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Whole No. 453.



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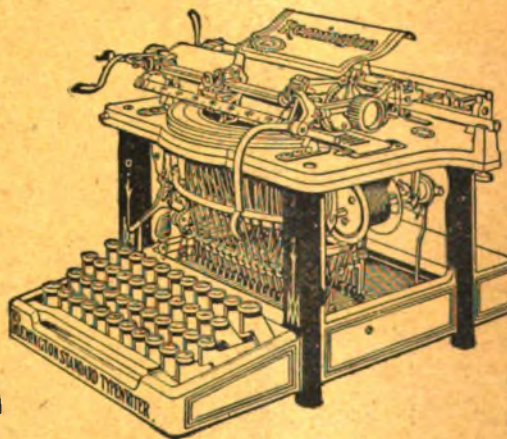
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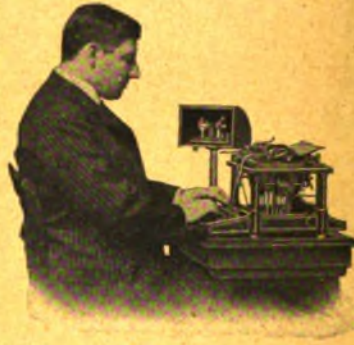
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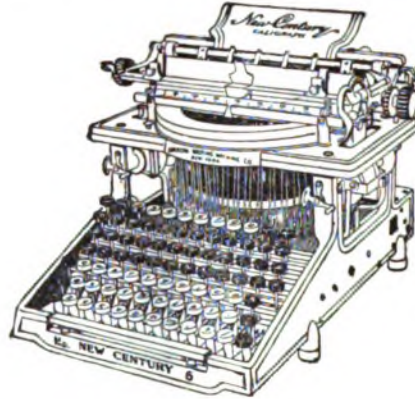
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# THE TELEGRAPH AGE

No. 7.

NEW YORK, APRIL 1, 1902.

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## 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 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.]

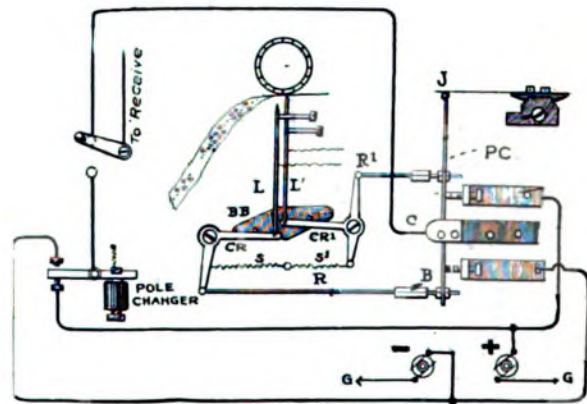
### THE WHEATSTONE AUTOMATIC DUPLEX.

In describing the Wheatstone automatic apparatus for fast speed telegraphy, the writer believes that the reader will more readily understand the device if the intricacies of its mechanical construction be sidetracked, so far as possible, until the mind grasps the exact principles upon which it operates. In reality it is but a modified form of an ordinary polarized duplex, so far as the action of the current and the functions of the principal instruments are concerned.

The apparatus consists of a polechanger, two batteries of opposite polarity, a polarized differential relay, a rheostat, a few condensers and some

clockworking mechanism. Even the binding post connections of the apparatus named are practically identical with those of the standard Morse duplex. Were it not for the unfamiliar appearance of these respective devices, delicately constructed and altered for rapid work, the Wheatstone system could require but little additional elucidation to that contained in a description of the Morse apparatus.

In the Wheatstone system the signals in the shape of dots and dashes are registered in ink on a running piece of tape at the distant end of the circuit, through the motions of an extension, or attachment, to the armature lever of a polarized relay at that point. The means of running the tape and method of inking is purely mechanical and is done by clockwork. The feature of the Wheatstone method lies in the manner in which



perforated holes in a strip of paper tape are substituted for the fingers of an operator and utilized to operate the polechanger. To make this novel control of the sending apparatus practical, the holes in the tape are systematically perforated in such a manner that when either of the two upright lever pins L and L', shown in the first accompanying diagram, is permitted to move upward through one of such orifices, it allows the bar lever of the Wheatstone polechanger P C, which is connected with the main line, to make contact with one or the other of the two battery posts, thus sending out a current of the proper polarity. When a pin in its upward movement encounters the unperforated portion of the paper the position of the protruding pin remains the same as that into which it was just previously thrown by the action of the collet rods, thus prolonging the duration of the contact and making the distinction between dots and dashes. One pin controls the

positive and the other the negative current. When the marking current (by which is meant the polarity which closes the distant relay points) has been connected to the line long enough to form an intended "dot" or "dash" the "space" is made by the well-timed appearance of a properly located hole in an additional row of perforations in the tape just above the tip of the companion lever pin. This latter opening permits the "space" making pin to move upward and the movement causes the collet rod to which it is connected to make contact with the reverse pole of the battery, thus causing the armature of the distant relay to remove the ink-marking pen from the tape until the line current is again reversed.

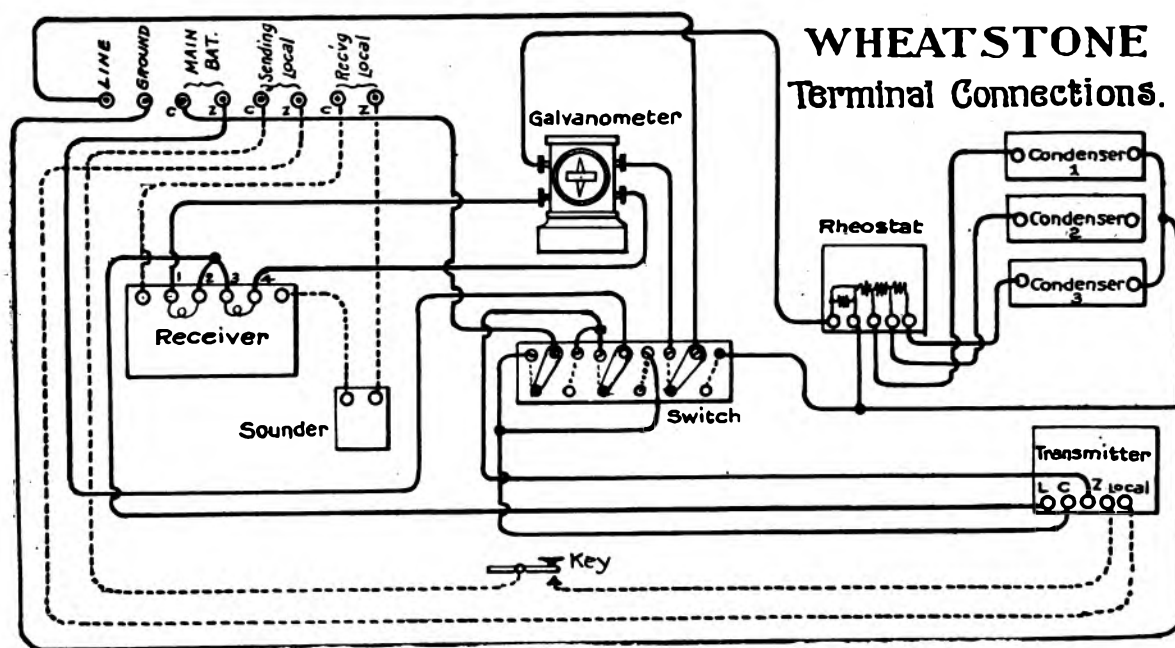
The position of each hole in the two rows of perforations is so systematically located that the instant one lever protrudes, the tip of the other finds unperforated paper above it, thereby pre-

The duplex is "balanced" by means of a rheostat and condensers in the usual way, with the exception that the two coils of a clock-face differential galvanometer is inserted in the main and artificial lines respectively in order to give visual evidence when the "balance" is true. When the proper amount of resistance has been inserted in the rheostat the needle of the galvanometer will stand at zero when the distant end of the wire is grounded because the same quantity of current will then be traversing each of its coils.

The second cut shows the latest "blue print" connection for wiring the apparatus at a terminal station.

(To be Continued.)

Bad manners are a species of bad morals. A conscientious man will not grossly offend that way.—Bovee.



venting the action of its collet rod from arresting the movement of its companion.

In order that levers L and L may always be ready for instant action the moment a hole in the tape appears in position, rockingbeam R B is caused, by means of clockwork, to rock rapidly within a limited range on a central pivot, thereby causing the tips of the vibrating levers to be constantly seeking an opening in the paper above them.

From this it will be seen that the Morse alphabet is formed by systematically perforating the paper tape in such a manner that positive and negative currents may be alternately sent over the line with a time allowance that will produce properly measured lengths of dots, dashes, and spaces.

The mechanical and electrical inertia of the Wheatstone apparatus is reduced to a minimum by every known means of construction and winding.

#### Business Notice.

The Delphi Gold Mining Company, of Cleveland, O., whose advertisement appears on page vi., invites the attention of investors to the stock offered by that company. This is issued in small amounts convenient for limited investment, such as is especially solicited. A bright future is claimed for the company as its property is believed to be rich in ore. Its officers include some excellent names, many of them being telegraph officials. The company invites correspondence and will be pleased to send to any one a copy of their prospectus containing full information regarding the enterprise, maps, illustrations, etc., and other interesting matter.

A subscription to TELEGRAPH AGE is one of the best investments a progressive telegrapher can make; it keeps him thoroughly posted.



### General Mention.

"I must have it," is the opinion of H. F. Hughart, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., when asked to renew his subscription.

Mr. M. T. Quigley, manager of the Canadian Pacific Telegraph Company at Vancouver, B. C., has returned to his post of duty after a visit of six weeks in Baltimore, Md., and other Eastern cities.

Our thanks are extended to Mr. S. H. Strudwick, of the Western Union Telegraph Company's cable station at North Sydney, C. B., for the list of fifteen new yearly subscribers received from him a few days ago.

"Renew by all means. Can't keep house without it," writes O. C. Greene, superintendent of telegraph of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, St. Paul, Minn., in remitting to cover his subscription for another year.

Mr. Richard O'Brien, assistant superintendent of the Western Union Telegraph Company at Scranton, Pa., in renewing his subscription recently, writes: "I take pleasure in remitting. I do not know of a better investment."

The Canadian press speaks in high praise of the oratorical powers of Colonel M. J. Burke at the St. Patrick's Day dinner at St. Thomas, Ont. Colonel Burke, who is an old-time telegrapher, is the American consul at that place.

Mr. Lawrence B. Pearson, a well known telegrapher, for a number of years the private secretary of the banking firm of Rolston and Hooley, has been appointed assistant secretary of the Evansville and Terre Haute Railroad Company, with headquarters at No. 49 Wall street, New York.

Mr. Charles E. Yetman, the well known inventor of Ilion, N. Y., in a recent letter renewing his subscription, writes: "I hope you will continue to renew my subscription without my requesting you to do so. I prize your paper very highly, and would not feel that I was keeping up with the times in a telegraph way without it."

Mr. N. D. Webster, a well known ex-telegrapher who has been identified with some of the leading trade journals of New York for the past twelve years, has been appointed New York manager of the "Teamster," a monthly journal published in the interest of the truckmen, transfer and express people. Mr. Webster's long experience in trade journalism ably fits him for his new position and Mr. E. H. Heinrichs, the publisher, is to be congratulated upon the acquisition of so capable a man.

Mr. S. M. English of Dallas, Tex., the assistant general manager of the Postal Telegraph Company of Texas, is the happiest man in the "Lone Star State" since the Atlanta, Ga., telegraph tournament, where Texas operators walked off with almost every prize. He was so jubilant over the victories that he telegraphed to J. H. Bunnell and Company, of New York, as follows: "I have

taken the liberty of taking the resonator and sounder the Texas boys won all the prizes on, as a souvenir; if any objections, send bill to me at Dallas." It is more than likely that Mr. English will have these trophies exhibited where the Texas people generally can gaze upon, and admire them.

### Personal Mention.

Lord Kelvin (Sir William Thornton), accompanied by Lady Kelvin, will sail for this country on April 12 for a brief visit of but two or three weeks. On April 21 a reception will be held in his honor at Columbia University.

### Obituary.

James Hopping, an operator at North Bend, O., died on March 6.

Cullen M. Stanton, an old-time operator of Citronelle, Ala., died on March 9.

William J. North of the Western Union office, St. Paul, Minn., died in that city on March 15, aged fifty years. He had been thirty-four years in the service.

Samuel Wilder, who was vice-president of the Western Union Telegraph Company in 1865, died at Rochester, N. Y., on March 16, in the seventy-eighth year of his age. Until his death he was for many years the last surviving member of the Western Union board of directors of January, 1866

### Resignations and Appointments.

Mr. George B. Boothby, manager of the Postal office at Augusta, Me., has been appointed manager of the same interests at Portland, that State.

Mr. F. J. Good, for fifty years manager of the Western Union Telegraph Company office at Machias, Me., has resigned to enter the telephone service.

Mr. Frank G. Boyd, superintendent of fire alarm telegraphs, Baltimore, Md., has resigned. Mr. John J. McCoy, a telegraph operator, has been placed temporarily in charge of the department.

Alfred G. Strickland, manager of the Western Union Telegraph Company, Altoona, Pa., has resigned to accept the wire chief operatorship of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, with headquarters at Philadelphia.

Mr. J. Annand has been appointed manager of the Portland, Ore., office of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, vice William Hearn who has been transferred to San Francisco in a similar capacity. Mr. B. S. Durkee succeeds Mr. Annand as chief operator of the Portland office.

We should be as careful of our words as of our actions, and as far from speaking ill as doing ill.—Cicero.

### Pie Was Good and Gates Paid Well For It.

It may no longer be said that John W. Gates and his fellow millionaires from the West are devoid of sentiment and the finer feelings, or that they are not possessed of gratitude. Like other men, their hearts and their pockets are to be reached through their stomachs, and it is best done by means of pie, which must be of the good old home made variety.

Mr. Gates prides himself on being a good judge of pie, as he is of other things. He knows good pie when he tastes it, and he is ready to reward the maker. A check was recently drawn for a sum that represents a small fortune, and it was in payment for two pies. The transaction probably stands unique, and the highest price ever paid for pie is represented by that check. But had the turn of a coin been different the check would have been drawn for about \$90,000, the profits resulting from a deal in Northern Pacific securities.

Although the check was recently drawn, the pie was eaten last May, but the memory of it still lingers to make the mouths of the eaters water. The history of the pie and the check was recently related by one of those interested with Mr. Gates in the speculations of last spring.

J. F. Harris, now head of the firm of Harris, Gates and Company, then had an office at No. 12 West Thirty-third street. During the days when the New York stock market seemed to have gone crazy Mr. Harris' office was occupied every afternoon by a number of gentlemen from the West whose interests were common. Employed there then was J. E. Kane, a well-known New York telegraph operator, whose duty it was to keep a close watch of the market and post the speculators on every turn. When the excitement was at its height Kane was told to take his luncheon at the Waldorf-Astoria and have it charged to his employer, who was desirous that he should be out of the office as short a time as possible.

No offence is meant to any person when it is said that Mr. Kane found the food provided for him by "Oscar" a trifle too rich for his digestion, so he arranged to have a luncheon sent to him from his home.

It so happened one day, just at noon, that there was a lull in speculation and the operator was permitted to eat without keeping one hand on the telegraph key. He had just prepared to bite into a thick piece of lemon pie when the office manager, Mr. R. M. Rogers, now general passenger and freight agent of the Cincinnati, Richmond and Muncie Railroad, entered the room. He was hungry and the pie attracted his attention. Hints that were not to be misunderstood were made and the pie was divided into halves.

"Best pie I ever ate," said Mr. Rogers, with his mouth full. "Where'd you get it?"

"Wife made it," responded Kane, with his mouth equally full.

Then Rogers was struck by an inspiration. He remembered that Mr. Harris had invited some

friends to have luncheon with him in the office the next day, and he planned a surprise for them.

"Do you think that your wife would make a pie like that for me to-morrow, if I would send the porter up for it?" he ventured.

"Sure she would," replied Kane, who was proud to have his wife's cooking appreciated.

And so it was arranged. The next day there was spread a lunch table in that office, with a big, gorgeous lemon pie as the center piece, and gathered around it were John W. Gates, J. F. Harris, George F. Randolph, now connected with the Baltimore and Ohio; L. N. Hueston, a Chicago capitalist, and T. P. Shonts, president of the Indiana, Iowa and Illinois Railroad.

All of the other food was slighted, and those at the table exhibited a willingness to reach the pie stage as early as possible. It was a large pie, and it looked good, and there was plenty of it. By agreement it was divided into four pieces, and proceedings continued.

"Just like mother used to make," said Mr. Gates, who was the first to speak.

"We must do something to immortalize this pie and the maker," was the comment of Mr. Shonts.

There was a repetition of the luncheon the next day, and there was another pie. Then the four gentlemen instructed Mr. Rogers to buy one hundred shares of Northern Pacific stock, for which they stood responsible, and turn the profits over to Mrs. Kane. It was done, the stock being purchased in the name of A. G. Pymacher, which is easily translated into a good pie maker. The securities were bought at 113½, and the very next day the sensational advance in Northern Pacific began.

By leaps and bounds the price of "Nipper" went up. From 113½ it rose to 120, and the next day it was selling around 135. Mr. Kane was perceptibly nervous. He did not like to suggest selling out, but the profits on two pies seemed to him to be something remarkable. Then Mr. Rogers pointedly called his attention to the fact that Northern Pacific might have a tumble.

"Well," said the fortunate husband of the maker of pies, "I will toss a quarter. Heads we sell, tails we hold on."

It came heads and the stock was sold. That night there was almost a panic in Northern Pacific, and the stock brought any price that holders demanded. The next day sales were made at \$1,000 a share. Had the hundred share lot been held for the top figure there would have been a profit for "A. G. Pymacher" of \$88,675, less the broker's commission. As it was, the advance was sufficient to make Mrs. Kane start when the check for something over \$3,000 was placed in her hands.

It is a significant fact that almost all of the telegraph officials who have lately been promoted, began their career as messenger boys. Messengers of thirty or forty years ago, now have charge of the telegraph property of to-day.

### Tools for Electricians and Linemen.

Tools for electrical work, such as telephone, telegraph or any work where side cutting pliers of a high grade quality are required is being introduced by the Smith and Hemenway Company and the Utica Drop Forge and Tool Company of 296 Broadway, New York city. Fig. 1 shows a Swedish side cutting and splicing pleyer made from the Swedish electro borasic steel which has been tested for years and found to be everything that is necessary to make a first-class article that



Fig. 1.

will stand cutting the hardest kind of steel and iron wire without affecting the cutting edge. It has their patent round edge which is a great advantage as it can be carried in the pocket without wearing or tearing the clothes. It is also very desirable where the workmen are liable to drop the pliers on the wire where they are working. Square edges will generally break the scale thereby injuring the conductivity of the wire while the patent round edge will not. It has polished head and jaws and is finished half polished, polished or nicked in six different sizes.



Fig. 2.

Figure 2, the 118 insulated pleyer, is one which is of great use to the linemen as the handles being covered with a rubber insulation prevent the user thereof receiving an electrical shock. It is convenient in size and having the patent round edge can be carried in the pocket without tearing the clothes.

These companies are the publishers of a very unique catalogue known as the Green Book of Hardware Specialties which will be furnished to anyone on application.

