not be attained.

The existing societies may not cover the ground entirely, but they are the means at hand, and if additional funds were placed at their disposal, it is not improbable, but that an expansion of the present work would leave nothing to be desired.

As it is more than unlikely that all the commercial telegraph companies, railroads, press associations, newspapers, brokers, etc., and all that go to make up the present telegraph field,

would set aside a special fund for pensions for telegraphers, and as such a fund would be necessary before contributions from employes, or outside sources could be made available, it seems useless to continue the discussion further unless with the view of aiding the societies now in the field.

X.

New York, Dec. 27, 1901

Self Help Made Him Mayor of Boston.

The life of General Patrick A. Collins, recently elected Mayor of Boston, is an illustration of what self-help can still do for an American boy. His life has been a varied one, and is a shining example of what poor but gifted boys can do with American opportunities. At fourteen years of age he was working in the coal mines of Ohio. At twenty he was a Boston cabinet maker by day and an enthusiastic law student by night. Before he was thirty he was eminent as a lawyer and National Democratic leader. At forty he was in Congress and chairman of the judiciary committee. His last post of public service was as our Consul-General at London. Boston workmen, from whose ranks he graduated, are naturally proud of him. General Collins has a wide circle of acquaintances among telegraph people.

A New Name For Wireless Telegraphy..

"Wireless telegraphy" is a term that satisfies nobody, and it has been entirely rejected by the officials of the Army Signal Corps. They, after long and profound meditation, have manufactured—or selected from innumerable suggestions—the word "aerogram" to signify the message sent after the method of Marconi, and it is their purpose to use it, together, presumably, with "aerographer" and "aerography" in their obvious meanings.

For Discharging a Telegrapher.

The Federal Grand Jury returned an indictment against the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Company at Boston, Mass., on January 6, in the United States District Court before Judge Lowell. Such an action of the Grand Jury is unusual. The company discharged Peter Galligan and John Trainer, both telegraphers. Hugh J. Hill, chief operator of the Taunton division, was indicted some time since for the same offence, and a trial resulted in a disagreement of the jury.

Original Pacific Cable Proposition Withdrawn.

A short time ago the Pacific Cable Company, which proposed to build a cable from California to Hawaii under a Government subsidy, and later to carry the cable through to the Philippines, formally withdrew its application for a franchise from the government under such a provision, and the president of the company, James A. Scrymser, has notified the committees in Congress of the decision of the company.

LETTERS FROM OUR AGENTS.

[Advertising will be accepted to appear in this department at the rate of five cents a word, announcements to be enclosed with a border and printed under the name of the place of the advertiser. The special local value attached to advertising of this character will be apparent. Our agents are authorized to solicit advertisements for these columns, and further information on this subject may be obtained on application.]

KANSAS CITY, MO., POSTAL.

Chief Clerk Mudge accompanied Superintendent Paine January 1 to St. Louis which will hereafter be the headquarters of this district. Superintendent Paine will continue to have jurisdiction over the same territory as heretofore, as well as some new territory. Foreman I. J. Lynch will also have his headquarters at St. Louis.

Manager A. B. Richards visited lately his old home at Bowling Green, Mo.

J. L. Ingram and wife, both of this office, recently spent two weeks with Mr. Ingram's parents.

L. B. Tobin visited his home at Lincoln, Neb., during Christmas week.

Charles F. Lindley, formerly of Atchison, Kas., has been added to the force.

J. H. Sprague is the happy father of a boy.

Manager W. D. Emerson, of Lamar, Col., was a recent visitor.

Manager Emmett Gordon, of Sedalia, Mo., spent Christmas week with his old friends at Jefferson City, Mo.

BEAUMONT TEX., WESTERN UNION.

The following is the personnel of this office: Day force—P. G. Tompkins, manager; Charles Chaplin, cashier; A. J. Gillette, bookkeeper; Charles Smelker, receiving clerk; D. Lavin, delivery clerk; J. L. Henning, chief operator; John Broderick, and H. S. Ross straight days.