T. M. B. Association.—Assessment No. 391 has been levied by the Telegraphers' Mutual Benefit Association to meet the claims arising from the deaths of P. J. Carroll, at New York; Milo S. Pulcifer, at Ann Arbor, Mich.; John G. McKinley, at Dayton, Tenn.; Archibald M. Young, at Junction, N. J., and Waller O. Harris, at Greenwood, S. C.

Those desiring electrical or telegraph books will consult their own interest by securing our book catalogue. We make it a point to fill all orders the same day they are received. Address TELEGRAPH AGE, 253 Broadway, New York.

### The Railroad.

Mr. C. H. Gaunt, the newly appointed superintendent of telegraph of the Santa Fe system, has entered upon the discharge of his duties at Topeka, Kan., which city will continue to remain the headquarters of his department.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company has ordered an equipment of the Delany fast automatic telegraph system to be installed at Harrisburg and Pittsburg after a trial of five months between Philadelphia and Altoona. This circuit when equipped will comprise Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Altoona and Pittsburg, and will carry a traffic of over 2,000 messages a day. As railway messages average twice as many words as commercial telegrams this will undoubtedly be the busiest circuit in the world.

"Fighting" over a telegraph wire with a man several hundred miles away is not an unusual occurrence among telegraph operators. W. H. Le Hew, a Seaboard Air Line train dispatcher, tells of a fight he once had over the wire, with an odd sequel. He was quarrelling with an operator, J. H. Chapman, many miles out on the road, and as the quarrel waxed warm Le Hew declared he would go down the next day and personally whip his antagonist. Chapman thought it would result as most "wire scraps" do—in nothing—and did not worry any more about it, believing he and Le Hew would be as good friends as ever the next time they worked together over a wire. The next day, however, Le Hew boarded a local freight train, and, according to promise, got off at the distant station to whip Chapman. He walked into the telegraph office and demanded:

"Are you the operator here?"

"Yes, sir," replied the man at the instrument.

Without further ado Le Hew sailed in and whipped him.

That night Chapman called up Le Hew, saying he was surprised that Le Hew had come there while he was away at dinner and had whipped his substitute.

### New Cable Code Book.

The A B C Code, fifth edition, containing 1,400 pages, one of the best cable code books on the market, and an entirely separate and distinct book from what is known as the A B C Code, fourth edition, will be ready for delivery in April. This new work contains over 100,000 phrases, and is thoroughly up to date in every particular. The book is printed in London where it was compiled by the most competent code makers of many years experience in this class of work. The price of the English edition will be \$10 per copy, while the American reprint will cost \$7 per copy, express charges prepaid. Address all orders to J. B. Taltavall, 253 Broadway, New York.

Every operator should read TELEGRAPH AGE.

### Associated Press History.

Carroll E. Smith, the veteran journalist of Syracuse, has prepared an interesting historical sketch of The Associated Press of the State of New York, with which he was long identified and for several years served as president. In his book Mr. Smith says:

"It is an incident in the history of the development of telegraph news service that in 1846, soon after the telegraph wires were stretched across New York State, Theodor S. Faxton of Utica, a leading promoter of the Morse telegraph system, made a trip to the cities of the interior of the State from Albany to Buffalo and enlisted the newspaper publishers in the scheme of receiving daily telegraph dispatches.

"This service which was inaugurated successfully supplied the interior newspapers with a good synopsis of the day's news in brief and concise form. It was the practical operation of The Associated Press principle which was not, however, utilized in the metropolitan field until a year or two later.

"Out of this co-operation of State newspapers grew up a larger and better service which was fostered and extended by an organization of the newspaper publishers interested, and was successfully continued until the growth of the system and mutual interests led to the incorporation of The State Associated Press in 1867."

### The Winners in the Atlanta Tournament.

FRED M. MC CLINTIC.

Mr. Fred M. McClintic, of Dallas, Tex., chief operator of The Associated Press lines in that State, and a prominent telegraph prize



FRED M. MC CLINTIC.

winner at the Atlanta tournament, was born at Clarks, Neb., September 4, 1872. He gained his first knowledge of telegraphy when a boy employed as a messenger in the Union Pacific

telegraph office at Rawlins, Wyo., afterwards completing his telegraphic education with the same company at Denver, Col. The first years of his telegraphic career were devoted alternately to railroad and commercial work, his initial position as an operator being with the Kansas Pacific at Oakley, Kan. This was followed by service at various other points in Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Missouri and Minnesota. His employment by The Associated Press dates from June 16, 1894, when he entered that service at Memphis, Tenn. Here he held continuously the position of sender on the Texas circuit until September last, when, after a brief transfer to Chicago for a month, he was appointed to his present position at Dallas.

Mr. McClintic has gained an enviable reputation as a fast operator. In addition to the many prizes won at Atlanta he finished fourth in the championship class with an official record of 243½ words in five minutes at the Madison Square Garden tournament, New York, in 1898. Mr. McClintic was married in Kansas City in 1892, and has a daughter five years of age.

### Jack Irwin Hilliard.

Mr. Jack Irwin Hilliard, of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, Memphis, Tenn., the winner of the consolation prize, consisting of a handsome Columbia phonograph, at the Atlanta tournament, was born in Greenville, Miss., on



JACK IRWIN HILLIARD.

January 17, 1880. He first became identified with the telegraph as clerk and operator for the Yazoo, and Mississippi Valley Railroad at Rosedale, Miss., August 10, 1893. His next position was that of night operator with the Illinois Central Railroad, assumed January 1, 1895, at West Point, Miss. A year later he was transferred to the general office of the company at Chicago. In

the following October (1897) he entered the employ of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company at Jackson, Miss. The Spanish-American war breaking out his company transferred him to Chickamauga Park, Ga., at that time a very active point. He has since remained with the Postal Company, and during the summer of 1891 operated the St. Louis bonus wire from the New York city office, on which he made a notable record for fast work.

#### Eugene E. Bruckner.

Mr. Eugene E. Bruckner, of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company of Texas, Dallas, Tex., was another prize winner at the Atlanta tournament as recorded in our previous issue. Born in Athens, Ga., on July 31, 1881, his boyhood home was at Augusta, in that State. He began the study of telegraphy at Covington, Ga., in 1892,



EUGENE E. BRUCKNER.

at the age of eleven. He was employed at numerous places in Georgia, and also was in the railroad service in that State.

His connection with the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company began in Birmingham, Ala., and was continued at New Orleans and elsewhere, finally bringing him to Dallas where he is now working the St. Louis wire.

#### Postal Mention.

Mr. J. W. Kates, superintendent at Richmond, Va., was a recent New York visitor.

Mr. J. G. Blake, manager at Seattle, Wash., has been appointed superintendent, with headquarters at that place. The new district embraces the States of Washington and Oregon.

Mr. S. A. Duncan, assistant general superintendent at Atlanta, Ga., is seriously ill with appendicitis.

Mr. G. H. Usher, superintendent at New York, has returned from Palm Beach, Fla., where he spent a brief vacation.

Mr. H. D. Reynolds, superintendent at Buffalo, N. Y., who has been ill with typhoid fever and other complications since last September, has so far recovered as to be able to visit Atlantic City, N. J., where he expects to recuperate.

#### Western Union Mention.

Mr. Thomas T. Eckert, Jr., son of General T. T. Eckert, is seriously ill at his home in New York.

Mr. Thomas F. Clark, vice-president, New York, was at St. Augustine, Fla., last week where his wife has been spending the winter.

The executive offices at New York are being remodelled in order to afford separate private offices for President Robert C. Clowry, Vice-President Thomas F. Clark, Electrical Engineer J. C. Barclay and General Superintendent of Construction C. H. Bristol.

#### American Institute of Electrical Engineers Endorses the Metric System.

At the February meeting of the Council of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, the following resolutions, reported by the Committee on Standardization, was unanimously accepted and adopted:

Whereas, the metric system of weights and measures offers very great advantages by its simplicity, consistency and convenience in every-day use, as well as in all engineering calculations and computations, and

Whereas, these advantages have already been demonstrated by the universal adoption and entirely successful use of the metric system in all civilized countries except Great Britain and the United States, and

Whereas, all the electrical units in universal use, such as the volt, ampere, ohm, watt, etc., are metric units, and

Whereas, the industrial use of these electrical units would be much facilitated by the general adoption of the metric system,

Resolved, that this committee unanimously recommends the introduction of the metric system into general use in the United States at as early a date as possible without undue hardship to the industrial interests involved.

Resolved, that this committee favors such legislation by Congress as shall secure the adoption of the metric system by each department of the National Government as speedily as may be consistent with the public welfare.

Acts, looks, words, steps form the alphabet by which you may spell character.—Lavater.

### Wireless Telegraphy.

The theory which marked the first step in wireless telegraphy was advanced by Dr. Hertz in 1888, which is now known as the Hertzian wave.

A Marconi company with a capital stock of \$10,000,000 is to be incorporated under New Jersey laws to promote the Marconi wireless telegraph system in the United States and their island territories and in Cuba.

The Detroit and Cleveland lake steamers have been equipped with wireless telegraph apparatus, which is, we understand, working very successfully. The operators on board of the steamers can maintain communication with the land throughout the entire trips.

Marconi expects to have wireless communication established between Canada and the Mother country by June next. He has recently completed his arrangements with the Dominion Government, whereby he has contracted for his company to maintain such communication. A station will be erected at Table Head, Cape Breton.

That wireless telegraphy is now on a commercial basis is shown by the action of the Cunard Steamship Company, which has adopted a regular schedule of rates for wireless messages between its ships and others, and between its ships and the land stations of the Marconi systems. The rates fixed are 6d. a word for messages from ship to station, and 1s. a word for those from ship to passing steamer and thence to station.

The British battleship *Revenge* while on a recent cruise along the Irish coast was fitted with wireless telegraph apparatus and received a number of private Marconigrams passing between mail steamers and the shore. It is understood that the Admiralty proposes to make an attempt to intercept Marconigrams from an experimental station across the Atlantic, with the view of determining whether Signor Marconi has perfected his syntonic system.

Emperor William has issued an order, as a result of recent tests, in which he designates the Slaby-Arco system of wireless telegraphy for exclusive use in the German navy and between the coast signal stations. It is expected that the Slaby-Arco system will be exclusively used by the German merchant marine. It is said among electrical engineers in Berlin that the Government is drafting a bill to regulate wireless telegraphy and tending to uniformity of service, and that the effect of this bill will be to exclude the Marconi system from Germany. The German newspapers say that this bill will thwart Mr. Marconi's efforts, through the strong capital behind him, to monopolize the wireless telegraphy business of the world.

Rear Admiral Bradford, who is an electrical expert, is quoted as saying that wireless telegraphy will not work in very hot weather. He has not given the scientific reasons for this alleged fact, nor the theory of his further statement that

messages can be sent in the evening, after the air has cooled off, or in fog, or bad weather, or a freezing temperature. Fog, indeed, is said to be highly favorable to the wireless system, the unfavorable conditions being heat and thunder storms. Why these things are so is mysterious, except, of course, that reason and experience teach that electrical disturbances in the atmosphere cause confusion and trouble in any telegraphic system.

### The Humorous Side of Telegraphy.

The despatches which pass over a telegraph line would present a very curious and interesting volume of correspondence. The price of the transmission of a message, of course renders the construction of it necessarily as brief as possible.

A lady desirous of ascertaining when her husband would return home, sent him a message making the inquiry; to which he responded, that important business detained him, and that he could not leave for some days.

The lady immediately replied by sending him another despatch in the following laconic manner:—

“At home, August 12, 1899.

“To F. C. P.—Despatch received. Deuteronomy xxiv. 5.

“(Signed) Kate.”

The gentleman referring to the passage in the Scriptures alluded to, obtained the following lengthy and suggestive epistle:—

“When a man hath taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war, neither shall he be charged with any business: but he shall be free at home one year, and shall cheer up his wife which he hath taken.”

The second example is a reply sent to a person, who, having committed some offence against the laws, and run away, was desirous of ascertaining if it would be prudent for him to return. He therefore telegraphed in the following style:—

“July 4, 1900.

“To B. C. M., is everything O. K.?”

“D. T. M.”

To which he obtained the following brief reply:—

“July 4, 1900.

“To D. T. M.,—Proverbs, chap. xxvii. 12.

“B. C. M.”

Upon reference to the passage indicated, the inquiring individual obtained the following valuable advice: “A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished!—Civil Service Magazine, London, England.

### Recent Telegraph Patent.

A telegraph repeater has been patented (No. 604,542) by John P. Gorton of Weston-Super-Mare, England.

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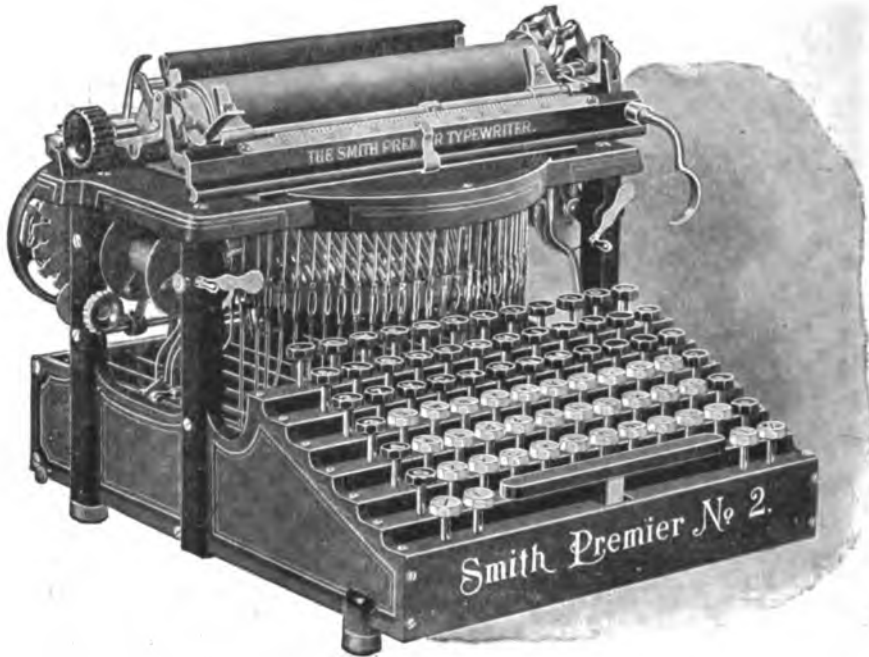
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NEW YORK, April 1, 1902.

**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 New President of the Western Union.

The promotion of Colonel Robert C. Clowry to the presidency of the Western Union Telegraph Company marks an event the importance of which is bound to make itself felt in the conduct and shaping of this company in the years to come. For the new president is an all-around telegraph executive, a man of ideas, energy and determination, thoroughly familiar by intimate knowledge, personal contact and long experience with the great system over which he has been called to preside. His training has been of the kind that will make him a worthy successor of General Eckert, to all of whose powers and responsibilities he has succeeded. Taking up the work now necessarily laid aside by older hands, and clothed with absolute authority to carry out the policies which his extended experience and ripe judgment may

show to be desirable in the furtherance of the vast interests confided to his charge, it may well be believed that the new head of this corporation will make his influence felt in many ways.

General Eckert's farewell letter to the officers of the company is as follows: "On the 12th instant Colonel R. C. Clowry was elected president and general manager of the company, and will assume the duties of his new position on April 1st. Official communications which have heretofore been directed to me should after the 31st instant be addressed to him.

"After administering for so long a time the affairs of this great corporation, I relinquish into Col. Clowry's capable hands, with feelings of the warmest affection, the cares of active office which, with advancing years, and after a crushing domestic affliction, have grown to be more than I should bear; and I bespeak for him the same hearty support and efficient co-operation I have always received from you."

## The Useful Man Always in Demand.

Both Gen. Thomas T. Eckert, who lately retired from the presidency of the Western Union Telegraph Company, and Col. Robert C. Clowry, who succeeds him, says an exchange, began at the bottom. At the age of 24, or in 1849, Eckert was postmaster of Wooster, O., a mere village in those days, and his prospects of getting on in the world depended on the clearness of his brain, his physical health, thrifty habits and the ability to make himself useful to his employers. Had he remained in the Post Office service he would have got to the top. Some day he would have been Postmaster-General for four years. But a greater field of usefulness opened to him. Learning to handle the telegraph key, he found his career. Some one above him discovered executive ability in the youngster and a capacity for work which took no account of the clock. In three years he was looking after the construction of a telegraph line between Pittsburg and Chicago on the Fort Wayne Railroad. When it was built Eckert became superintendent. Afterward his advancement was rapid, uniform, sure. During the Civil War he had charge of military telegraphs at Washington, a post that required brains and an indifference to regular hours of sleep. Col. Clowry started even lower down in the business—as a messenger boy. His chance of reaching his present eminence might have been reckoned as one in a million. Clowry graduated to the operator's table by keeping his eyes open, gaining the knack of using the key and being handy, alert and intelligent. During the Civil War, which teemed with opportunities for men of ideas, he was superintendent of a military telegraph division in the Southwest. He has been an indispensable man ever since.

The bilious sociologists and the men who work by the day and are glad when quitting time comes will tell you that such opportunities as Eckert

and Clowry had do not exist now. It is the same wail that these men heard when they were young. Never a man got rich or famous but envy said the time limit for such success had expired, conditions were too hard and selfish now, and so on. When a new triumph of pluck and energy is cited, your head-shaker points to the combinations of capital, the consolidations and trusts, and says it was the last call to the directors' car and the door is now shut. He thinks there will be no more Eckerts, Carnegies, Schwabs, Edisons, Hills, Vreelands, and the despot's heel is on the toiler. But the fact is the demand for the right man in the right place is greater than ever. He is not born, but made by hard work, hard knocks and the patient application of ideas to difficulties. The greater the interests involved the more need of the man who exactly fits the demand and who can be trusted to keep the machine steadily running to its utmost capacity. And he must have assistants competent to take his place. His special ability must be well paid, although he is not responsible for the company's debts, and the value of his lieutenants appreciates with his own. Brains cost more to-day than they ever did before, and no class or condition of men has a monopoly of brains. They are more often put in a head of a ragged boy than of a lad who is born with a checkbook for a pillow. The great businesses will want the obscure youth in good time if he can stick to his task and grasp his opportunities; they will never want the other fellow if he is a weakling, and should he be forced on them by "influence" they will find a way to get rid of him. The demand for useful men keeps pace with the specializing of business methods.

#### Reminiscence of Gen. Eckert.

Many years ago, writes Mr. I. N. Miller, superintendent of Western Union Telegraph Company, Cincinnati, O., in a telegraph historical sketch, contributed to the Telegraphic Historical Society of North America, when General Thomas T. Eckert, now president of the Western Union Telegraph Company, was working in Cincinnati and vicinity, he came near forfeiting his life in an effort to discover why a wire on the Indianapolis and Cincinnati Railroad could not be made to work. The wire had been transferred from a mud road to the railroad, but all efforts to operate it failed on account of defective joints. While walking the track about forty miles west of Cincinnati one cold winter's day he dropped in at a saw mill to get warm, but upon carefully scrutinizing the drunken engineer and the steam gauge he decided that it would be injudicious to accept the complimentary entertainment extended to him. He had only reached a safe distance when an explosion occurred and the mill and occupants were no more.

True wisdom is to know what is best worth knowing, and to do what is best worth doing.—H. Humphrey.

#### Telephone vs. Telegraph.

BY JAMES GAMBLE, OF SAN FRANCISCO.

Formerly General Superintendent Western Union Telegraph Company.