Night force—F. M. Badger, night chief, with Robert Young on split trick.

The boys are called on every day to serve on account of extra, and prospects are good for a large increase in business.

The Gossets and Ogden pool rooms are in charge of C. E. Berry and A. B. Forres respectively, while Joseph Ashford is at the Cotton Exchange.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., POSTAL.

After a few hours' sojourn in the land of sunshine and roses President Mackay has departed for the North with a very favorable impression of the future of Los Angeles, and a number of improvements in telegraph facilities are looked for.

Vice-President Bradley, of New York, arrived in this city and witnessed the opening of the new Chicago-Los Angeles duplex on Christmas morning. All the men in the office took a turn at either side and there was no cause for complaint of imperfect signals at this end. It will probably be a bonus circuit.

A branch office in the Angelus hotel was opened December 28. Miss Allen will probably be appointed for the position of manager.

Arrivals: Walter McInerney and Charles Pedley, both from San Francisco and first class men.

George Holt, of the San Francisco Postal, visited his parents in this city during the holidays.

BEAUMONT, TEX., POSTAL.

The personnel of this office is made up as follows: T. A. Darling, manager; T. J. Reynaud, bookkeeper; J. L. Rochelle, operator, days; Frank Roberlin, operator, nights.

CHICAGO, ILL.

Typewriters bought, sold, rented and repaired. Renting a specialty. Also Agency for "Telegraph Age." Telegraphers' Typewriter Co., Room 5, 122 La Salle St., Chicago, Ill. Be sure to mention TELEGRAPH AGE.

SOMETHING NEW—no operator should be without. The Facutt-Cawthern Typewriter Cleaner is a simple little brush: can be inserted in machine in two seconds, type thoroughly cleaned in 30 seconds without soiling fingers. Formerly required 15 minutes, and soiled and inkstained fingers. Price 50 cents, postpaid. Agents wanted. Facutt and Cawthern, Room 704, 86 La Salle St., Chicago, Ill.

POSTAL.

Mr. Dickenhorst, formerly of this office, now with a brokerage firm in Houghton, Mich., paid us a visit recently while en route to his home in Troy, Mo.

Mr. Seward has been relieving for the past few weeks at one of our south side branch offices.

Mr. George Downey, formerly of this office, is now located at Ames, Iowa, for the Western Union.

Robert Lee Johnson, 34 years of age, brother of B. W. Johnson, of the Board of Trade Office, died in the Philippines November 17th, 1901. He with four others was poisoned eating canned beef. The remains reached San Francisco, Cal., December 10th, and were forwarded to Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, for interment. The deceased had been in the Philippines for more than a year and was a member of the Signal Corps.

The Des Moines, Ia., office has moved into larger quarters.

Chicago now works direct with Los Angeles, Cal. A new wire has been strung between that point and Kansas City, Mo.

James Browner has been subbing for Mr. Richard Ahlers for two weeks, while the latter was visiting his parents in Dayton, Ohio.

Mr. Lewis spent a week with his parents in Ohio.

WESTERN UNION.

J. J. McCormick and John Whalen, the alternating operators, or the fast men of the Illinois division, vie with one another on the Peoria quad.

Z. P. Hotchkiss, a quiet, dignified operator of this office, is worthy of more than a passing no-

tice, for he is a genius in a way, having written several successful plays as well as some fine poetry, which is popular among a great many G. A. R. posts of the country. One of his book productions, "Saved," has passed through eight editions. He is also the author of "Lost," "Tempted," and the "Siege of Vicksburg." He was one of the authors of "Telegrams," a book written for the craft about the time the Old Timers were organized.

Mr. Nick Hauter, formerly of this office, but who for the past few years has been working at a broker's office, has the sympathy of all in the death of his wife on Christmas eve.

E. C. Malmquist, formely of this office, died at his home in Sioux City, Iowa, Dec. 25.

Mrs. Thiede is visiting friends in Milwaukee.

Division Chief Otto Enking was presented Christmas with a fine silk umbrella by his fellow workers of the division. The gift is a testimonial of the hearty appreciation felt for a just and conscientious chief.

Mr. Ed. Dorvel was a recent visitor. He was at one time chief of the overland division, when the office was at its old stand on La Salle and Washington streets. Mr. Dorvel is at present located at Butte, Mont., and has been making an extended tour as far east as New York and south to New Orleans. All his old friends were hearty in their greeting.

Mr. John Martin, after a trying and lingering illness, has returned to duty.

Mr. Ireland, who was badly injured a short time ago in the Elevated Railroad smash, is reported to be recovering.

Miss L. Wingert, manager of the Belvidere, Ill., office, shows her appreciation of the AGE by subscribing. Quite a number of lady operators in Chicago are doing likewise and the prospects are for more.

James White, of Geneseo, Ills., formerly of this office, who has been ill at the Presbyterian Hospital in Chicago for the past month, is now quite well and has returned to his post.

At one time there were two operators named Edward Everett in this office, but they were quite dissimilar in their tastes. One of them has just been admitted to the bar and will practice law in Chicago, while the other has gone into the wholesale drug business at Atkinson, Ills.

MONTREAL, QUE., CANADIAN PACIFIC.

We extend our sympathy to Mr. James Townsley, superintendent of construction, on the death of his mother, on January 6.

While a childrens Christmas entertainment was in progress at the residence of Mr. A. McDonald, chief night clerk, one of the little ones accidentally upset a lamp, and in extinguishing the blaze Mr. McDonald had his hands severely burned.

Miss A. Pinault spent "little Christmas" at St. Hyacinthe and had a pleasant trip.

Mr. M. W. Crean, superintendent of the Government telegraphs in the Yukon, is in Montreal. Mr. Crean was formerly stationed at Bennett, but now has his headquarters at Vancouver, B. C. He

states that the Government now has 1,800 miles of telegraph line in the Yukon territory, and that the system is established on an excellent business basis.

The Canadian Pacific Railroad is preparing to extend its line in the maritime provinces over the midland railway built from Truro to Windsor, and in time will continue the system from Windsor to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia.

Among the recent arrivals are Miss V. Hunt, Boston, Mass; Miss E. Curry and Miss M. Duncan, Calgary, Northwest Territory; R. McKay, McAdam Junction, and C. Guillet, Boston.

Mr. J. W. Dunn of this office and Mr. Thomas Martin of the Cheese Exchange, have returned from a visit to Ottawa, where they spent the holidays.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.



My Motto—Honorable Dealing. D. A. Mahoney, Special Representative **FAY-SHOTYPEWRITER.** Main office, W. U. T. Co., Philadelphia.

Send for telegraphers' special price and terms. All makes typewriters rented, \$3.00 per month. Agent for Alexander Word Register.

POSTAL.

Echoes of the holiday season still linger with us. Manager B. H. Moore, of Baltimore, Md., was here on a visit; Samuel F. Higo spent a few days at his home in Reading, Pa., at the same time acting as substitute for Manager Hesse, who went off on a gunning trip.

As a relief on the first New York bonus wire during the absence of Mr. Furman, the regular man, Mr. Philip Sherwood, held his own in good shape and earned quite a little extra.

By the closing of the North Broad street branch office Mr. Rody has been transferred to the office

STATE OF OHIO, CITY OF TOLEDO, } ss.
LUCAS COUNTY,

FRANK J. CHENEY makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. CHENEY & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of CATARRH that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH CURE.

FRANK J. CHENEY.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D., 1886.

[SEAL.]

A. W. GLEASON.

Notary Public.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Send for testimonials, free.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.

Sold by druggists, 75c.

Hall's Family Pills are the best.

at 12th and Filbert streets, relieving Thomas Caldwell who is cared for by the A. D. T. Department here.

Our dynamo department wears a deserted aspect during the absence of Mr. Joseph Eder at Baltimore, whence he has been sent to attend to the great task of wiring the new office.