I predicted some months since that it was only a matter of time, and not a very long time at that, when the telegraph companies would have to add the telephone to their business in self-protection; that as soon as the telephone companies stretched their lines over the country they would enter the field of telegraphy, and in that way would have an advantage of the telegraph company, as the telephone company could afford to maintain small stations where it would not justify the telegraph company.

This opinion was brought about when I learned that what is called the local business of the telegraph company was almost ruined as soon as the telephone reached the small towns within a radius of one hundred miles of San Francisco.

I clip from the February directory of the Sunset Telephone and Telegraph Company of this city the following:

"All stations of the Pacific States and Sunset Telephone and Telegraph Companies are being equipped as rapidly as possible with Morse telegraph instruments in order that a regular telegraph business may be done over the lines of the companies. Telegrams should be accepted by all agents and employees whenever offered for transmission. If there are no telegraph instruments at your office, the message will be telephoned to the nearest office equipped with instruments, so that it may be forwarded by telegraph from there to its destination. All employees are particularly cautioned against refusing to accept any such messages."

Here it is plain enough that the "guage of battle" has been thrown down. Will the telegraph companies take it up? In my humble opinion they will have to do so in self protection, and I think the telephone company makes a mistake in opening the fight for the telegraph companies have the poles and they have only to put up the wires; and they have also the advantage of covering a much greater extent of territory already.

The advantage of having the telephone connections with all the principal business houses can be seen at once when the subscriber to the telephone can telephone his message to the telegraph office instead of having to send it to the office. As a protection it can be repeated back and a record made to avoid mistakes. Messages by telegraph can be delivered in the same way if desired to save time as well as messenger hire.

This is the opinion of an old telegraph manager, and I give it to you for what it is worth.

Trust that man in nothing who has not a conscience in everything.—Lawrence Sterne.

### Organizing for Pensions.

In response to a call for a meeting for the formation of a pension fund society, about fifty telegraphers assembled at the rooms of the New York Press Club on Thursday evening, March 20.

The meeting was called to order by John Brant, and W. C. Burton nominated P. J. Tierney as chairman. The election of Edwin F. Howell as secretary immediately followed. In stating the object of the meeting Mr. Tierney remarked: "In the ranks of the telegraph profession we have a number of societies all inaugurated for the welfare of telegraphers. One that teaches us frugality and inures to our financial benefit is the Serial Building and Loan Society; one that relieves our distress in time of illness is that particularly prosperous institution, the New York Telegraphers' Aid Society, and for the provision of those whom we leave behind when nature calls us to a better world, we have the Telegraphers' Mutual Benefit Association. With all these excellent institutions we are still lacking in a proper provision for those whose heads have silvered and whose powers must inevitably have become enfeebled by long years of service and a faithful performance of the duties which have been imposed upon them in one of the most exacting of professions. It is for the benefit of this class we are assembled here to-night, and it is our purpose to form a stable organization for the custody of a pension fund. The ready response to the call for the meeting is an indication that this night will leave its mark in telegraphic history. I desire to thank you for selecting me as your chairman and to incidentally remark that I believe this occasion to be an auspicious one, from the fact that in 1880 I had the honor to be selected as chairman of the first meeting of the Telegraphers' Aid Society, the progress of which has been unprecedented. This I accept as an augury of the future success of the society which finds its birthplace here to-night."

Mr. Howell then read the following resolution which was adopted unanimously:

"Whereas, The profession of the telegraph has reached a stage when its ranks contain many persons advanced in years, for whom no systematic and suitable provision has been made, and,

"Whereas, It is for the best interest of the profession, the telegraph companies, and the public, that the young men and women who enter the ranks shall remain therein, and give the best years of their talents, energies and experience to the service, and,

"Whereas, It is necessary to this end that a system of pension should be adopted by the profession, on such a basis that it will receive the recognition and support of the several telegraph companies, therefore, it is

"Resolved, That it is in the sense of this meeting that such a pension system is necessary, expedient and advisable."

After the adoption of the resolution the chairman stated that he was prepared to entertain a discussion on a plan of procedure. There was

some hesitation at this point, but Walter C. Burton finally arose and suggested that Mr. Brant, who had been in touch with all the incidents that had inspired the meeting, tell those assembled something about the situation up to date.

Mr. Brant responded by briefly outlining several pension plans already adopted by the Pennsylvania and Baltimore and Ohio Railroad systems, the former of which having now more than two millions of dollars in its fund. Mr. Brant also made reference to a letter from Mr. Carnegie who had noted the various discussions of the question which have recently appeared in TELEGRAPH AGE, and had written a letter in which he evinced a deep interest in the matter of a pension fund; all other plans such as homes, colonies, etc., being in his opinion outside the solution of the question.

Mr. Burton spoke at some length suggesting that a committee be appointed to formulate a plan, which after consideration and adoption at a subsequent meeting, should be submitted for approval and co-operation to all the important telegraph centers of the country. In order that the scheme may be afterward submitted to the telegraph companies with the weight of general approval, such action would undoubtedly secure the careful consideration of the companies.

Senator W. L. Ives then spoke of the great advantages to be derived from such an organization, remarking that his ambition was to provide for posterity, yet he hoped no man would ever be retired as long as he was able to do first-class work.

Mr. John Costelloe gave an account of the pension fund system now used in the various cable companies who were particularly considerate of the welfare of their employees.

Mr. W. A. van Orden, referring to the remarks of Mr. Ives, stated that "the telegraph companies, before evincing any interest in the matter, would no doubt require a well digested plan to be formulated. A telegraph company is not organized for purposes of philanthropy, it is a purely business institution and must be approached by us with a business like proposition."

Discussions of a general nature were good in themselves, but some one must get down to the little details and formulate a plan of action, after which would come the usual formulation of constitution, by-laws, etc. He would, therefore, move that "a committee of six be appointed, three from among the employees of the Western Union Company, and three from the employees of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company to prepare a prospectus to be laid before another meeting to be called by the chair."

This motion was carried unanimously and the chair asked the privilege of deferring the naming of the committee for a few days.

It was also decided that this committee of six may be enlarged proportionately at the option of the chairman.

Then followed remarks by Mr. Costelloe, Mr. W. H. Jackson, Mr. Rathbone, Mr. Howell and

several others offering suggestions to the proposed committee, after which a motion was made to adjourn subject to the call of the chairman, Mr. Tierney, who will retain that office, with Mr. Howell as secretary, until a permanent organization is effected.

The meeting was, of course, merely a nucleus of what promises to be a very extensive and useful organization. When plans are perfected and all details arranged the organization will become national in character, and all faithful employees in the telegraph service will, some day, reap the benefits for which the fifty men who met in the Press Club are so earnestly striving.

The meeting was attended by the following well known persons: John Brant, Thomas Brennan, P. J. Tierney, W. A. Van Orden, John Costelloe, J. F. Cleverdon, F. O. Nourse, Marion H. Kerner, Walter C. Burton, W. H. Jackson, J. K. Calvert, D. W. McAneeny, C. M. Cunningham, P. F. Sullivan, R. J. Murphy, S. L. Welp, R. Ferguson, Gardner Irving, John Rathbone, Joseph Knittle, W. L. Ives, C. S. Pike, W. E. Rath, Robert Morton, J. H. Riddick, J. W. O'Leary, G. A. Newton, A. M. Pennock, W. F. Wright, E. M. Sturgis, D. H. Debaum, M. F. O'Neill, C. A. Brooks, J. F. Ahearn, William Shone, C. A. Kilfoyle, F. J. Nurnberg, F. J. Sheridan, F. D. Murphy, Edwin F. Howell and others.

The chairman later named the following committee: P. J. Tierney, Manager, 46 Broad street, New York; John Brant, W. A. Van Orden, F. W. Jones, Edwin F. Howell, all of 195 Broadway, and John Costelloe, Cotton Exchange, New York.

#### A CARD.

All telegraphers in the United States interested in the subject of a pension fund are invited to send in writing their plans and ideas looking to its successful establishment, for the consideration of the committee. P. J. Tierney, chairman, 46 Broad street, and Edwin F. Howell, secretary, 195 Broadway, New York.

#### The Pension Fund Proposition.

EDITOR TELEGRAPH AGE:

No question has a deeper interest for operators than that of the pension fund proposition. It is a live question, its discussion is opportune, its solution is urgent. There is no necessity for summing up the arguments which the operator might advance in favor of his side of the question, but a word might be said for the company's point of view. It is generally conceded that there ought not to be, and there is no real conflict between the interests of the employer and those of the employee. Whatever advances the welfare of the one, ought to advance the welfare of the other. Likewise, whatever is detrimental to the interests of the employee must sooner or later prove injurious to the interests of the employer. Now, if such be the case, it is evident that sound policy ought to prompt a company to make it profitable

for its employees to be loyal to its interests. When it has done so, it has enlisted one of the most important elements of success in its behalf. With these considerations in my mind, I contend that the pension fund system is as much in the interest of the employer as it is of the employee. No business man would be willing to exchange an old, loyal, trusted, and well tried employee, for an unknown and untried stranger.

The pension fund plan is thoroughly in accord with this view of the question. The tendency of the day is in favor of pension systems. Municipal authorities have found that pensions greatly improve the efficiency of its police and fire departments. Several railroads have already adopted the pension system, and the testimony of all these companies is in favor of pensions.

Now, we can see no reason why such a system or plan which is beneficial to a railroad company, should not for like reasons be beneficial to a telegraph company. It is certain that the efficiency of a telegraph company depends upon the efficiency of its employees. Let an operator understand that after years of fidelity to duty he will be entitled to a pension, not as an act of charity, but as a just compensation for services rendered, and he will have every inducement to be faithful to his duty.

These and similar arguments that might be presented, make the question almost as important to the company as to the operator. Would not a discussion along this line of thought help the good cause, and might it not be well to solicit the opinion of some of the men who are at the head of the telegraph companies and who are most competent to speak with authority on the subject.

It would certainly interest the readers of TELEGRAPH AGE, if its editor could get such an expression of opinion for its pages.

A SUBSCRIBER.

Cleveland, O., March 21.

The citizens of Philadelphia and other Eastern cities are now clamoring for underground wires to replace the overhead systems, which have been more or less interrupted by storms during February and March. If the citizens can suggest a plan whereby long distance telegraphic communication can be worked successfully underground, they will confer a great favor on the telegraph companies. The officials would not hesitate a moment to bury their wires if they can be reasonably assured that they will work as well underground as overhead.

TELEGRAPH AGE asked in its last issue:

"If wireless telegraphy supplants the present aerial telegraph structures, what will become of the lineman?"

A Lancaster, Pa., correspondent suggests to "put wings on them."

He who thinks his place below him, will certainly be below his place.—Saville.



GENERAL THOMAS T. ECKERT, THE RETIRING PRESIDENT OF THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

(From His Latest Photograph.)

#### When Telegraph Business Was Dull.

The story of the financial troubles of the telegraph in the early days of its history is partially revealed in the following letter of Professor Morse, now in the possession of Colonel Charles F. Macklin, of Baltimore, Md. It reads:

Washington, Feb. 12, 1845.

Sir:

I have made my calculations as to the extent of time to which the remaining sum or the appropriation will allow me to go, and I find that I can continue the superintendence and operation of the telegraph no longer than Saturday, the 15th instant. The salaries, therefore, of all now connected with the telegraph must cease after that date. If you choose after that time to continue your daily superintendence (free of charge), so far as to guard the property of the Telegraph, I will use my influence, in case the bill before Congress shall pass into a law, to have your salary allowed from after the 15th instant to the time when the new appropriation shall enable us to put the Telegraph in operation again. The continuance of your superintendence, however, must necessarily be at your own risk, as I shall not possess, after the 15th instant, the funds necessary to en-

able me to continue your salary. Very respectfully,

Yr. O. B. servt.

SAM. F. B. MORSE,  
Superintendent Elec. Mag. Tel.

To Henry J. Rogers, Esq.,  
Assistant Superintendent,  
Elec. Mag. Tel.,  
Baltimore Station.

The Postmaster-General of England has been urged by influential deputations to extend northward and into Scotland, underground telegraph communication, now established between London and Birmingham, the recent heavy storms in that country, as in this, having given fresh impetus to the demand. The work as proposed could now be carried out at a less cost than \$3,500,000, and as the money is not available for the purpose, nor likely to be for some time to come, nothing can be done.

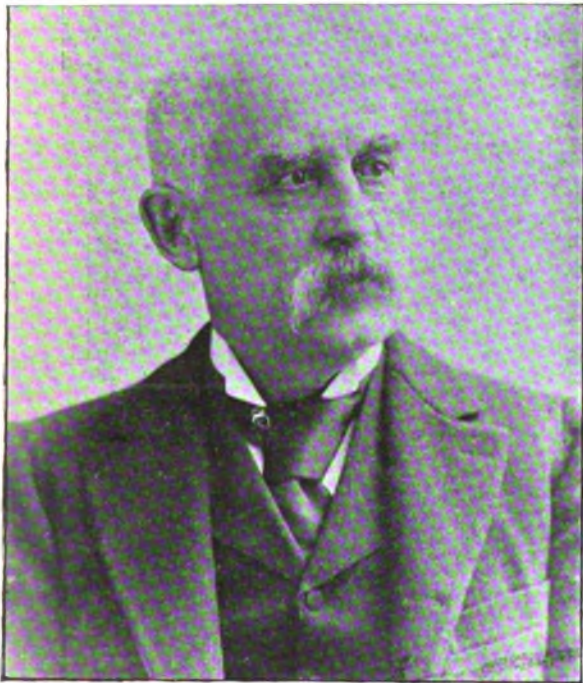
A life without a purpose is a languid, drifting thing. Every day we ought to renew our purpose, saying to ourselves: "This day let us make a sound beginning, for what we have hitherto done is naught."—Thomas a Kempis.

### Alfred S. Brown.

Mr. Alfred S. Brown, electrical engineer of the Western Union Telegraph Company, New York, a position he has held since 1889, has resigned, his retirement taking effect on April 1.

Mr. Brown has been in poor health for the past two years, and twelve months ago, by the advice of his physician, endeavored to sever his connection with the company he has served so long and acceptably. It is exactly fifty years ago to-day since Mr. Brown entered the telegraph service as a messenger boy in Syracuse, New York, during which time he has had an interesting and varied experience, rising to the place he has just relinquished where he enjoyed the entire confidence, love and respect of his associates.

Mr. Brown was born November 8, 1836, at Seneca Falls, N. Y. Coming to New York in 1855



ALFRED S. BROWN.

he entered the employ of the New York, Albany and Buffalo Telegraph Company, then at 2½ Wall street. Transferred to Oswego, N. Y., he remained in the company's office at that place from 1856 to 1859, when he was recalled to the New York office of which, in 1864, he was made manager. In 1875 Mr. Brown was appointed superintendent of the Metropolitan District of the Western Union Telegraph Company, and in 1881, he accepted the appointment to the general superintendency of the Mutual Union Telegraph Company, with headquarters in New York city. In 1889 he was made electrical engineer of the Western Union Telegraph Company. Almost every old timer who has worked in New York during the past thirty-five years has served in some capacity under Mr. Brown, and in no instance is it recalled that he was ever criticised adversely for

any official act. On the contrary all unite in commending his fairness, his upright character and genial personality. He will carry into his retirement the good will and best wishes of hosts of friends both in and out of the telegraph fraternity.

### Theodore P. Cook.

Mr. Theodore P. Cook who has been appointed general superintendent of the Western Union Telegraph Company at Chicago, Ill., vice Colonel Robert C. Clowry, now president of the company, goes to the Western metropolis from St. Louis where, since 1807, he has been superintendent of the same interests.

Mr. Cook is a native of Tennessee and has grown up and developed with the telegraph business, he having entered the employ of the Western Union Telegraph Company's service on the



THEODORE P. COOK.

overland route to California when a mere boy. In 1863 he took charge of the office at Lawrence, Kan. He was called next to Atchison, then to Leavenworth, and then to Kansas City. In 1882 he was made night chief operator of St. Louis; later he was made manager of the gold and stock department of the local service. In 1885 he was appointed assistant superintendent with headquarters at Dallas, Tex., where he resided until called upon to fill the office of superintendent at St. Louis. He is a thoroughly practical man in every branch of the service. He has always been untiring in his efforts, leaving no stone unturned that could in any way enhance the value of the service in whatever department he was employed.

Difficulties strengthen the mind as well as labor does the body.—Seneca.

**J. C. Barclay.**

Mr. J. C. Barclay, the electrician of the Western Union Telegraph Company at Chicago, has been advanced to the responsible position of electrical engineer of the company at New York to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr. A. S. Brown.

Mr. Barclay was born at Greensburg, Pa., on April 17, 1856. Before he was thirteen years of age he had become a good operator. Starting as a messenger, for the Pennsylvania Railroad, he soon worked up to the position of relieving operator, and in 1870 he was employed by the old Pittsburg and Connellsville Railroad, at Connellsville, Pa. For a brief time he was at Crestline, O., but later accepted a position with the Pacific and Atlantic Telegraph Company at Pittsburg. In 1872 he went with the Central Railroad of New Jersey at Elizabeth, N. J., and while there was



J. C. BARCLAY.

tendered the position of inspector for the Automatic Fire Alarm system in New York. After this he accepted employment with the Western Union Telegraph Company at Baltimore, Md., and with this company he has since been identified, with the exception of the period of the existence of the American Union Telegraph Company, he being with that company at Chicago up to the time of its consolidation with the Western Union Telegraph Company in 1882. From this date Mr. Barclay's advance has been rapid and he has filled in the order named the responsible positions of night chief operator, night manager and electrician, from the latter of which he has in turn just been promoted to the highest position in the electrical department.

Mr. Barclay is noted for his sterling integrity, energy and personal magnetism, and has the happy faculty of making himself very acceptable, both to his subordinates, and the company he represents.

**Charles H. Bristol.**

Another transfer from Chicago to New York in the Western Union interests is that of Mr. Charles Herbert Bristol, who has filled the position of Superintendent of Construction in the former city. He is now the General Superintendent of Construction in the Metropolis, and succeeds to the office held by the late Dennis Doren.

Mr. Bristol was born at Seneca Falls, N. Y., April 2, 1847, and began his telegraph career in a construction gang under M. C. Bristol, in the fall of 1861. He saw service in the Civil War in 1864-65, and after his discharge at the close of that conflict returned to school at Syracuse, N. Y., where he remained until the fall of 1866. He then became a lineman in the Western Union service and was stationed at New Albany, Ind., for two years, from 1866 until 1868. He was engaged in construction work in Missouri and Nebraska during the years 1869 and 1870, and was employed on the Missouri Pacific Railway as lineman from the fall of 1870 to 1872. From the lat-



CHARLES H. BRISTOL.

ter date to February, 1878, he was with a lumber firm in Texas. Afterwards he was lineman at Indianapolis for a brief period early in 1878, when he went on the road as construction foreman under M. C. Bristol. The valuable experience he had gained in practical outside work fitted him for higher executive positions which he was soon called upon to fill. For in July, 1880, he was appointed to a clerkship in M. C. Bristol's office in Chicago, where the training received during two years qualified him for the promotion which came in October, 1882, to the office of assistant superintendent of construction. This he held until May 4, 1897, when he was made superintendent. His call to New York rounds out a record creditable in every way.

Every telegrapher who loves his profession, who is determined to master its technicalities, and thus insure for himself the confidence and respect of his official superiors and place himself in the direct line of promotion, should subscribe for TELEGRAPH AGE.

### George J. Frankel.

Mr. George J. Frankel, who was recently appointed superintendent of the Western Union Telegraph Company, with headquarters at St. Louis, Mo., was born at San Antonio, Tex., December, 30, 1857. He began his career in the Western Union telegraph service at that point as a messenger boy when about fifteen years of age, being subsequently transferred to Dallas, Tex., as clerk. His next changes were to Houston, Tex., as clerk and operator; to Jefferson, Tex., as manager; to Marshall, Tex., as manager; also to El Paso, in the same capacity. Mr. Frankel left the latter position to enter the employ of the Texas and Pacific Railway as a train dispatcher, with which company he remained for a year, when he returned to the Western Union service as manager at Sherman, Tex. Here he remained for about two years, when he was transferred to St. Louis as chief clerk to the late superinten-



GEORGE J. FRANKEL.

dent, L. C. Baker. He held that position until May 1, 1897, when he was appointed as assistant superintendent.

Mr. Frankel, like many other Western Union men who have reached prominence, has risen from the ranks, gaining knowledge with experience and thus adapting them with peculiar fitness for the high offices secured.

### William Hearn.

Mr. William Hearn, late manager of the Portland, Ore., office, has been appointed to the managership of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company's office, at San Francisco, Cal., a position lately created, for General Superintendent L. W. Storrer has hitherto had the care of this office.

Mr. Hearn was born at Norton Mills, Vt., July 5, 1867, where his father was agent for the Grand Trunk Railroad Company. He learned the art of telegraphy while quite young, and moved to Canada in 1875, then to Manitoba in 1879, when

his telegraphic career began with the Canadian Pacific Railroad Company, in Winnipeg. He remained with that company, working at different points between Lake Superior and the Rocky Mountains until 1884, when he went south, and landed in New Orleans during the Cotton Centennial of 1884-5. He remained in the Southern States, working in the principal cities, and for different railroads, and the Southern Express Company, until 1887. In the fall of 1888, he was back with the Canadian Pacific Railroad Company, in Winnipeg, where he worked for about six months, then went west to New Westminster, B. C., at that time the relay office of the Postal Canadian Pacific Telegraph Company. Shortly after he went to Portland, Ore., and entered the



WILLIAM HEARN.

service of the Western Union Telegraph Company. The Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, however, were bidding for the best talent, and Mr. Hearn soon entered its service. He was appointed night chief in 1890, traffic chief in 1892, and manager in 1897. He was one of the crack typewriters appointed to represent the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company in the message contest at New York, in 1893, and in a local contest he was a tie with champion Durkee. He did not enter the contest in New York, however, owing to private business.

A telephone cable is to be laid from England to Belgium. It will be the longest telephone cable in existence, extending from St. Margaret's Bay, near Dover, to La Panne, a point near Ostend, a distance of fifty-six miles.



## 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.]

## ALBERQUERQUE, N. M., POSTAL.

The personnel of this office is: J. S. Creegan, manager; Robert H. Hawkins, day repeater chief; P. E. Drawer, day operator; A. E. Morelock, first trick night chief; W. K. Rawlins, second trick night chief.

Mr. W. C. Swain, chief operator of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, of San Francisco, visited this office while on his way returning from the East. He will stop over at Ashfork, Ari., to put in a set of new repeaters.

## ALBERQUERQUE, N. M., WESTERN UNION.

The personnel of this office is as follows: T. E. Gargan, manager; W. C. Mead and William Keleher, day operators, and W. L. Bradley, taking report at night.

We had a new fifty-strap springjack switchboard installed recently which improves the looks as well as the service of this office greatly.

Superintendent B. Brooks made us a short visit lately while on his way from El Paso to Denver on a tour of inspection.

An old-timer in the person of "Jack" Robb dropped in on us recently enroute to Chicago from San Francisco.

## NEW ORLEANS, LA., WESTERN UNION.

A. J. Schrautt has resigned to accept the managership of the Western Union at New Iberia, La.

M. W. Vigne has been appointed manager of the Western Union at McComb City, Miss.

Frederick Mauberrett, father of Urb Mauberrett of this office, died on March 10th.

A quiet but pretty double wedding ceremony occurred on February 18, the contracting parties being Miss Mary Lott and John T. Dearman, and Miss Fannie Lott and Mr. W. H. Sullivan. Messrs. Dearman and Sullivan are well known and popular young telegraphers.

## BAKERSFIELD, CAL., NOTES.

The Postal is now located at 1520 19th street, in a fine new and large office, in the equipment of which there is a new switchboard of the latest design, consisting of fuse blocks, lightning arresters, and spring-jacks; also a quad table. The office manager is A. Weaber; N. L. Baker, operator, vice E. H. Hunting, resigned; F. T. Collins, lineman, and Shirley Martin, messenger.

At the Western Union, C. M. Holmes having been transferred to Sacramento, and N. L. Baker having resigned to accept a position with the Postal, an entire new force, commencing on the 1st of March, excepting the messenger, is in

charge. J. L. Frost is the manager; G. R. Paul, operator, both from the Western Union, San Francisco; Mrs. Canady, clerk, and Everett Depot, messenger.

The personnel at the Santa Fe depot is as follows: G. W. Lupton, agent; G. R. Smith, day operator; N. E. Scott, relief operator and clerk; Fred Gordon, chief clerk; J. S. Mattison, cashier; James Heimbaugh, clerk; H. A. Weeler, stenographer, and A. E. Gordon, night operator and ticket man.

The Southern Pacific are also making improvements in the way of wires. J. Y. Pettinger, of the Western Union, San Francisco, is installing at the present time quad repeaters in the dispatcher's office. W. V. Matlack is the agent; T. M. Young, cashier and operator; J. H. Sheridan, chief dispatcher; dispatchers, J. T. Bell, A. J. Henderson, T. P. Lee, P. D. Ogg, Messrs. Hamilton and Sanderson; operators, A. W. Wassan, J. A. Vaughn.

At the Southern Pacific freight house A. B. Allen and O. H. Tetzlaft are operators and bill clerks; at the ticket office Western Union, C. E. Fleming, days, and H. P. Libby, nights; at the yard office C. E. Harris, days, and C. E. Roach, nights; at the joint tower T. J. McDonald, days, and J. Bradford, nights.

## NEW ORLEANS, LA., POSTAL.

The following constitutes the personnel of this office: William A. Porteous, manager; D. W. English, cashier; John Remley, bookkeeper; C. J. Ennemoser, receiving clerk; Michael Schraut, delivery clerk; A. Wiltz and F. Frey, collectors; M. Carey and A. Cassidy, checks; L. M. Dudousat and C. Lucknavitch, clerks; T. J. Ryan, night receiving clerk; Joseph Cunningham, night delivery clerk; Samuel Connors, all night clerk, and R. Relf, check.

Operating Department: J. Hargrave, chief operator; S. W. Gibson, night chief; A. H. Shatford, all night chief, and C. B. Arrington, traffic chief.

Operators: V. Gallas, W. L. Ward, J. A. Garfield, P. W. Kenifick, G. E. Buckley, C. M. Kirkland, C. H. Pope, G. M. Cadis, R. A. Arrington, M. J. Murphy, J. W. Oberfell, T. S. Rowan, G. W. Paxton, W. H. Bush, C. F. Tanner, Thomas Watkins. Extras: Charles Garber, J. H. Benbrooke, M. L. Schwinger, W. L. Dehooft, J. Dearman. Checks: G. Kern, J. E. Holland and G. W. Westerfield.

Cotton Exchange Branch: Alexander N. Porteous, manager. Operators: C. S. Brill, L. H. Dinkledine, E. S. Briner, T. A. Mossy, W. E. Schulthies, C. H. Pope, L. W. Mason, A. A. Monroe, J. H. Barnwell, J. P. Duckworth, G. E. Johnson and J. N. Killebrew. Clerks: Henry Scoggins, N. Roos, H. Lindemann, W. Smith. Branch Office Managers: Miss A. Flynn, Grunwald Hotel; Miss E. Randall, Cosmopolitan Hotel; M. J. Hauler, Bluefields Fruit Company; Miss B. M. Randall, Sugar Exchange; J. Parpal, French Market; J. J. Purcell, Lower Fruit Wharf; F. L. Barrois, Board of Trade; C. E. Sarsby, Pro-

duce District; G. Keopke, Commercial Hotel; Mrs. A. V. Miller, Metropole Hotel; W. Keopke, Upper Fruit Wharf; M. F. B. Weeks, Illinois Central Passenger Depot; Jean Marque, Cotton District; Miss M. Randall, American Sugar Refinery; Henry Herman, Fruit Dispatch Company.

In addition to the above we have about seventy messenger boys in our service.

The sympathies of the entire force are extended to Traffic Chief Arrington in the death of his infant daughter.

#### BEAUMONT, TEX., POSTAL.

Business is brisk and settling down from boom days to regular basis. The personnel of this office embraces the following: T. A. Darling, manager; J. L. Rochelle, day operator; A. W. Dunbar, Jr., night operator; T. J. Renaud, bookkeeper; J. F. Talbott, day receiving and delivery clerk; W. Griggsby, night clerk, and Cal. Price, lineman.

Taking effect April 1 the Postal Telegraph Company of Texas announces reduction in rates of ten cents from Beaumont, Tex., to Memphis, Tenn., St. Louis, Mo., and Kansas City, Mo., from 60 and 4 to 50 and 3.

#### PITTSBURG, PA., POSTAL.

Mr. T. Peckes, district foreman, on behalf of the linemen of the district, presented retiring Superintendent L. Lemon with a handsome clock as a token of the esteem in which he was held by them.

Miss Belle Lowry has resigned as counter clerk to accept a position with the Sheet Steel and Tin Plate Company. Miss Elizabeth Davis succeeds her, and Miss Georgia Thompson is promoted from file clerk to assistant counter clerk, Miss Laura Stewart from check to file clerk and "Gus" Lintner from file clerk to district clerk.

Miss Nettie Boyd and Miss Hazel Dewsnap have been appointed check girls.

Other resignations: E. M. Love, H. W. Waterson and Chief of Delivery Mr. G. W. Deal, the latter to accept a position with the Mutual Pension Association of North America; and Harry Toms, who goes with the Sheet Steel and Tin Plate Company.

Mr. Robert N. Reynolds has been assigned to the New York bonus wire, vice H. W. Waterson; A. V. Winbourne, R. P. Armstrong and L. S. Abram to split trick; H. C. Stevenson to extra list; Night Wire Chief Dull to repeaters, days, and Day Repeater Chief Graham to night wire chief.

Miss B. G. Marquis has been appointed operator at the Hotel Henry; E. D. Walker to straight days.

#### MONTREAL, QUE., CANADIAN PACIFIC.

Mr. J. E. Flood has resigned and left for Delta, Ont., his home, where he will spend several weeks resting. Much regret was expressed at his departure owing to his popularity.

Mr. W. S. Watts has returned from a brief trip to Toronto.

Arrivals: F. C. Allen, C. E. McWha, North Sydney, N. S.; J. H. Mackay, Swift Current,

Ont.; John McCaffrey, Geo. Dungan and W. F. Kenny, city.

Mr. George Carter, a well-known telegrapher and a former employee of this office, was a recent visitor.

Mr. Janvier Fortier has resumed his duties at the office after an absence of two weeks, occasioned by an attack of neuralgia.

Mr. Nelson Noble has accepted a position with Messrs. Meeker & Co., brokers, this city, and Mr. X. Senecal has likewise accepted a similar position with Messrs. Meredith & Co., also brokers.

Messrs. W. G. Bancroft and W. D. Fraser have been assigned to the office which has recently been opened in the Montreal Stock Exchange. Both gentlemen are well-known hustlers in handling stock messages, and have, no doubt, been well chosen to fill the positions.

#### MONTREAL, QUE., GREAT NORTH WEST-ERN.

Chief Operator W. Graham, who is absent because of illness, is convalescing.

Miss M. St. Pierre has resigned and accepted a position with the Canadian Pacific road at Windsor station.

Miss Ladouceur, of Berlin, N. H., and John Vautier, of this city, are the latest additions to the staff.

A new office has been opened in the Merchants' Stock Exchange for the accommodation of brokers. Frank Cochrane is in charge.

Miss Mable Palmer has returned after a month's vacation at Dorchester, N. B.

Superintendent E. Pope, of Quebec, and Superintendent of Construction A. B. Smith, Toronto, were late visitors.

#### 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.

#### ST. LOUIS, MO., WESTERN UNION.

Miss Annie McLaughlin has gone to Hot Springs to help out during the rush season there.

C. W. Groos, chief of the Eastern Division, has gone to Hot Springs to take charge of that office during Manager Ryan's illness, and is succeeded by Charles Fry.

W. H. Dinwiddie, who has been seriously ill with the grippe for the past ten days, is around again.

Harry Boone, assistant chief operator, was called to Alabama by the serious illness of his sister.

C. Howard Shell, night traffic chief, has been on the board days during Mr. Boone's absence.

George Smith, of the Merchants' Exchange force, who slipped and broke his ankle some time since, has resumed work.

"Dip" McCrudden has gone to Hannibal, Mo., temporarily.

Various juries still seem partial to telegraphic talents much to the operators' disgust.

### CHICAGO, ILL.

**WANTED, A FIRST CLASS OPERATOR.** Type-writers make numerous first class operators that are always in demand. To be first class requires both quantity and quality of work; can't keep up the quality with dirty, blurred type, nor the quantity if you spend 15 minutes daily, cleaning type. Get one of our brushes that cleans your type while you work. Postpaid, 50 cents each. Eacutt & Cawthorn, 2704 N. Lincoln St., Chicago, Ills.

### POSTAL.

Mr. Fleetwood, of Pittsburg, and Mr. Ditch, recently with the Postal at Dallas, Texas, are recent arrivals.

Edward Stanton has been appointed assistant chief metropolitan department nights, vice Fred Buecking, resigned.

S. D. Barger is now night timekeeper.

W. H. Bowman, Mr. Graef and Richard Ahlers are working split trick.

### WESTERN UNION.

We are glad to hear of the steady improvement of Mrs. Charles Finley who is under the care of a specialist, who has hopes of her complete recovery.

Mrs. Blanche M. Ames is here once more and expects to remain throughout the summer.

James White has gone to Pittsburg for change of climate.

All are glad to see Arthur Galey at his old place again, after a short illness.

At the last annual meeting of the Telegraphers' Aid Society it was voted to pay a benefit of eight dollars in place of seven dollars per week. This measure is tending to secure an enlarged list of new subscribers.

The popular young wire chief, Samuel Schulkins, has returned to the board after a brief illness.

Frank Likes, expert wire chief, has been a constant reader of TELEGRAPH AGE and has purchased many of the valuable books advertised in its columns and says he owes his success to the benefits thus obtained.

Allen Parker has gone on a split trick and says there is nothing like it. Claud Whitlock has also enrolled himself for a 7 and 11 split. Mr. Whitlock is a giant at work and can roll out lots of work in an hour as the boys in Boston can truly testify.

Of all the genial story tellers Harry Perry, of the Sioux City quad, nights, is the star. He has anywhere from one to four good ones every evening, and just before 9.30 you can see an amused group of listeners about him and "Tom" Hanley's infections and merry laughter can be heard all around.

A. C. Duffy has again enrolled himself as a subscriber to TELEGRAPH AGE and says he cannot get along smoothly without it.

Mr. J. C. Barclay, electrician, and Mr. C. H.

Bristol, superintendent of construction, who go to New York to fill the higher positions, respectively, or electrical engineer and general superintendent of construction, of the company, are followed by the sincere well wishes of the staff.

### FALL RIVER, MASS., WESTERN UNION.

J. J. Welsh and W. H. Connelly have resigned and gone to work for the Postal in this city. W. J. Loveless of Providence relieves Mr. Welsh and C. F. Sisson, Mr. Connelly.

### PHILADELPHIA, PA., WESTERN UNION.

We drop a silent tear to the memory of H. T. Paulhamus, whom we knew as a boy and whose rapid rise to the eminence of a gilt edged operator we watched with great interest. Paul, as he was familiarly known, died March 21 after a short illness. He was well and favorably known to the fraternity at large, especially so among the broker operators, as a hail fellow well met, always ready to do a good turn or to help a needy one at any time.

Miss Ella Hellings has accepted a position with this company at Atlantic City, N. J., for the summer. W. F. Scherer has again returned to duty after an absence of several months due to illness.

The Aid Society will give another euchre and hop April 9.

### PHILADELPHIA, PA., POSTAL.

Much interest was manifested in the report concerning Mr. Furman's great work on the first New York bonus wire. The record was broken on March 14, with a total of 722 messages for nine hours' service, including a twenty minutes relief to his credit.

Arrivals: C. W. Smith, W. F. Wright, A. H. Miller, E. M. Carpenter, formerly train dispatcher at Cape Charles, Va.; M. G. Tull, also from Cape Charles; Frederick J. Skerrett, J. F. Purcell, J. A. Sullivan, L. D. Heath, T. J. Fullam and J. J. Beasley.

Resignations: Edward Burt, to accept a more remunerative position with the Western Union; C. E. Cox, to go to Cincinnati; J. J. Fourney, to Chicago, and Irwin H. Drace, from the Third and Chestnut streets branch office.

On account of a severe accident to Manager Edward Norgan, of the mill district office, Mr. Benjamin Crawford was ordered to report there until Mr. Norgan's return.

Sickness has compelled Miss Lou Koch to remain away for some time; we learn with regret that she is quite ill.

Mr. Edward Cornell is also among the absentees.

Invitations were received here by a number of operators to attend the wedding of Mr. Charles P. Appell at Atlantic City, N. J., who was married to Miss Eva Stebbins, an estimable young lady of that place. Our most sincere and hearty congratulations are herewith extended to the happy couple.

Mr. George B. Morris is making a great success of an ingenious invention which ignites gas without the aid of matches or electricity. Traffic

Chief George W. Dunn is associated with Mr. Morris and is quite enthusiastic over the outlook.

The storm aftermath continues to bring out many interesting facts. Manager W. L. Stanger, of the wool district office, reports his receipts greater during the season of "no wires" than under ordinary conditions. His able assistants, Mr. Frederick Fix and the Misses Marv Morris and Katie C. McIntyre, rendered valuable service in enabling him to maintain his reputation as a hustler.

Mr. "Cy" Moffett, of the Third and Arch streets office, claims the distinction of having the only branch office in the city whose bell circuits remained intact.

The New York bonus wire, nights, is now ably taken care of by Mr. McGarvey who was appointed to that circuit as successor to Mr. Fourney.

Robert Sterling is again enrolled at this office, being relieved at the dry goods district office by Mr. Walker Molloy, from the Western Union, city.

### NEW YORK CITY.

"My Old Virginia Home Upon the Farm," one of the sweetest songs published; "God's Will Not Ours be Done," (McKinley's last words) strong descriptive song with martial music; "Left on the Battlefield;" "Down Where the Cotton Blossoms Grow;" "I'll be With You When the Roses Bloom Again;" "Any Old Place I Can Hang My Hat is Home Sweet Home to Me;" "Heirloom Waltzes;" Zenda Waltzes;" "Utopian Waltzes;" "Metropolitan March and Two Step;" 18 cents each. If you want any other sheet music write to me about it. I can save you money. PIANOS SOLD ONE DOLLAR PER WEEK. Address, B. L. Brannan, 195 Broadway, New York.

### WESTERN UNION.

Mr. W. H. Mayer of the New Haven wire has received from Germany a sum of money in settlement of his father's estate in that country. This accounts for the jovial expression seen on the face of Mr. Mayer.

John J. Donnelly, one of the oldest members of the operating force, died March 26.