Much sympathy is felt for manager B. Pedrick of the up-town Second street office, whose eye has been seriously injured by a coal spark ejected from the office stove.

Night chief W. J. Poppert, and night operator T. R. Poppert mourn the death of a brother. The sympathy of many friends is herewith extended.

Departures: Messrs. J. J. Horner and Monett, to New York.

Arrivals: F. J. Mitchell and J. L. Carney.

Mr. Ralph A. Barton, R. Robinson's successor as manager of the Lancaster, Pa., office, is creditably filling his responsible position. Mr. Robinson's connection with a stock broker has proved a very successful as well as an agreeable move.

Wire thieves were discovered in the act of pulling down the copper conductors from poles on the West Chester lines. Foreman Edward Batchelor with the assistance of a couple of linemen succeeded in capturing one of the culprits and now stands a good chance of securing the \$500 reward.

Mr. H. G. Stewart has been transferred from Camden, N. J., to this office.

Miss Nellie Squire is subbing at a down-town wool broker's office during the absence of one of the regular operators.

WESTERN UNION.

In the last issue of the Age mention was made of Joseph Bradley's serious illness. We now regret to say that he died December 21 after lingering in an unconscious state for several days. He was an old-timer of exceptional ability. For a year or more he suffered from spinal troubles, undergoing an operation for the same but through it all he was ever cheerful and hopeful for a final recovery.

P. J. Gore, a Pennsylvania Railroad operator at Highspire tower for the past ten years, while hurrying to his home on Christmas was struck by a train and killed. He leaves a wife and five small children to mourn his loss.

Miss C. J. Grimley who looks after the Midvale Steel Company's wire, was the recipient of a Christmas gift from that corporation in the shape of \$25.00.

John Stanley who is well known here, now with Drexel Company, is another fortunate one, his munificent Christmas present being one year's salary from this generous firm.

A full report of the fourteenth annual meeting of the Aid Society which was held January 13, will appear in the next issue of the Age.

Messrs. Ely and Johnson, of the Midvale Steel Company, were recent visitors.

Samuel Faber, who worked the Chicago wire for many years in this office, was another visitor. Mr. Faber is now located in Indianapolis, Ind.,

as an insurance agent. His boon companion in former years, Mr. Walter Bair, himself a gifted operator, always said that Faber was the fastest sender he ever listened to.

Richard Carter, of the Reedy Island (Del.), Quarantine Station, is very popular with the officials of that place. He is especially liked by the sea captains for his accommodating manners.

NEW YORK CITY.

All popular music at less than half price. "Utopian Waltzes," "Whirlwind March," "Ben Hur Chariot Race," "Belle of Manhattan" March and Two-Step, "When You Were Sweet Sixteen," "My Old Virginia Home," "Left on the Battlefield," "Dolly Gray," "The Sweetheart That I Loved in Boyhood Days," "Spider and Fly," 18 cents each. "Palms," "Popular Gems," "Lang's Flower Song," "Calvary," "Rusticana," 10 cents each. Pianos—all makes—sold, \$1.00 per week. B. L. Brannan, 195 Broadway, New York.

POSTAL.

No changes of importance have occurred since the last issue. We have had several visitors lately. They all commented on the unusual quietness of such a large telegraph office, remarking that business seemed to be rather dull. But after being shown the new adjustable extension arm resonator with which the office is equipped they were very favorably impressed with the results obtained thereby.

Mr. John B. Rex, assistant to general traffic chief F. F. Norton, has been making a fine record for himself in handling the traffic of the Western and Southern divisions since he took direct charge in September last, reducing to a minimum delays on a heavy volume of business.

Mr. J. T. Needham, assistant wire chief, Eastern division, has returned from an extended trip through the West.

Mr. Charles Morrell, city night chief, Mr. Geo. J. Bauermeister and Messrs. Heath, West and Whitaker, bonus men on the Western division, have all returned from extended holiday vacations.

Mr. J. P. Williams and Thomas Kehoe, respectively, have been assigned to the staffs of the "Commercial Advertiser" and "The World."