M. L. Snyder, a new member of the force, died on March 20th.

T. Martin and M. S. Melville have returned from Atlanta, Ga., where they have been for some months assisting in the establishment of the Wheatstone system.

J. Bannon has returned from Palm Beach, Fla., where he has been working during the winter.

Mr. T. L. Brophy of the Southern Division was married to a Miss Rand, recently.

General Traffic Chief Nourse, in selecting Miss Nina Voorhees as his clerk has secured one who will ably assist him in the discharge of his multifarious duties. She has done superior work on the neostyle for over two years.

The annual meeting of the New York Telegraphers' Aid Society was held in the Western Union Building March 26, vice-president E. E. Brannin presiding. The secretary's report showed the membership to be 1,179, a net gain of 32 for the year; 69 lapsed, and 13 deaths. Total receipts were \$7,922.02, and disbursements \$6,583.06, leaving a balance on hand of \$14,808.97. Sick benefits paid to men, \$3,673, to women, \$1,440. Death benefits paid to men, \$1,200, to women, \$100. Receipts for the Relief Fund \$571.50; disbursements, \$693.00, leaving a balance on hand of \$4,519.47.

Those elected to serve for the ensuing year were: President, F. F. Norton; vice-president, E. E. Brannin; recording secretary, R. Ferguson; financial secretary, William J. Quinn; treasurer, Thomas M. Brennan; executive committee: Miss S. Dougherty, Miss M. E. Jermain, A. J. Gilman, Chas. J. Power, F. J. Sheridan, R. C. McDonald, M. F. O'Neill, Joseph Gschwind, W. W. Price, Joseph Dion and C. A. Kilfoyle. Auditing committee: John H. Driscoll, Frank D. Murphy and John Brant.

George S. Brown, aged 28, a well-known telegrapher of New York, died at San Diego, Cal., of consumption, on March 16.

Robert L. DeAkers, aged fifty-three years, an old-time telegrapher, died in Brooklyn, N. Y., March 20. He had been identified with the fraternity in New York city and in Washington for the past thirty-five years.

Mr. Robert Morton of this office says the most amusing bull that has ever come under his notice was one made in a Western state many years ago. A certain divine had been called from that part of the country to the East, but was not able to keep his engagement, and explained in a message as follows: "Presbytery lacked a quorum to confirm." The message reached its destination, reading: "Presbytery tacked a worm onto Adam." The church people after deliberating for a long time concluded that the minister had been married, and they set to work to fix up the parsonage for the bridal couple, and it may be presumed when the true state of affairs was realized some blasphemous words were uttered for the benefit of the poor telegrapher.

### POSTAL.

J. P. Williams is doing good work at the Daily Advertiser office.

The new switchboard here is a great curiosity, being so entirely different from any ever seen.

Miss Clay has been assigned to the Eastern Division.

Messrs. Hawes and Kirby are doing some excellent work on the second side of the first Boston.

Edward Fullum and Joseph Clark are frequently called upon to sub at brokers' offices.

W. W. Shannon of Newark, N. J., for several years operator in the Eastern Division of this office, died March 26. Although he had been ill for several weeks, his death was entirely unexpected. He was an "old timer" having learned the busi-

ness over thirty-five years ago. He afterwards became connected with the New Jersey Bell Telephone Company, and remained with that company several years, when he returned to his old profession, entering the service of the Postal company here.

City Chief S. Haig, is at his post again having fully recovered from a severe attack of grip.

#### Electricity and Nerve Force.

The March number of the *Century Magazine* contains a remarkable article by Professor Albert P. Mathews, Ph. D., assistant professor of physiological chemistry in the University of Chicago, on "The Nature of the Nerve Impulse, a Physical Explanation of One of the Phenomena of Life." In this most interesting paper Professor Mathews gives the conclusions reached by Professor Loeb and himself as the result of their investigations along the line of the development of modern physiology.

In his recapitulation Professor Mathews says: "It has been shown: First, that the chemical stimulation of protoplasm is really an electrical stimulation." It is worthy of note that this and the other deductions made by Professors Loeb and Mathews sustain the proposition maintained by Dr. J. Emmet O'Brien, of Scranton, Pa., an oldtime and United States Military telegrapher, before the Pennsylvania State Medical Society in September, 1900, namely, that "Nerve force is electricity." Earlier in the same year Dr. O'Brien presented the same proposition before the Lackawanna County (Pa.) Medical Society, and his original and interesting views on the subject were noticed in "The Truth" at the time and widely discussed. Professors Loeb and Mathews extended the proposition to muscle and all protoplasm. Dr. O'Brien did, too, but omitted this from his paper before the State Medical Society, as he had hoped his conclusions would be more favorably received if limited to the nerves.

The elaborate experiments of Professors Loeb and Mathews fully corroborate Dr. O'Brien's claims, and will probably stimulate those who were inclined to doubt his discovery to study this important subject anew.

#### The College Girl's Telegram.

The telegrams of college girls are sometimes very much to the point. A young woman trying for a degree this spring, who was one of the sufferers of the recent fire at Bryn Mawr by which the dormitory, Denbigh Hall, was destroyed, relieved her mother's mind the next morning by the following despatch:

"My thesis and I are saved. Nothing else."

A second young woman made a visit last spring to Vassar. There had been talk at home of allowing her to enter the college as a student when she was ready and the visit to a student friend was undertaken on the girl's part with a view to seeing how she would like college life.

Her father, who is very careful of his daughter, disliked to let her take the short trip alone and told her to send a telegram when she reached the college. In the excitement of arrival the wire was a little delayed, but it got off about an hour later, reading like this:

"Arrived safe. Vassar great. Send application P. D. Q."

#### New Cable Plans.

The Dutch Government has submitted to the States General for its approval a telegraphic convention with Germany which provides for a joint subsidy for a cable system to the Dutch colonies in the Far East. It is proposed to connect this line at Manado, the Dutch capital of the residency of the same name in Celebes, with the projected cable connecting the United States and the Philippines.

#### The Latest 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.

#### Old Time Telegraphers.

John Brant, secretary, has received advice from President Corse, Ogden, Utah, that the annual reunion of the Old Time Telegraphers' and Historical Association will be held at Salt Lake City, Utah, September 10, 11 and 12 next.

Nearly one hundred applications for membership in the Old Time Telegrapher's and Historical Association have been received by Secretary Brant since the last meeting at Montreal. The total membership is now in the neighborhood of 1,200. Mr. Brant will be pleased to forward application blanks to those who ask for them.

### Preserve Your Papers.

By taking a little trouble, when TELEGRAPH AGE first comes to hand, it may be preserved to form a permanent and valuable addition to the reading matter with which all individuals should be supplied. We furnish a neat and attractive cloth board binder, which will be sent by mail, prepaid, for \$1.00. It has good, strong covers, on which the name TELEGRAPH AGE is stamped in gold, and means by which each issue may be securely held as in a bound book. One binder may thus be made serviceable for several years, and when the successive volumes, as they are completed, are bound in permanent form, the subscriber ultimately finds himself, for a moderate cost, in possession of a most valuable addition to any library, embracing a wide variety of telegraph, electrical and general information, and timely and original illustrations. Save your papers.

It would be interesting to know how many operators in each office are in favor of government telegraphy, how many are opposed to it and how many are neutral. If some one in each office would take the trouble to obtain this information, we would be very glad to give it space in our columns.

"Small Accumulators" is the title of an illustrated volume of eighty-one pages, by Percival Marshall, M. E. The book covers the subject of storage batteries, as indicated by its name, as fully as is possible, and it will be found a practical and trustworthy guide of the matter treated, readily understood by non-technical readers. The price of the book is fifty cents, an amount which covers the prepayment of express charges. Address J. B. Taltavall, Telegraph Age, 253 Broadway, New York.

[Advertising will be accepted to appear in this column at the rate of three cents a word.]

FLEXIBLE RUBBER KEY KNOBS made to fit over the hard rubber telegraph Key Knob, render the touch easy to the finger and improves the sending of the operator. These Key Knobs are sold at twenty-five cents apiece. Those who once try them are certain to use them permanently. For sale (send stamps) by TELEGRAPH AGE, 253 Broadway, New York.

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New York, New Haven & Hartford R. R. Co.	Central of Georgia R. R. Co.
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Central Railroad of New Jersey.	Standard Oil Co.
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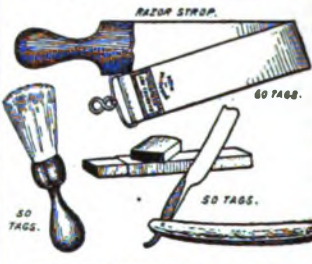
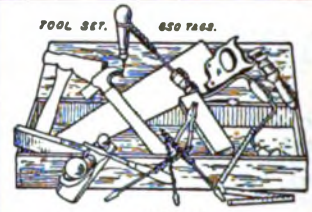
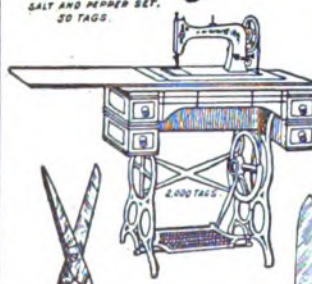
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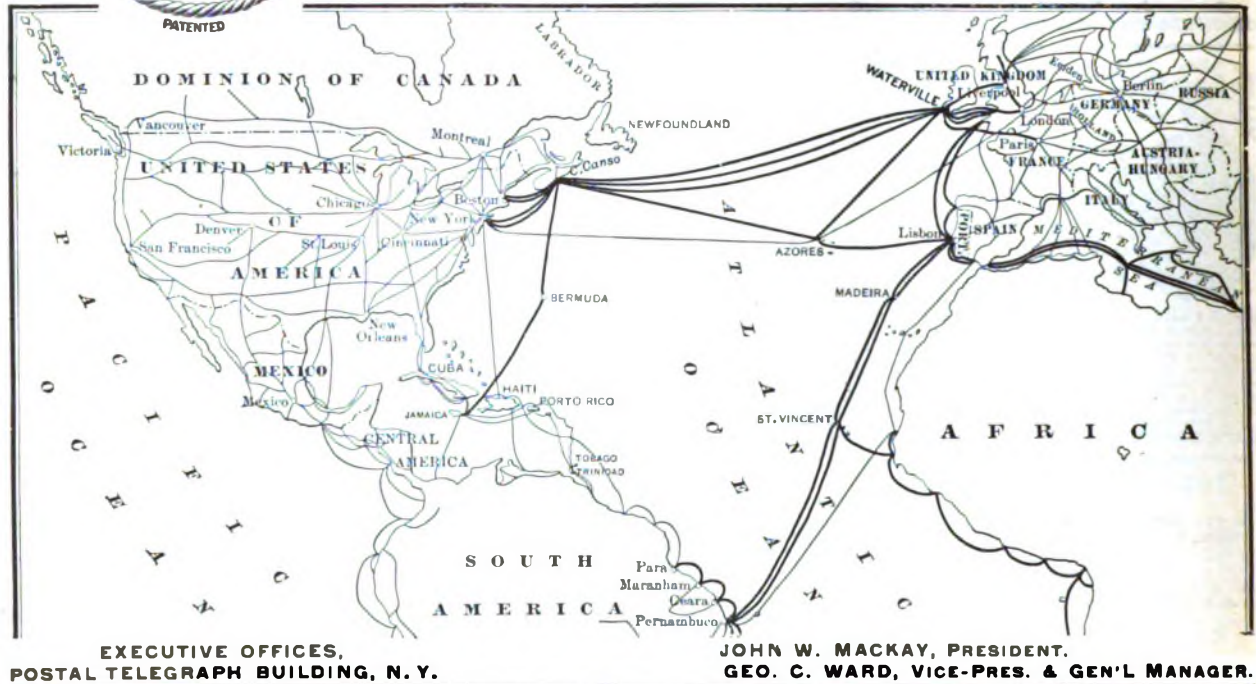
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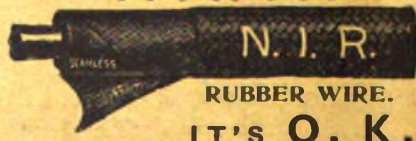


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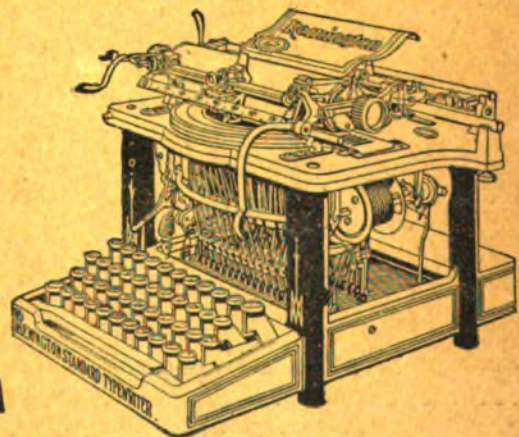
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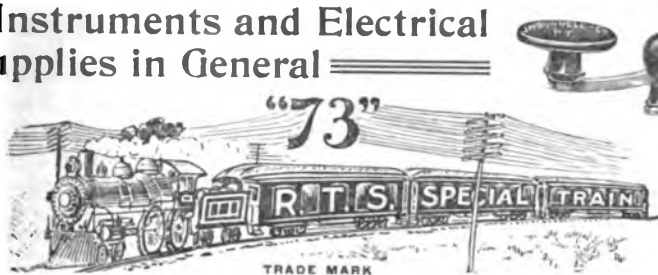
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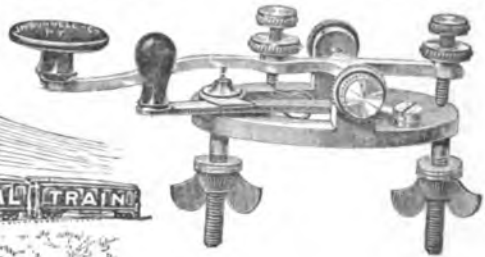
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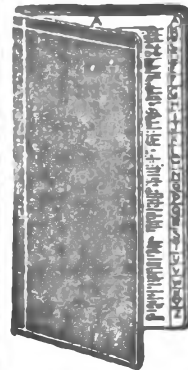
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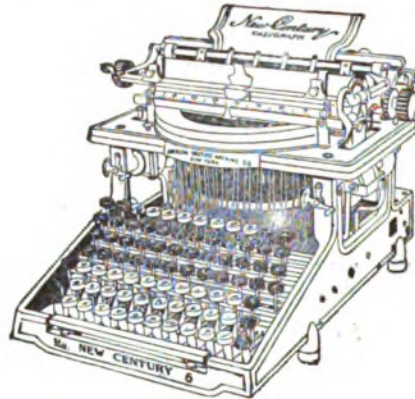
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*Supplement to TELEGRAPH AGE,  
April 16, 1902.*

# THE TELEGRAPH AGE

No. 8.

NEW YORK, APRIL 16, 1902.

Vol. XIX.

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## SOME POINTS ON ELECTRICITY.

### The Equipment of a Modern Telegraph Office.

(Concluded.)

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 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.]

In bringing this series of articles on "The Equipment of a Modern Telegraph Office" to a close with this installment, the reader must not infer that the subject has been exhausted by any means, but rather that it is desirable to make a break, temporarily, in order to make room for information regarding, and replies to, numerous questions on electrical subjects which have been accumulating for some time.

A description of the Buckingham automatic telegraph system and the gold and stock ticker method belongs, properly, to a series bearing the above caption, and the subjects will be taken up later on. In the meantime any one desiring im-

mediate information regarding the gold and stock methods can find it in Maver's "American Telegraphy" where the subject is fully covered and in a manner that could not well be improved upon.

The Buckingham apparatus which is being rapidly installed in our larger offices is a most intricate piece of mechanism, complete details and illustrations of which are as yet unavailable for the purpose of publication. The method of operation, however, is to so graduate the magnetic strength of a number of electromagnets, in a local circuit that together with certain ingenious mechanical devices the type for the various letters of the alphabet are controlled and caused to print the incoming messages on the regulation receiving blanks in practically the usual form.

The system is hardly as fast as the Wheatstone method, but as the incoming messages are ready for delivery the moment they are received there is no further delay to be expected, such as would be the case were it necessary for them to be first recopied from a tape. Outgoing business must first be prepared for the transmitter by means of perforated tape, after the manner of the Wheatstone method, but newly devised perforating machines possessing keyboards of the Standard Remington typewriter arrangement has so simplified that part of the work that any careful typewriter can be called upon to perform the service.

In arranging the apparatus about the operating department that is assigned to special services, such as repeaters and broker multiplex sets, the proper place for their location seems to be a rather hard problem to solve to the satisfaction of all concerned. The men detailed to look after such apparatus naturally prefer to have them located compactly in a department by itself, but some wire chiefs are inclined to believe that each division should have its own share of repeaters and spare apparatus situated in close proximity to their switchboard where no time need be lost in starting the apparatus, or wasted in awaiting written notifications in case of wire interruptions.

No doubt there is something in the latter suggestion, especially where the said department is on one floor and the wire chief and switchboards are on another, as is the case in one or two large offices, still there is the question of economy to be considered and each office must be governed in the matter by the individual features presented. In planning a new office the question of arrangement is certainly worthy of consideration, as alterations are always expensive.

However, the day is not far distant when most of our principal offices will occupy so much space

that the separate department plan for detail work will necessarily be universally adopted for economical as well as other good reasons. Where such an arrangement obtains, all such departments or house divisions should be connected by a short wire to some convenient—preferably central part of the room—where all wire communications may be received and distributed by special messenger to the proper parties.

The loop switch is naturally the ideal location for the receipt and distribution of wire messages and information of all kinds appertaining to interruptions.

A good plan for the operation of this method is to construct a house wire around the operating room and other parts of the building which leads to every main wire switchboard and department with which quick communication may be desired. For a circuit of this kind four ohm sounders should be used.

The electromotive force employed for the house wire may be of any low value convenient, the strength of the current being easily regulated by the insertion of lamp resistance.

#### Personal Mention.

Colonel A. B. Chandler, of New York, chairman of the board of directors of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, has returned from his Southern trip much improved in health.

Mr. H. C. Hope, superintendent of telegraph of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railway Company, St. Paul, has returned from Nassau, Bahama Islands, much benefitted in health.

General Superintendent of Construction C. H. Bristol, and Electrical Engineer J. C. Barclay, of the Western Union Telegraph Company, New York, are making a tour of inspection of the lines and offices in the eastern division of the company.

Mr. David R. Davies, assistant superintendent of construction of the Western Union Telegraph Company for the Pacific Coast, with headquarters at San Francisco, Cal., has been promoted to the position of superintendent of construction of the entire western division, at Chicago, succeeding Mr. C. H. Bristol, who has gone to New York. Mr. Davies went to San Francisco as general foreman of construction in 1886, and six years later he was advanced to the position he has lately vacated.

Mr. H. P. Dwight, of Toronto, Ont., president and general manager of the Great North Western Telegraph Company, who has been confined to his house for the past ten weeks with a broken leg, has recovered sufficiently to be out again. He is compelled to use a cane for the present, but hopes to be able to discard even that aid to locomotion in a short time. The fractured bone has mended perfectly, and no doubt the injured member will in time become as strong as it was before the accident. During the time that Mr. Dwight was

confined to his home his private library was converted into a temporary office, from which he transacted his ramified business affairs, and here his stenographer and the officials of the company visited him daily for instructions and advice. Mr. Dwight was the recipient of the hearty congratulations of his hosts of friends and acquaintances on his reappearance on the streets of Toronto and in business circles.

#### Obituary.

Hunter M. Scott, a Western Union operator at Lynchburg, Va., was drowned on March 23, while boating. He was about 32 years of age.

Alfred H. Askin, of Pittsburg, Pa., aged 61, died March 21. Mr. Askin was one of the oldest telegraphers in Pittsburg, having worked with the Western Union Telegraph Company in that city since the close of the Civil War. Deceased was also prominent in Grand Army circles. He is survived by his wife and four daughters.

Anna R. Tierney, aged three years, the youngest daughter of Mr. P. J. Tierney, manager of the central cable office, 46 Broad street, New York, died April 10, from shock, the result of burns received from her dress catching fire. She was buried in Calvary Cemetery, on Friday, April 11. The peculiar sadness attending this death has caused much sympathy to be extended to Mr. Tierney.

Mr. John A. Macdonald, a native of Ottawa, Ont., aged 45 years, a well-known telegrapher in New York and Philadelphia, died at the latter place on April 1. Mr. Macdonald had been a resident of the "Quaker City" for the past twenty-five years, and was one of the most expert operators in the country. He was a brother of George F. Macdonald, superintendent of the Ottawa, Ont., fire alarm telegraph system. The remains were buried in Philadelphia.

James A. Murray, an operator for the Southern Pacific Company for the past six years at Spofford Junction, Tex., died at that place on March 21, aged 62 years. Previous to Mr. Murray's entering the railroad service he was one of the best known commercial operators in the United States. He was The Associated Press operator in the Western Union office at St. Louis in the seventies where he did excellent work which coupled his name with the expert telegraphers of those days. Previous to his going to St. Louis he was employed by the Western Union Company at Toledo, O., and at other points. He was a native of Michigan, and for eight years previous to his entering the Southern Pacific service, he was a ranchman in Texas.

George Senf, the oldest active telegrapher on the Pacific Coast, died in San Francisco, Cal., on April 3rd, aged 75 years. Up to two years ago Mr. Senf was manager of the Western Union office at Sacramento, but since that time illness caused him to give up managerial duties, and he has been employed as an operator in the West-

ern Union office in the metropolis of the Pacific Coast during that period. Mr. Senf commenced his telegraphic career at Attica, N. Y., in 1852. He went to California by the way of Panama, and commenced work for the old California State Telegraph Company April 15, 1854. He has been continually employed by the California State and the Western Union Telegraph companies ever since. He was manager at Virginia City during the Comstock mining excitement, and was the only operator in San Francisco, from August, 1854, until October, 1855, the force then consisting of an operator, bookkeeper and messenger boy. He received the first President's message ever sent by telegraph to the Coast, on December 2, 1862. Mr. Senf, in the old days, was known as the "Noah of Gaffy," on the Pacific Coast. "Gaffy" was a nick-name for telegraph.

#### New York Visitors.

Mr. W. S. Logue, western manager of the Edison Manufacturing Company, Chicago, Ill.

Mr. C. E. McKim, superintendent of telegraph, Pennsylvania Railroad Company, Pittsburg, Pa.

Mr. Edward J. Nally, general superintendent of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, Chicago, Ill.

Mr. Charles C. Adams, general superintendent of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, Atlanta, Ga.

Mr. W. H. Williams, assistant secretary of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company, Baltimore, Md.

#### General Mention.

Mr. H. Davis, manager of the Western Union Telegraph Company, Decatur, Ill., has been promoted to the management of the Cedar Rapids, Ia., office.

"TELEGRAPH AGE is always welcome and very much appreciated," writes W. B. Eddy manager of the Western Union Telegraph Company, Whitehall, N. Y.

Mr. F. J. Scherrer, private secretary to R. C. Clowry, president and general manager of the Western Union Telegraph Company, New York, has removed from Chicago to the Metropolis.

Mr. Ralph E. Bristol, secretary to the general superintendent of construction of the Western Union Telegraph Company, has removed from Chicago to New York, where he will be hereafter located.

Mr. C. E. Paige has resigned as manager of the Western Union Telegraph Company's office at Cincinnati, because of ill health. His successor is Walter Browne, who has been manager of the Dayton office for some time.

The American District Telegraph and Messenger Company of Jersey City, N. J., has been

incorporated, with an authorized capital of \$50,000, to operate lines of telegraph, a messenger service, and a system of electrical call boxes in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Delaware. The incorporators are F. L. Blendinger, C. S. Shivler and J. C. Willever.

Mr. J. H. Drakeford, manager of the Western Union Telegraph Company at Asheville, N. C., has resigned to accept a more lucrative position with the Paris Medicine Company, with headquarters at St. Louis, Mo. The Southern division in this resignation has lost one of its brightest managers. It will be remembered that Mr. Drakeford about one year ago was married to Miss Clara Bristol, daughter of the general superintendent of construction of the Western Union Telegraph Company. The managership at Asheville will be filled temporarily by Mr. A. W. Drakeford, brother of Mr. J. H. Drakeford.

#### Cable Items.

The new German-Dutch Cable Company whose headquarters will be at Cologne, will have exclusive rights to lay cables from Menado, the chief place in Northern Celebes, to the island of Guam, and thence to Shanghai, there connecting with the American Pacific cable. The company is to receive annual subsidies of \$250,000 from Germany and \$70,000 from Holland. The directorate is in part German and in part Dutch. It is believed that the treaty includes a secret protocol of a political nature. In London it is said that the manner in which the Americans acted in regard to the cable to the Philippines is well remembered, and the Continent believes that if Great Britain became involved in a European war she would no more respect the neutrality of submarine cables than did the United States.

Fanning Island, a little coral reef in the South Pacific, is to be the resting place for the English submarine cable, which will run from British Columbia to Australia. On the island, which is 1,080 miles south of Hawaii, the English Cable Company will establish its midocean station, expending about \$125,000 there for buildings and equipment. The plans provide for quarters for the telegraphic staff, including an operating room, a dwelling for the Superintendent of the station, a carpenter shop, bath houses, a lamp room, kitchens, and a large reservoir for catching and preserving rain water for drinking purposes. The walls of these structures are to be of coral obtained on the island, but all the other material will come from San Francisco. The coral will be covered with cement on the exterior. The cable station will be located at English Harbor, the only shipping entrance on the island.

George G. Ward, vice-president of the Commercial Cable Company, who is in San Francisco, says that by next Thanksgiving Day San Francisco will be in cable communication with Honolulu.

"I am in California to select a landing place

for the cable," said Mr. Ward. "The first section will be laid from some point on the coast. The spot to be selected will be either San Francisco or Monterey. The Navy Department recommends Monterey, but we prefer San Francisco, as it is the metropolis of the coast.

"The cable ought to start from the latter place, and unless we find difficulties that cannot be overcome it will be brought ashore as near the city as possible. I have just looked over Monterey Bay and am now inspecting the surroundings of San Francisco. Not only must the cable lie on a good bottom, where it will not be interfered with by ships at anchor, but we have to study the electric conditions of a city like San Francisco, because the strong trolley currents cause disturbances in ocean cables.

"I have received a cablegram since my arrival on the coast saying that the manufacture of the cable is going ahead satisfactorily at the rate of 600 miles a month. Barring accidents, it will be finished and shipped on board the steamer Silverton by the end of July and laid by November 1, according to contract."

### Some Amusing Tilts Indulged in by Telegraph Operators.

BY P. H. FALL.

Many amusing incidents occur to render a telegrapher's existence more than bearable. They often have their war of words over the wires, but being separated by long distances, these little tilts do not often prove serious affairs. In fact they are not near so dangerous as an episode of like character between irate females who, when in close proximity to each other, occasionally vary the monotony by indulging in the pastime of a hair pulling or a scratching picnic. Experience proves that when they thus become engaged, unlike men, they are not looking around for some one to hold their antagonist, but sail right in and darken the surrounding atmosphere with bangs, bits of raiment and clouds of dust, that render it difficult to distinguish "tother from which," and when an engagement of this character is terminated the participants do not know whether they are "one of dem, or one of doze."

Telegraphers all have a letter of the alphabet by which they are distinguished over the wires, and this letter must be used and imprinted with the minute of time of handling each and every telegram. This is an inexorable rule and no "knight of the key" would venture to deviate from the course.

A few days since "C. D." of Galveston and "P" of San Antonio, came near demolishing many insulators on the celebrated Galveston and San Antonio fast circuit over a difference of opinion such as first class operators are often addicted to. Had they been near together this misunderstanding would probably never had occurred, or if it had arisen the good judgment and prudence of these first class and popular men of

the fraternity would have arrived at an amicable settlement instanter. However, being several hundred miles apart, they neglected the usual precautions and lambasted each other with all the beautiful rhetoric of which the English language is capable. Not until the chief operator casually sauntered towards their part of the office did they realize that much valuable time had been wasted in the fruitless battle and no one would have ever imagined that such a terrific strife had been so recently waged. Magically business was being dispatched at the rate of seventy messages an hour.

Had this wire duel ended there all would have been well, but "C. D." like the sand crab island, of which he is one of the many monarchs, proved himself a man of backbone with a spine as durable as that of our own Cleveland.

The writer knowing "P" personally, felt some solicitude and innocently inquired of San Antonio as to "P's" condition. Instantly, not unlike the gray horse, tearing rapidly through the wilderness, came the vicious reply: "Look here, old man, if there were no lady operators on this wire, I'd tell you what I think of you!" It proved to be "P," himself, and the way he rushed me with a stack of never ending "dead-head" messages was convincing proof that no crazy man could render the Western Union such intelligible and rapid service.

It is now the general impression among the fraternity that "C. D." imagining himself on the verge of insanity, adopted this method of diverting attention from himself.

Old "B." at Dallas, the philosopher of the craft, delivered me a dissertation over the wire on the probability of all operators being either hopeless cranks or near the crazy line. He acknowledged himself as being half "lunny" and asserted that he had all along during these many years of working together, known me as a hopeless lunatic.

This comforting knowledge has set me to thinking and wondering if "B's" ideas wouldn't be applicable to the rest of mankind. I have concluded that "P" is as sane as his traducer, "C. D." or any other operator.

He stooped to conquer and pursued a peculiar system of tactics. He solemnly wired Houston, Dallas, Austin and the other of the principal offices that poor "P" of San Antonio had gone crazy, at the same time expressing his sorrow at the melancholy occurrence. During that day and the next telegrams began pouring into San Antonio from every city and hamlet, inquiring as to the truth or falsity of the report. Many expressions of condolence and offers of assistance were flashed to the Tamale City. They became so numerous that they threatened to delay all business and exhaust the regular supply of stationary. To cap the climax, "C. D." cruelly notified the fraternity that "P" could do no damage, as he had been placed in a straight jacket.

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**Destruction of Wires by Storm.**

BY FRANCIS W. JONES, OF NEW YORK.

(In the ELECTRICAL WORLD AND ENGINEER.)

Sirs:—I note your recent editorial with reference to the reported heavy damage to wires by the sleet and wind storms of last month. You may probably remember that some years ago I wrote an article advocating the erection of more substantial structures and wires, and it has always seemed to me that the telegraph has arrived at that stage of importance in the business and social affairs of this country that it demands wires and supports of such a character as to be entirely proof against being disarranged by any of the atmospheric changes which may take place in any part of our country at any time, excepting perhaps cyclones and similar very infrequent and unusual visitations.

But having such a theory is one thing, and having such a substantial telegraph system is another. A chain needs to have its links all of the same strength, as a weak link determines the value of the whole chain, but a telegraph system needs to have strong links at points where there is great strain and other links modified to suit their respective surrounding existing or possible conditions.

It is impossible for me in this brief comment to give any information that would have very much value for publication, any more than a lawyer could give you an off-hand opinion in a few minutes in a very complicated lawsuit involving millions of dollars. It is obvious that the resort to metal poles all over the United States would be entirely absurd if the weakness of our telegraph system is not in the present wooden poles. It is also obvious that if the present wooden poles are not stout enough or properly arranged to withstand the strains placed upon them that it is feasible to enlarge them, and that such should be brought into consideration of the subject when finally deciding the best thing to do in the matter.

Telegraph lines are subjected to a variety of strains such as heavy gales, the maximum velocity of which yearly can be ascertained from the Weather Bureau for the various parts of the country. Also, forest fires where the lines go for hundreds of miles through canyons, gulches slides where they pass through canyons, gulches and over mountains, particularly the trans-continental lines in the northern latitudes. Also, the surcharging of our wires for days at a time by static electricity conveyed to the wires in heavy sandstorms through Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and California.\* Also, by snowstorms in the more northerly States, where the atmosphere is colder. Also, washouts caused by floods, the shattering of poles and the melting of wires by lightning, which has many times destroyed them, even with earth wires upon the poles; and last, but not least, is the cutting of our wires by

sleet in certain sections of the country, where a peculiar atmospheric condition prevails, such as has recently prevailed down the Mississippi Valley between St. Louis and Memphis extending about fifty miles east from the Mississippi River, and also between New York and Baltimore, extending inland one or two hundred miles from the Atlantic.

In these districts the atmosphere seems to become filled with vapor and the temperature kept at a point varying for a degree or two (Fahr.) above and below the freezing point for two, three or more days, allowing the rain (which is being constantly precipitated to earth) in its passage, to congeal upon the wires.

This, however, very infrequently causes the wires to coat to such an extent as to break them; unless the wires were of old or inferior description. The greatest damage was done by the deposit of the ice upon the trees, the limbs becoming so burdened that they either bent down and carried the wires with them or, as in a majority of cases, were broken off and in their fall cut the wires sometimes in several places between two poles.

On the south side of the Ohio River below Louisville for about fifty miles a telephone line was entirely wiped out of existence and had to be rebuilt, but of the size and strength of poles, arms and wires I have no information.

It has been my opinion for many years that if but a small part of the large amount of money that is annually expended by the two great telegraph companies of this country was expended as interest upon a sufficient amount of capital to put up larger wires of much lower electrical resistance and greater mechanical strength upon wooden structures of sufficient strength and rigidity and distance apart to support such wires against all the maximum stress of gales and storms that are to be encountered, and if such wires were placed further apart than they are at the present time and with a better class of insulators, that it would be a most profitable investment for the proprietors of the system, besides, without the shadow of a doubt, insuring to the public practically unbroken communication at all times between at least our chief commercial centres.

My mind is staggered at the idea of trying to secure such communication by the use of underground cables on account of the great engineering difficulties which present themselves and the enormous amount of capital that would be required to carry out such a plan.

I do not think I need at this time go further into details, as you are well aware that with open wires of low resistance placed laterally far apart upon the insulators, and with out present systems we could work every wire by the quadruplex system to a capacity nearly equal to four individual wires between all the important cities. With underground cables it is doubtful if we could do much more than to work polarized duplexes, and even in this case, I think the speed of Morse signals would be greatly diminished.

\* See Journal American Electrical Society, February 15, 1878, page 44, volume 2.

Between New York and Philadelphia our wires have been intact for many years. There never was a time but the public could have its business forwarded, except during this recent breakdown by sleet to which you refer. Of course, it is obvious that a cable, if in good working order, would have prevented the complete loss of means of communication in that direction. But suppose we had nothing but underground cables, there must necessarily be links of submarine cable to connect them at the various river crossings, and such links are subject to interruption. We would be then in as bad condition as we are with the overhead system; and if the underground system gave out in an out-of-the-way place which, to my mind, it would be very liable to do, it would take a long time to get a new cable to the spot and have the trouble removed, whereas with an overhead structure in such a case as the recent widespread prostration of the wires, the trouble is readily found and easily and quickly removed.

Passing by several very important side issues which if but briefly mentioned would too greatly extend this discussion, I beg to conclude with the opinion that the character of the present telegraph lines is quite up to, if not beyond, what the proprietors have been warranted in furnishing for the transmission of public business, when we consider what burdens and restrictions are placed upon them by federal, state and municipal laws and exactions, saying nothing of the demands made by the most critical and imperious of all patrons, viz., the great commercial and financial houses of our great cities who furnish practically about 95 per cent. of the telegraph business outside of the press.

There is no doubt that in many parts of our country there have been within recent years telegraph poles erected which cannot be thrown down by any storms short of cyclones, or some great flood such as inundates valley and destroys railroads. At the same time no doubt there is a temptation to add to existing poles more wires than sound engineering laws would assign to them. This is on account of the great difficulty of securing capital, and particularly a new right of way for the erection of a new line of poles merely to hold one or two wires to meet the needs of an increasing traffic, and such poles remain practically without load for some years until business has grown large enough to fill them up with the needed wires.

It is evident that it is impossible when a pole has got filled to that limit which engineering laws would decide to be a safe one that when a new wire was needed that all such poles must be immediately taken out and new and stronger ones take their place merely to accommodate one or two additional wires when perhaps the old poles were in a good state of preservation.

I have for some time been of the opinion that upon our principal trunk lines in addition to the supporting structures being of a much more substantial character than they are as a rule at present, the wires themselves should be greatly in-

creased in size with the consequent increase of their strength and diminution of their resistance; and at the same time they should be placed further apart to minimize the harmful effects of lateral electro-static induction, while the insulators should be made of much better and tougher material than the very cheap fragile glass that is supplied; and, as before intimated, lines constructed upon this plan should be the strongest at such points as the strains were liable to be the greatest, and not as is now generally the case, of uniform construction throughout the entire length.

It is not likely that such a proposed substantial structure will be a guarantee of absolute immunity from interruption of communication between principal cities such as New York and Chicago, New York and Boston, New York and New Orleans, etc., but there will be no question of the desirability of reducing such interruptions to as low a percentage as possible. I am also of the opinion that by the more substantial system that I have suggested it is possible to decrease the interruptions about 90 per cent., and also decrease the cost of repair at least 50 per cent., decreasing the batteries and currents used by about 30 per cent., increasing the phantom circuits by the use of quadruplexes by many hundreds of thousands of miles of such circuits, and by an increase in the carrying capacity of all of the present wires at least 10 per cent., probably much more.

It occurs to me in this climate that capital for telegraph purposes invested in the direction I have outlined, would be much more satisfactory in its returns than by undertaking over our great distances the tremendously expensive experiment of burying the wires in the earth.

Outside of the inevitable enormous slowing down of signals, the many great and formidable engineering obstacles to the underground system seem to me to render it entirely impracticable for supplanting the overhead wires for general telegraph purposes throughout the country.

"A B C of Electrical Experiments," by Prof. W. J. Clark, has just been published. As the initial letters of the title indicate this is an elementary book adapted to the needs of beginners and students. It is written in simple language, free from all technical terms, has 146 illustrations and gives plain instructions for the making of batteries, magnets, electric bells, induction coils, X-rays, dynamos, motors, static machines, and the telegraph, telephone and wireless telegraphy, the latter written from an American standpoint. As any student can procure for himself the materials mentioned therein and can make for himself the instruments, or work out any of the experiments given in this book, its value will be apparent. The price is \$1 and it will be sent post paid upon receipt of this amount. Address orders to J. B. Taltavall, TELEGRAPH AGE, 253 Broadway, New York.

Every operator should read TELEGRAPH AGE.

**Postal Telegraphy.**

Editor TELEGRAPH AGE:

For the past two years you and I have been discussing the question of Government ownership of the telegraph, and you have requested me to send you an article for publication on the subject. This I have been unable to do up to the present time, but your editorial: "A Word Regarding Postal Telegraphy," in the March 16 issue of TELEGRAPH AGE, incites me to make some sort of reply.