G. W. Barrett, of the second Philadelphia bonus wire, has resigned, and accepted a position with the Postal Company at Norfolk, Va. He has been here only a year and in that time has made a fine record.

The engagement is announced of Mr. Bernard Hirsch, of this office, to Miss Carrie Greene, of New York.

WESTERN UNION.

On account of the savings and purchasing agencies at Washington, D. C., and Boston, Mass., having been so successful during the past year,

reports of which have been circulated in this office of late, an effort will be made to establish a similar association for the telegraphers in Greater New York. They will no doubt derive considerable benefit from it in the way of saving, being in position to make purchases at a low cash price from mercantile firms with whom the association will have privileges.

Miss Jessie E. Wood, who is connected with the free message bureau, and who lives at New Rochelle, N. Y., was on the ill-fated train smashed up in the tunnel January 8, and she was seriously injured.

Mr. Thomas P. Scully has been confined to his house since last September and is now almost helpless in bed from an attack of his old enemy, rheumatism.

William F. Clewell, formerly connected with this office, in the Commercial News Department, died at Medford, Mass., Dec. 24, aged 55 years. He was a member of the Home Market Club, the Grand Army Club, and the Republican Club of Boston.

The pension project is still the subject of many discussions among the older men in this office, and the granting of pensions by a number of large commercial companies gives them hope that this company will look favorably upon the scheme.

Robert Burton, brother of Mr. Walter C. Burton, chief operator of the Race Bureau, died of typhoid fever at Dundas, Ont., on January 9. Mr. Burton about a year ago was ordained a clergyman, and, being a forceful and eloquent speaker, a bright future had been predicted for him.

Mr. William J. Quinn, the genial secretary of the Telegraphers' Aid Society, has a wonderful record for honesty, promptitude, and reliability. During the past thirty years Mr. Quinn has been employed by the Western Union Telegraph Co. and during that time has been absent only one week.

P. J. Carrell, one of the oldest operators in this city, a native of Buffalo, N. Y., died of pneumonia on Dec. 30, in the 49th year of his age. He leaves two children.

While skating on January 6th at Delawanna, N. J., where they had gone for an afternoon's sport, Miss Florence Cole, a New York operator, broke through the ice, and was rescued with the greatest difficulty by her escort, Mr. James A. Halpin, a telegrapher of this office, who jumped into the water for the purpose.

CLEVELAND, O., POSTAL.

In the removal to Cleveland of the Superintendent's office of the Second District, Western Division, it brings back to us once more our old friend and former manager, Superintendent E. W. Colins. It goes without saying we are all pleased.

The ranks of our Bachelor club are being gradually thinned, the most recent desertion being that of Micheal J. Boyle.

Mr. J. F. McDonagh, who until recently worked the Chicago bonus wire, resigned to enter the Western Reserve University to take a course in

dentistry, has been assigned a short trick as second man at the "Leader" office.

Herman L. Knisely, who recently left us for the South, has had a son born to him.

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POSTAL.

Chief Operator F. B. Travis, accompanied by Mrs. Travis, has returned from a brief holiday, the greater part of which was spent in New York.

Miss A. H. Crowley, receiving clerk, days, has resigned in anticipation of her coming marriage. She is succeeded by Miss E. Hebb, from the bookkeeping department.

Superintendent W. J. Camp, of the Canadian Pacific, Montreal, was a recent visitor to our city. He was accompanied by his daughter, Miss Gladys.

Miss N. G. Mahoney, of the bookkeeping department, has been absent from her post for a few days, owing to the serious illness of her mother.

J. J. Bell has resigned to take a position with the Western Union in this city.

J. T. McGrath has returned to the main office after several weeks' duty at the fish wharf office. He is succeeded at the latter place by W. A. Ayer, from the Haymarket Hotel.

M. F. Hart has been transferred from the managership of 310 Congress street, to that of the Haymarket, and is succeeded at the former office by E. L. Donner from the Reynolds House. W. Jonsson goes to the Reynolds, and is succeeded by J. F. Dunn as night operator at Clark's Hotel.