It is well known that the War Department, corruptly managed for years, has, in its treatment, of telegraphers in the Philippines and elsewhere, been wantonly unfair to the just interests of the craft, yet such action in the premises cannot be regarded as any proper criterion of Government ownership of the telegraph. The Signal Corps are not considered as telegraphers by the department, but are classed and treated like other enlisted men.

The United States Government employs telegraphers in its navy yards paying them \$75 monthly for six hours work, Sundays and holidays off. Under Government control, there would be no rebates paid to large customers, such as is now the case with both the Western Union and Postal.

The average salary of telegraphers is far below \$60 in the United States; yes, under \$50 per month. There are hundreds of telegraphers working on the railroads for \$35 per month. There are thousands working for the Western Union and Postal who get less than \$45 per month.

If the Government should make telegraphers, or rather endeavor so to do, of little country postmasters, which I doubt very much, would that be worse than the "ham" factories supported by the telegraph companies to-day?

The Government control of telegraphs in many countries in Europe, and in New Zealand, is a most unqualified success, your assertion to the contrary notwithstanding. The employees are paid better, the cost of living considered, than are the telegraphers of this country; telegraph tolls are much lower than those charged here, and the telegraphers are not forced to work bonus wires, nor are they discharged for refusing to work seventy-two hours without rest, as has occurred in this country, not once, but many times.

The telegraph companies refuse their employees permission to join a labor union, the penalty for disobeying being immediate discharge and a permanent blacklisting, thereby depriving them of the means of earning a living (?) Under private ownership, the life of a telegrapher is for many reasons not worth living. There is no such thing as promotion from the ranks for merit. There are thousands to-day who have worked faithfully for years, who are now trembling lest, forsooth, they be discharged on account of being too old.

Under Government ownership, the telegraphers could form unions if they so desired, and without fear of discharge, for do not mail clerks, carriers, and other postal employees have their unions?

And then eight hours would be the working day instead of nine to eighteen as now; the men would have an opportunity to make complaints against foremen, otherwise "chiefs," as well as higher officials, with the knowledge that the complaints would have some weight if found to be true, and that the offence would not be committed again. There would be civil service examinations for promotion instead of "drags" as now.

Chicago, March 24.

A READER.

(Our correspondent in taking issue with us regarding our position respecting postal telegraphy, does not appear to be very logical in his statements. For, from sharply criticising the Government because of baseness of purpose and alleged shortcomings in the treatment of telegraphers employed in its most important telegraphic department, and which it would seem is no better than that accorded by the private companies, so savagely denounced, nevertheless jumps to the conclusion that were the Government permitted to gain control of the telegraphs, governmental authority would undergo a change of heart in its administration of these interests and become more considerate and liberal in its treatment of the individual. By what process of occult reasoning such a conclusion is reached we do not profess to fathom.—Editor.)

EDITOR TELEGRAPH AGE:

As the telegraph is so universally used, the subject of Government ownership is of unusual interest to the public, and this public interest is the chief reason why so many politicians, eager to catch the public ear, are always ready to cry Government ownership. The subject is more important than appears on the surface. It is revolutionary in its effect on public policy. Government ownership of the telegraph would be but the beginning, leading to the ownership of other public utilities; the entering wedge of socialism, as it were, for Government ownership of public utilities is the socialists dream. But, leaving the political aspect of the case out entirely, what is there to show that under Government ownership of the telegraph the public will be better served or the employes better off? Nothing on record warrants this belief, but thousands of facts prove the opposite to be true. If Government telegraph is demanded in order that rates may be lowered the business would be run at a loss to the public. The objection to fair rates does not come from those who use the telegraph the most; by them it is understood that good service depends on fair rates.

There is no need of Government ownership of the telegraph as the field is open. No company has a monopoly. But as carried on at present the business of the public is being cared for to the satisfaction of the public. This will be the case as long as practical men are at the head of affairs. They must listen to any complaint from the public and act immediately. The value of a property like the telegraph depends largely on the estima-

tion in which it is held by the public. Therefore, when it fails to supply the public needs, loss of business will result, with a consequent falling off in the value of the property, and other companies, with officials more alert and with a better knowledge of the public needs will enter the field.

The men at the head of various departments under the Government are not selected because of their knowledge of the business. Other conditions enter into their selection. They are hired to serve, but are really superior to their employer, who is only a shadowy individual known as "the people." They are superior to assault. They will have nothing to gain by extraordinary exertions, new inventions do not appeal to them, their adoption only adds to their work. In order to shield themselves from attack they must conform to precedents in everything they do. Thus in many ways the service would be robbed of everything that makes it good.

Under Government ownership tariffs will be based on mathematical formulas and not on the needs or expense of the work. A map of the United States would serve as a tariff book, the rates from Washington, D. C., for instance would be fixed by zones of rings drawn around the capital. A circle, say 100 miles from Washington, would indicate that to all offices within that circle the rate would be so much and another circle 300 or 400 miles would be so much, and so on. Each state capital would probably serve as the basis of rates from that state.

Many who now advocate Government ownership protest because they are being overtaxed. This is, they claim to be taxed on what they eat, wear, etc. Yet they want to add to their burden by saddling an immense annual deficit on the Government. For by the Government, the telegraph will be run at an enormous loss. Non-paying offices will be multiplied by the thousands. Every Congressman must stand well with his constituents and every hamlet in his district must have a telegraph office. This will also be necessary as the Government must not discriminate against the sparsely settled communities.

With private ownership practical men will always be at the head, while under Government control. They will lack the commercial shrewdness, the absence of which will be fatal to successful management. They will be governed by precedent instead of practical needs, by theorists instead of business men. Private ownership will always conform to laws of trade. Prospect of gain will insure this condition. They must be watchful of public needs. Would the Government prepare for political conventions or large public gatherings as is done under private ownership? I have often thought of how the telegraph in the hands of the Government could play an important part in election contests like that of Hayes and Tilden, or Cleveland and Blaine. By expert political manipulation the party in power could use the telegraph to advantage and perpetuate itself in power.

We admit the Government can run the tele-

graph or railroads but deny that it can do it as well as private owners. The Government points to its achievements as perfect, and we believe it because we have nothing to compare it by. It points to the post office as perfect and the public at large believes it is so when really it is not run on business principles at all. It does not pay its own expenses. There is much misinformation abroad regarding the post office. Things are done that would not be tolerated by the public of a private corporation. But the Government can shield itself from attack by pointing to precedent. In their annual reports details are magnified; they do not regard economy but are extravagant—give vacations with pay, etc., but extravagance is spread about in their annual reports in such a manner as to escape the public eye.

P. A. PETERSON.

St. Louis, Mo., April 5.

### The Railroad.

The Association of Railway Telegraph Superintendents will hold its annual meeting at Chicago, on June 18, and not at Boston as at first decided upon.

The Messrs. Edwin L. Frankel, George F. Miligan and Allen E. Kelby, of Carthage, N. Y., have filed articles of incorporation in New Jersey, for a company to place the telegraph on the market. This is an appliance to connect trains when at a stand still, telephonically with train dispatchers and railroad officials.

With regard to the reports that the Pennsylvania Railroad will put its wires underground as a result of the severe damage inflicted this winter on its overhead wires, Mr. C. M. Sheaffer, superintendent of telegraphs of the company writes to the *Electrical World* as follows: "As regards the statements in the newspapers of the intention of this railroad to put in wires underground between Jersey City and Philadelphia, I would say that no such decision has been made. The question has been discussed, as in fact it has been for several years past whenever we have had any similar trouble like that due to the storm of a month ago, but the excessive cost of any such installation has always prohibited its getting any further than discussion. In this particular instance we may do something in the way of putting some of our wires on our most congested lines underground for short distances, but I doubt very much if anything like the installation of a conduit for so long a distance as from Jersey City to Philadelphia will be done."

### Recent Telegraph Patents.

A patent (No. 695,537) for a printing telegraph has been issued to L. Cerebotani, of Munich, Germany.

A fire alarm telegraph repeater has been patented (No. 695,777) by L. G. Woolley, of Kenton, O.

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NEW YORK, April 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.

With this issue of *TELEGRAPH AGE* its readers will receive a handsome souvenir portrait of Col. Robert C. Clowry, the new president of the Western Union Telegraph Company. The picture is a faithful likeness of Mr. Clowry, and is reproduced from his latest photograph. It is printed on a clear white heavy paper of a size and character admirably adopted for framing, and doubtless thousands of Western Union men, especially, throughout the country will gladly utilize the engraving in this way.

In reply to numerous enquiries received as to when the forthcoming volume of "Pocket Edition of Diagrams and Complete Information for Telegraph Engineers and Students," by Willis H. Jones, will be ready, we desire to state that the work is now in the hands of the printer. When it is off the press all orders that have been received

will be filled at once so that our friends need not be kept waiting longer than is absolutely necessary. Mr. Jones' well known abilities as a writer on all matters appertaining to the telegraph, for which he is especially fitted by long experience and by a thorough and practical mastery of his subjects, has aroused an unprecedented demand for this, his latest and best production. That this work will continue to grow in keen appreciation by telegraphers of every degree, officials, operators, linemen and beginners and students alike, for whom its clearly explanatory and illustrated pages fully demonstrate every phase of telegraphy, goes without saying. No individual telegrapher who would acquire a correct knowledge of, and a true index to his profession can afford to be without this helpful book.

## The "In Care" of Some Hotel.

A source of great inconvenience to telegraph companies, not to speak of the annoyance occasioned by loss of time, money and patience, especially at every considerable center of population, is the receipt of telegrams, the addressees of which are supposed to be stopping at some one of the hotels of the place, and whom it is expected the telegraph companies will hunt up and to whom deliver safely the messages. The practice has grown to large proportions due to the good nature of the companies in their natural desire to oblige, until what may be termed a privilege has become in reality a positive abuse. It may be urged, as is frequently done, that it is not asking a great deal of a telegraph company to occasionally take a little extra trouble in effecting the delivery of a message even when the exact address of the person sought is not positively known. If it were only once in a while that such service was required there would be, of course, no objection raised, but when the demands become daily of such magnitude as in some instances to seriously cripple the legitimate workings of the delivery department itself, then it is time that a protest should be raised against so objectionable a practice.

Take, for example, a place like Atlantic City, N. J., where during the busiest season of the year, probably from twenty-five to thirty telegrams are received daily at the telegraph offices for persons, the only knowledge of whose whereabouts is that they are presumably staying at some one of the one thousand hotels at that seaside resort. In order to deliver these messages it frequently happens that a round of the hotels by messenger boys and by telephone call becomes necessary before the proper person can be located. Such a process of delivery, it is hardly necessary to remark, involves an immense amount of time and labor to which the companies in all fairness should not be subjected. At the same time the system places a tax on the good nature and limited time of the busy hotel clerk to answer the messenger boy's oft-repeated query as to whether so-and-so, often a transient guest, is stopping at that particular

hotel; and if the response becomes indifferent as to truth, thus baffling the search, it is because of the wearisome importunity with which the boniface is followed up. The margin of profit derived from the average twenty-five-cent message under such adverse conditions of delivery dwindles and usually drops far below the line indicative of loss.

The telegraph companies might with propriety issue a general order against accepting telegrams addressed as here indicated, or the senders at least, ought to waive all responsibility on the part of the companies for delay in delivery.

#### Mr. Rhodes and the Trans-African Telegraph Company.

Cecil Rhodes is said to have remarked pathetically on his deathbed: "So little done and so much to do." Some of his vast projects are well under way, but are far from completion. There is no reason to believe, however, that they will not be carried out and in fact there is every reason why they should go on. Rhodes was a practical man, and his schemes for development, vast as they were, rested on a practical basis. The completion of the enterprises now under way may be delayed because they have lost the impulse he gave to everything he took in hand; but some, if not all of them, are certain to be carried out. As for his overland telegraph project from the Cape to the Mediterranean it was completed in January last to Ujiji on Lake Tanganyika, about 2,500 miles north of Cape Town. Mr. Rhodes was the backbone of the Trans-African Telegraph Company which has this work in hand. At last accounts the wires were to be stretched to the Nile and down that river to Fashoda, distant from Ujiji about 1,300 miles; at Fashoda the line would connect with the wire already complete to Khartum and Alexandria.

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An effort made for the happiness of others lifts us above ourselves.—Mrs. L. M. Child.

#### Charles C. Adams.

Mr. Charles C. Adams, of Philadelphia, who recently assumed the position of general superintendent of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, with headquarters at Atlanta, Ga., was born on August 13, 1858, at Freeport, Pa., and was educated in the public schools of Pittsburg, and at the Sharpsburg Academy, that State.

In 1874, he entered the telegraph field and did work as operator and manager throughout the oil regions for the Western Union and the Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph companies. He returned to Pittsburg in 1879 as an operator for the Western Union Telegraph Company. In 1880, he went to Fort Wayne, Indiana, in the interest



CHARLES C. ADAMS.

of The Associated Press, whose employ he left the following year to accept a more desirable appointment in New York with the Western Union Telegraph Company. His marked executive ability soon attracted the attention of the Mutual Union Telegraph Company, and he was appointed manager of their Pittsburg office in November, 1881. He remained with the Mutual Union until 1883, when he entered the newspaper service, and subsequently returned to New York. In February, 1884, he was appointed manager of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company at Philadelphia. Here his remarkable energy and progressiveness asserted themselves with the result that in 1886, he was promoted to the superintendency of the third district.

Mr. Adams at all times pays the strictest attention to the details of the great and constantly growing business entrusted to his charge.

A subscription to TELEGRAPH AGE is one of the best investments a progressive telegrapher can make; it keeps him thoroughly posted.



### "A Few Flowers for Poor Jim."

BY MILAN W. RUSSELL.

"Just ten cents," the man said under his breath. "No, no;" he expostulated in a whisper, "just ten cents; some of us are going in quietly to get a few flowers for poor Jim!"

Then the man addressed, who had wanted to give twenty-five cents, as if warned by the speaker's low, concerned voice, slipped his hand slyly into his right trousers pocket, stealthily withdrew it, moved it along the edge of the desk to the hand of the other, thereby, as he felt, compounding a contemptible act.

But why all of this unseemly caution about ten cents? Oh, over against the wall of the operating room, where the bulletin board hung, there, on the face of it, was a frown, actually, from the head down, against taking up subscriptions in the office for any purpose.

The man who had thus acted the "understudy" in this sneaky performance gave a little gulp as he felt something uncomfortable rise in his throat. "A few flowers for poor Jim!" he mused. He knew that the life of "poor Jim," one of the hardest workers, a man always after "bonus" and "extra," a robust looking fellow and one of the oldest employees, had suddenly, the night before, been transmitted to the wireless beyond, and his dead body found in the bed where he had retired in apparent good health a few hours earlier.

Almost simultaneous with this short drama a pink blank went up on the bulletin board, bearing this briefer typewritten notice: "Mr. James \_\_\_\_\_, who died last night, will be buried from the undertaking rooms of \_\_\_\_\_, No. \_\_\_\_\_ street, to-morrow at 2 P. M. As many as can are requested to attend the funeral."

The "rush" blank looked a little out of keeping with the nature of the announcement; but perhaps it was considered most appropriate to "Jim's" reputation as an operator, to the manner that his demise had been "cut," or to his hurried burial!

Anyway, on the day and hour named the party to the second part in the ten-cent transaction appeared at the appointed place. Outside stood a solitary hack, with driver in black stuck up so stiffly on the seat that anyone could have expected to see smoke issuing from the top of his "stove-pipe" hat. In front of him stood a plain hearse, without trimmings to speak of, inside or out.

A narrow, corner door passed, over a worn threshold, onto an uneven board floor, that wore deep mourning itself for being long bereft of soap and a scrubbing brush. Within, about the gloomy papered wall, hung a few framed certificates of gruesomely professional character, and a line of coffins to one side were standing at "attention." This was the undertaker's room, the resort of last measurement of man, where only the human form, the "relay copy" of a soul, is taken to account in transit, from the zero point to zero, of the everlasting circuit!

Here the master of ceremonies approached, the undertaker himself. A sweetly insinuating and broadly smiling man as ever directed funerals or cheated widows! His manner was of the "may I have the pleasure" kind. "Washing" his long, boney hands together and "buckling" his body from head to foot as he smirked his words:

"A relative of the deceased?"

"No," said the comer, "I am from the office where he worked."

"Ah, wouldn't you like to view his remains? Why, you'd think he was going to speak; so life-like," he resumed. "Everybody remarks it. Right over here, there, see!" With this the face-plate was flipped from the coffin with an air of giving the visitor a most agreeable surprise!

"There—there—isn't that smile natural—understand me—natural? Somebody said they'd 've known him in a minute, even if they hadn't expected to meet with him in this elegant—elegant, sir; understand? elegant receptacle!" Evidently the absence of enthusiasm on the part of the stranger was not satisfactory to the undertaker, for he continued:

"Did you know him personally—personally, understand me? Notice the handsome casket! I threw off three dollars on the price, because I understood he left no means for his two little nephews and sister-in-law, that he had been the only support for years; just left a week's pay he drew the day before, or something like that. Then I embalmed him perfectly—understand, perfectly? Used more fluid, sir, than I did on Colonel Gridley's wife's mother, who died last week. More embalming fluid—understand me? and no extra charge—just threw it in, see?"

The listener felt uncertain whether this last remark referred to a liberal quantity of fluid without charge, or to his process of using it.

"Colonel Gridley's a charming man—charming, understand me? Why, he said I hadn't charged him enough; he'd 've been willing to pay more, and I a poor man at that! In fact he did make me a present—understand? An out-and-out present, free gratis—understand? of five dollars, he was so pleased with everything."

The suggestiveness of this conversation was too apparent, and the one addressed concluded neither to be "charming" nor charmed by the gentle blarney. He, therefore, stepped abruptly away to where two women in black and two bright little boys were occupying chairs partly behind a high, faded Japanese screen.

His surmise that one was the sister-in-law with her sons was correct, and he tendered his sympathy and that of office associates. He heard her story how, for years, since her husband's death, "poor Jim" had been both brother and father to the little family. His earnings and care had been given them unsparingly. To this ever present devotion and pride in his nephews the fact seemed due that he had taken no thought ahead to save anything, or carry insurance to provide for the future.

The two boys could not realize their loss, but the little mother was dazed and almost inconsolable over the calamity. Her sympathizer was not unfamiliar with such situations, and spoke boldly of comfort and hope deferred the natural senses, yet sweeter to faith because unseen, and so not common.

For a moment she appeared quite surprised, and then tears came to her eyes, real peaceful tears, as if her anguish had been too great to find this relief sooner.

"Oh, excuse me," she said at last, "I didn't know that telegraph operators were religious! Nobody seemed able to understand my thoughts and feelings; the things they said were kind enough, but they didn't help me now; thank you!"

Off over the cobble-stones, the hearse and the carriage bore dead and mourners, with rattle of wheels, that sounded like the "long roll" of a telegraph call, to the sands of a field outside of the city, there to stop. There the only life left round about was foliage, birds and flowers, over the forgotten numberless.

But what conclusion has this narrative? Simply this: That the struggle for money, the way of "extra" and "bonus" earnings in a telegraphers life, all end abruptly at last, as this story does here. Then flowers are few, and only the good or evil one has done remains after him.

### To Young Men Beginning Business—Telegraphy.

BY E. J. NALLY.

General Superintendent Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, Chicago.

(From the *Saturday Evening Post*.)

The office of a commercial telegraph company is to-day the biggest, and I believe the best, training school for active business life open to a self-supporting boy or young man. It is the widest and most direct "open door" to commercial opportunity that a bright lad can hope to enter. To be sure, it is a rough-and-ready school, but this must be classed among its advantages, for it helps to make prompt, practical, pushing men—quick of wit and nimble of limb.