Personal Mention.

Mr. J. J. Dickey, superintendent of the Western Union Telegraph Company, Omaha, Neb., is visiting relatives at Portland, Me.

Mr. Lyman Dwight, superintendent of the Great North Western Telegraph Company, Winnipeg, Man., is with his wife spending the winter in Texas.

Mr. A. L. Tinker, son of General Superintendent Charles A. Tinker of New York, arrived from Germany a few days since. Mr. Tinker is the European representative of the Gamewell Fire Alarm Telegraph Company of New York.

The French Government has officially recognized the importance of the recent discoveries in multiple telegraphy by Professor Mercadier of the Polytechnic School by awarding him the grade of commander of the Legion of Honor. Profes-

sor Mercadier recently succeeded in transmitting 16 messages over a wire at the same time, using the Morse alphabet and differently pitched undulatory currents.

Colonel R. C. Clowry, vice-president and general manager of the Western Union Telegraph Company, Chicago, Ill., accompanied by his private secretary, Mr. F. J. Sherrer, were recent visitors in New York.

Mr. Frank A. Munsey, an old-time telegrapher and a man of apparently inexhaustible energy, besides owning three magazines and two daily newspapers, is the principal stockholder in the Mohican Grocery Company, of New London, Conn.

It is reported that Mr. J. I. Sabin, an old-time telegrapher, president of the Chicago and Central Union Telephone companies, will be president of the Erie Company, and that it will be managed from Chicago. The territory is in proximity to the Chicago and Central Union properties.

Many newspapers have published reports to the effect that the new Postmaster-General, Mr. H. C. Payne, will use his influence to bring about postal telegraphy. Over his own signature, Mr. Payne has denied this report, stating that there is not the slightest foundation for it and he is at a loss to understand how it originated.

Death of Mrs. Thomas T. Eckert.

Mrs. Joanna C. Eckert, the wife of General Thomas T. Eckert, president of the Western Union Telegraph Company, died at her home in New York, No. 549 Fifth avenue, on Saturday evening, January 11, after an illness of several months. Mrs. Eckert who was formerly Mrs. Seitzinger, of Reading, Pa., was married to General Eckert in 1877. She was a woman of many accomplishments, devoted to her home and active in charitable work of her church. The funeral service was held at St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York, on the 14th inst., and was largely attended, the officials of the telegraph, cable and telephone companies being present.

Obituary Notes.

Patrick Henry, aged 52 years, an operator, died at Verdi, Nev., on Dec. 22.

C. W. Thornton, 40 years of age, a native of Winona, Minn., died at Napoleonville, Ala., on Dec. 13.

Edward Goodwin, 28 years of age, a native of Mankato, Minn., and a well-known telegrapher,

having worked at Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Denver and other cities, died at El Paso, Tex., on December 25.

A. S. Farwell, aged eighty years, manager of the Western Union Telegraph Company, Wells River, Vt., died on Dec. 21.

George A. Coe, an old-time telegrapher, but for the past twelve years superintendent of the Chicago and Erie Railroad at Elmira, N. Y., died December 26 at Chicago, Ill., where he was undergoing medical treatment. Mr. Coe began his telegraphic career over thirty years ago, at Coldwater, Mich., on the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad.

W. E. Burns, aged 38 years, a telegrapher of Pittsburg, Pa., died on December 22. Mr. Burns was a native of Pittsburg, and spent his entire life in that city. For the past four years he had been employed by the Carnegie Steel Company, but owing to failing health, he was compelled to give up work several months ago.

Michael H. Toomey, a well-known operator of New York, died on December 25. For the past eight years he has been employed in the New York Bureau of the Boston "Globe," where he had charge of the leased wire, nights. He was a native of Boston, and had worked for the Western Union at that point and in New York. He was regarded as an expert telegrapher.

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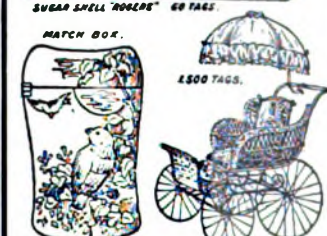
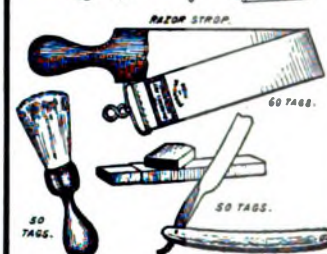
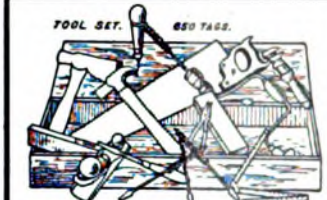
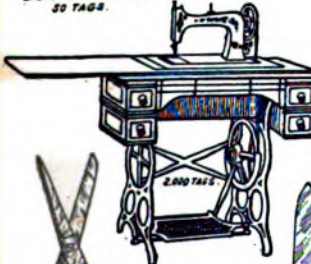
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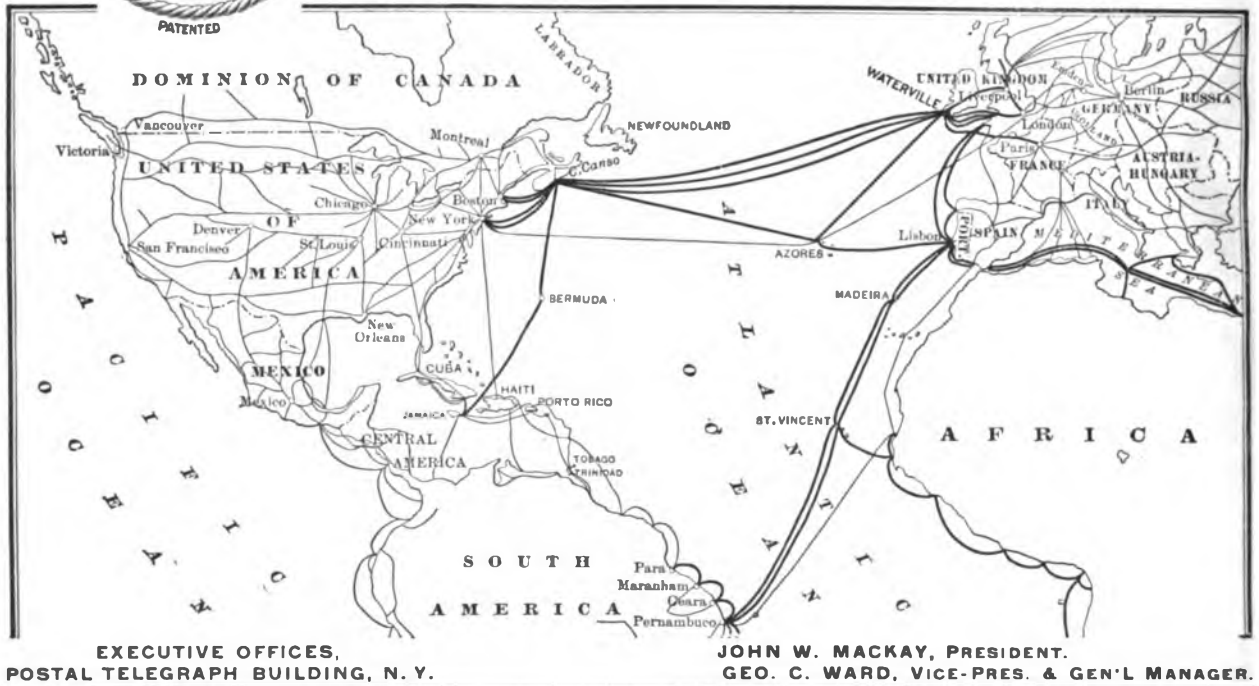


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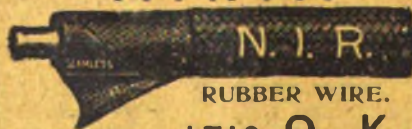


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