These assertions may seem sweeping, but they are easily capable of proof. In fact, they are proved a hundred times in every business day of the year. Only one qualification need be made to the statement that commercial telegraphy is the most fruitful and efficient drill-ground for service in the business world. This is, that the messenger boy be considered part and parcel of the telegraphic service—and he is a most vital and important part thereof. Properly he should be regarded as a potential operator—a telegrapher in embryo. The fact that only a small percentage of messenger boys master the mysteries of the key and sounder does not vitiate this view of the case, for it still holds that from their ranks comes the main body of recruits for the army of skilled operators.

The telegraph messenger service is recognized by the business world, in the big metropolitan

centres, as the most available and reliable employment agency for office boys and clerks at the command of the employer. Thousands of positions are annually filled from this source, and it is a part of the daily routine of the telegraph official's duties to satisfy demands of this kind. His telephone is frequently rung by patrons who ask: "Can't you send us a bright boy right away?" And these requests are not denied, because the man who makes the request is a patron, and known, by personal observation and experience, that the telegraph official has just that kind of a boy on his pay-roll. While it inconveniences the official to accede to these demands, yet to refuse would be to offend patrons who pay the company thousands of dollars a year, and would also shut out a deserving boy from an opportunity which promises to develop into a substantial business career.

It is not to be inferred from this that the door of opportunity for advancement in lines outside telegraphy is closed when the messenger boy becomes an operator. If his chances to get on in other departments of commercial and industrial effort do not increase with his promotion from the messenger's bench to a clerk's desk and the operator's table they are certainly strengthened, and each day of service at the key adds to his efficiency and his power to grasp almost any line of work that the world has to offer. Because of these conditions I do not hesitate to say a boy who must make his own way and find his niche in the rough-and-tumble of business strife cannot do better than begin as a messenger boy. Counsel of this kind should not be offered on a slight basis or without the most serious consideration resting upon years of practical experience. In this case it is the result of more than a quarter of a century of continuous service in the telegraphic field, beginning with the messenger boy's bench and including the official desk—including practically all the progressive stations from the elemental one to that of executive official.

As for the messenger boy—the familiar butt of the newspaper paragrapher and the cartoonist, who delight to portray him as the type of slow-going inefficiency—I am free to confess that I never cease to marvel at the promptness, courtesy, energy and devotion uniformly displayed by this tireless little runner of the world's business errands. Familiarity with the conditions which surround his daily life only deepen the conviction that he discharges his exacting duties with a faithfulness and efficiency that would raise the standard of fidelity, energy and promptness were the average services of the adult workers in the business world up to the pace which this small hustler sets.

Why do business men so generally appeal to the officials of the commercial telegraph companies for boys to fill their lesser positions? This is a fair and natural question. Answered in fewest words: Because the services of the messenger boy is of a kind which sharpens his

wits, focuses his observation, broadens his view, fires his energies, fortifies his resourcefulness and inspires him with a sense of exacting responsibility.

A change comes over a boy the moment his first message is placed in his hand. Intuitively he realizes, at that instant, that he is intrusted with a genuine and grave responsibility. He seems to feel a touch of the subtle magnetic current—the soul of telegraphy!—and grasps the vital, energizing realization that time is the essence of things. There is a brightening of the eye, a quickening of the step and a general awakening of the senses. One of the most important and interesting figures in the world is a boy in a new uniform and with his first telegraph message in his hand! Nor is this attitude an exaggerated one. There is something portentous about a telegram. Each message has a history and the presumption is a fair one that each telegram plays an important part in the history of a person, a firm, a corporation—perhaps of a great political party, state or nation! Under the impulsion of this realization the spine of the boy stiffens, his faculties bestir themselves with new life, and he becomes instinct and alert with a livelier sense of being than he has ever before known.

While, in time, the novelty of this sensation may wear away, it gives place to a confirmed habit of promptness, of facility to grasp the demands and exactions of business life. He learns that the main thing is to “deliver the message to Garcia”—and that in the briefest time possible!

The energy which is thrown into the accomplishment of this purpose is little short of astonishing to those who have lost the elasticity of boyhood and the fire of youth. On my desk, as I write, are two expense bills which forcibly illustrate this characteristic. One is for a surgeon's services, and the other for a glass set in the door of an office. Many firms have call boxes of both of the telegraph companies in their offices, and when “rush services” are required pull both boxes and give the message to the boy first on the ground. This practice is understood by the boys and they race for the prize. Recently such a call was responded to by two messengers who reached the Monadnock Building and dashed into the entrance at the same instant. They reached the elevator simultaneously, were carried to the ninth floor and managed to squeeze through the door abreast, starting “toe to toe” for the office at the end of the corridor. Down the hall they dashed with a speed which the elevator man afterward described, with reference to their uniforms, as “a streak of blue and a streak of gray.”

The floor of the hallway was slippery and their speed so great that their attempt to stop short was futile, and the impetus of the foremost carried his outstretched arm through the glass door, shattering it in pieces and cutting severe gashes in his hands and face. As the surgeon finished the stitches in the boy's wounds he looked up with a pathetic triumph in his face and exclaimed:

“But I got the message!” That is the true and typical spirit of the whole messenger force!

Another incident shows how the messenger boy makes good the peculiar opportunities which his daily tasks put in his way, forcing himself upon the attention not only of his employers but of the business men with whom he is brought in contact. In the course of the World's Fair an unusual number of boys were given employment as messengers, and among the new recruits was a keen but quiet little lad who instantly grasped the serious importance of his task. One Saturday he was given a message for delivery to a manufacturer at the latter's home on the West Side of Chicago, several miles from the office at which he was stationed. He was given two street car tickets only and was not instructed that there was any particular urgency in the delivery of the telegram. But he had his own ideas on the latter score!

Several hours passed without his return and the “Chief of Delivery” became so annoyed at the prolonged absence of “No. 20” that he stormed and said many harsh things about the delinquent. As hour after hour passed without any sign of the boy the clerk's anger turned to anxiety and he became fearful that the youngster had met with an accident. About sundown a weary and bedraggled little figure entered the messenger's door. It was “No. 20,” and as he turned in his delivery sheet he found scant voice in which to remark:

“Say, I'm dead tired! Oh, but I had an awful chase after that man. Got out to his house an' the girl said he'd gone fer a fambly picnic out t' Garfield Park—she thought out t' furdur end. I got her t' tell how many of 'em they was, an' what they looked like, an' the kind of lunch baskets they carried. Then I hoofed it out there an' looked the ground over till I found th' party—all but th' man. He'd gone down t' his exhibit t' th' World's Fair. Say, but that grub looked fit t' eat! But the woman didn't make no mistake an' offer me none! She told me what exhibit he was at in Man'fact'res Building an' I put out fer there. Caught a ride on trucks an' express wagons part of th' way, sneaked some on th' trolley an' grip an' walked th' rest—'cause y' see I didn't have no tickets 'r fare. Had t' go clean t' th' fur end of the grounds 'fore I c'd get a fair chance t' climb that high fence without bein' picked by tin copper. But leaned a board up an' made the raise all right. I'd never been inside the grounds before—awful big place, too!—but I found the building an' the man. When I told him what a chase I'd had he give me a dime. I blowed a nickel fer red hots when I got outside an' rode back on th' rest of it.”

The man to whom this message was delivered related the incident to a prominent Board of Trade broker, who sent word that he wished to hire the boy. I told him the account of the experience which the boy had given, and the plucky, determined messenger was given a good position

at once. Now he is one of the brightest traders in the wheat pit, and stands an excellent chance to become a successful commission merchant.

A lesson immediately learned by the messenger recruit is to take the world as it comes, without shrinking or flinching, and to face hardships of weather, fatigue and discouragement with fortitude and indifference. This builds good business "backbone" faster than any other kind of training. Few persons realize the severity of the demands which are made upon the messenger boy who is compelled to start out in the roughest weather and take his run as bravely as in the sunshine. In the dead of night and the small hours of the morning he beats his way about the city when owl cars run infrequently, and he must travel afoot long distances in the darkness. The recollection of a certain twelve-mile tramp, in the darkest hours of night, measuring by short footsteps the distance from St. Louis to Carondelet, is too fresh in my memory to allow me for an instant to lose sympathy with the perils and hardships of the messenger boys. And the perils which these business men in miniature face are not by any means imaginary. The memory of a midnight run when two highwaymen held me up and took from me the revolver which had been forced upon me by the night clerk, together with all the change in my pockets, enforces this point from the viewpoint of experience. In my terror the weapon was wholly forgotten until the robber drew it from my coat!

Quick reading of human nature is still another vital business trait peculiarly fostered by this fundamental branch of the telegraph service. No accomplishment is more valued by the man of affairs than is this quality of being able instantly to form a sound first-hand judgment of men and motives, and the messenger boy is forced, by swift and hurried contact with perhaps a score of men each day, to leap at conclusions and act on intuition.

One bright little fellow attracted my attention and I selected him for the position of doorboy. After a day when the pressure of business had been unusually intense and when I had been suffering not a little, this lad voluntarily ran to the dressing closet and brought my coat. With eyes full of ingenuous sympathy and earnestness he glanced into my face and remarked:

"We've had 'n awful busy day, havn't we, sir?"

I repressed the smile which rose to my lips and answered as seriously as possible:

"Yes, Michael; it has been a hard one. We must have had fully fifty callers."

"More'n that, sir," was his quick and proud reply. Then a touch of mingled pride and pity came into his voice as he added:

"But you ought t've seen how many I flagged!"

Intuitively he had understood the strain and pressure of the occasion and on his own initiative had sifted out the important callers with the tact of a born diplomat, referring the others to my

assistants. This he called "flagging." That boy has pushed ahead and will have a secure place in the business world. He, like the majority of his little comrades in uniform, had been so aroused and sharpened by contact with the rush of "the strenuous life" that his mental focus was marvelously acute and he could "catch on" to a situation with an instantaneous grasp.

The average business man is seldom too busy to notice the boy, and the telegraph messenger boy is persistently "bobbing up" at the elbow of the man of affairs to be noticed. If the lad is especially bright, courteous, alert and observing, the banker, merchant, commission man, manufacturer, Board of Trade broker, or newspaper editor instantly acquires a personal interest in him, questions him concerning his individual history, takes a record of his number and then offers him employment. A large proportion of the lads in this service contribute to the support of widowed mothers or other members of their families. They early learn what it means to carry the burden of family cares. This steadies their course and gives seriousness and direction to their character and career. Unless a city messenger boy starts out with an inborn fascination for telegraphy and a firm purpose to become an operator is very likely, as I have intimated, to take advantage of opportunities offered him to engage in other lines of business. As a matter of fact, the greater portion of telegraph operators learn their art in small towns, where they start in as messenger boys, and where they are constantly within hearing of the click of the telegraph instrument. Advancement quickly follows after the lad has once mastered the rudiments of the craft. He is next transferred to another and more responsible place, but if he has the true telegraphic instinct he invariably gravitates to some large city.

Young men can earn more money in the telegraphic profession than in any other line of effort when the years and experience which they bring to be business are considered. In five or six years, for instance, a fair operator can draw a larger salary than he could command in any other calling after the investment of ten or twelve years of faithful apprenticeship. For this reason, the telegraphic service, speaking from the viewpoint of the operator, has enabled thousands of intelligent and ambitious young men to earn a comfortable living for themselves and their families, while at the same time giving them leisure and opportunity to pursue studies in other business or professional lines. And the nature of the work itself trains them in the essential art of intense application and gives them a broad and comprehensive view of almost every line of commercial and professional effort and the methods of its operation.

While the work of the telegraph operator is exacting, his hours are short. What is still more important to the young man who wishes to support himself by telegraphic work and at the

same time to apply himself to systematic study for a profession, is that he is usually able so to arrange his hours at the key that his day will be apportioned in a manner to meet the requirements and convenience of his outside studies.

There is seldom a time when the telegraph official in a metropolitan city cannot stand at the desk of the main operating room and in a single glance locate operators who are representatives of the profession of dentistry, the law, medicine, the ministry and electrical science. Many talented young men drawing good salaries as expert operators are thereby enabled to give themselves thorough and extended courses in art, music and a multitude of the higher and more aesthetic callings. Once mastered, the telegraphic art is never forgotten, and the operator who leaves the vocation which has served as the stepping-stone to a profession is always conscious of the fact that, in case of an emergency, he can "fall back on the key" and at once command a good livelihood.

It is my conviction that no other calling has been so productive a training school for other lines of business and professional effort as has telegraphy, and that, among men who have reached high positions in a wide variety of business and professional fields, there are more who can trace their first advancement to the training and opportunities gained in telegraphic service than there are graduates from any other "common school of experience."

The boy or young man who is ambitious to make rapid progress in the profession of telegraphy and to rise to a position above that of an expert operator may do much toward that end by a judicious course of reading and study. But in going into the theoretical side of business he should never allow himself to forget that practice at the key is the first consideration, without which he cannot obtain the two fundamental requisites, accuracy and speed.

Mr. Nally concludes his article by recommending the following books to his readers: *Maver's American Telegraphy*; *Thom and Jones description of telegraphic apparatus*; *Lockwood's Electrical Measurements*; *Modern Views of Electricity*, by Oliver J. Lodge; *Houston and Kennelly's Electrical Engineering Leaflets*; *Houston's Electrical Dictionary*, and the articles now current in *TELEGRAPH AGE*, written by Willis H. Jones, entitled "Some Points on Electricity."

#### **International Association of Municipal Electricians.**

The seventh annual convention of the International Association of Municipal Electricians will be held at Richmond, Va., on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, October 7, 8 and 9. The following papers will be read at the meeting:

"Municipal Inspection and Control," by Walter M. Petty, of Rutherford, N. J.; "Relation of Electrical Interests to other branches of the Municipality," by Capt. Wm. Brophy, of Boston, Mass.; "Classifying of Records of Electrical

Departments and Standard Specifications, for Supplies and Contracts," by Edward F. Schurig, of Omaha, Neb.; "Report of Committee on rules for Electrical Inspection and Control," especially with reference to the occupancy of streets, by Morris W. Mead, of Pittsburg, Pa.; "Joint use of Conduits," by Charles F. Hopewell, of Cambridge, Mass.; "The Telephone service in connection with Fire and Police Signal Systems," by Jerry Murphy, of Cleveland, O.; "Electrical Government in small Cities," by A. S. Hatch, of Detroit, Mich.

In addition to the above papers, Mr. Hopewell, of Cambridge, Mass., will give his illustrated lecture of fire and police telegraphs, which promises to be of much interest. The officials of the city of Richmond are making great preparations for the entertainment of the convention.

#### **British and American Patent Law.**

In a paper read by Mr. Percy Griffith before the British Society of Engineers, he draws some interesting comparisons between British and American patent methods. A British patent is merely a registration of date and a disclosure of the invention, is valid for fourteen years and costs \$495. An American inventor is given the benefit of an unprejudiced examination and investigation by technical experts for \$15, and if his patent passes through the ordeal successfully has to pay only \$20 more for seventeen years' protection. The chances that an American patent passes safely through a law contest are as 74 to 100, whereas the chances of a British patent being found valid are only 58 to 100.

#### **They All Looked Alike to Him.**

Out in Indiana the other evening a farmer came down to the railroad station driving a pig, with a clothes-line attached to one of its hind legs. He asked for the operator.

"I want yer to l'arn this here horg ter telergraf," he said.

"Teach that pig to telegraph?" exclaimed the astonished operator. "Why, man, a hog can't learn to telegraph!"

"What, a horg cain't l'arn ter telergraf? Wall, wall," said the disappointed man, "say, I live four an' a harf miles up th' track yonder, by th' water-tank, an' every horg train what cum along an' stopped thar las' summer, off would pile from two to harf a duzzen doodish lookin' chaps, who'd up an' say that they be all telergraf operators, an' from th' way they'd pitch into my apples an' cider an' eat down all th' san'wiches, an' cookerries my wife an' darter would fix for 'em, made me think th' hull goll derved cargoes of them trains was telergraf operators!"

Every telegrapher who loves his profession, who is determined to master its technicalities, and thus insure for himself the confidence and respect of his official superiors and place himself in the direct line of promotion, should subscribe for *TELEGRAPH AGE*.

### Arthur L. Edgecomb.

A portrait is presented herewith of Arthur L. Edgecomb the lately appointed superintendent of the new district established by the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, embraced within the State of Maine, with headquarters at Portland.



ARTHUR L. EDGECOMB.

Mr. Edgecomb was born in Auburn, Me., in 1867, and began his career as a telegrapher at Lancaster, Mass., in 1884, as an assistant to the station agent. For three years he was engaged in railroad work at different places, until 1887 when he joined the Western Union force at Worcester, Mass. Here he rose to the positions of chief operator and night manager, but resigned to enter the brokerage business, which he conducted respectively at Spencer, Palmer and Worcester, Mass., and at Bangor, Me. Re-entering telegraph employ he became manager of the Postal interests at Concord, N. H., from which, in 1893, he was transferred to a like position in Portland, Me., which he continued to fill up to the time of his promotion to the office of superintendent. His experience gained in various branches of the telegraph service, as train dispatcher, operator, chief operator, manager, etc., has given him a practical all-around knowledge of its requirements, thereby fitting him for the wider sphere of executive usefulness to which he has been called.

"I was sorry to see you get 'lifted' from that 'bonus' wire to-day," said the sympathizing friend, "you must have been very much mortified."

"Mortified?" yelled the other. "Mortified, nothing! Why, I wasn't even dead when they relieved me!"

Our deeds determine us as much as we determine our deeds.—George Eliot.

### Wireless Telegraphy.

Editor TELEGRAPH AGE:

TELEGRAPH AGE has been misinformed regarding the trial given the wireless telegraph between the steamer "City of Detroit" and Detroit, when that steamer made her first trip to Cleveland this Spring. Thomas E. Clark, of Detroit, owner of the wireless apparatus, had the instruments placed on board the boat with an office established on the steamer's dock. A "Free Press" representative accompanied the boat for the purpose of watching this trial, and two "Free Press" operators were also present to render assistance. Mr. W. C. Griffin, a Postal Telegraph-Cable Company operator was stationed at the dock office, and Mr. P. W. Williams, of the Western Union Telegraph Company, accompanied the boat to Cleveland.

Mr. Clark, who by the way is not an operator, made two bad moves. He admitted that the instruments he had with him were inferior and incomplete; and, second, that he placed the boat office in charge of a certain telegraph and wireless telegraph school "Professor." The latter evidently was more ambitious to advertise himself and his school than to make the experiment with wireless telegraphy a success. He had advertised that he wanted wireless operators for the opening of navigation, stating that the interim furnished a period of from three to four weeks, with two hours a day for practice for students to learn the business. Here was an opportunity, indeed!

Once on board the "Professor" was not aware that there was another operator on the vessel until Lake Erie was nearly reached, for up to that time he was getting (?) all kinds of signals of from two to half a dozen words—messages to the captain and others. This record establishing result was rudely broken when the "Professor" discovered that another operator was standing within two feet of him, a close observer of all that was going on. The effect of this discovery was that the "Morse" suddenly ceased to come, after which the only sounds heard were those caused by the adjustment of a very sensitive relay, and the vibration of the boat itself.

The "Professor" hastened to inform the captain of the steamer that words were being received, but Mr. Williams, the Western Union operator, stated that not one dot had been taken, and later, upon comparing notes with Mr. Griffin, the Postal operator, this statement was confirmed. Not a dot had been recorded, notwithstanding the fact that Detroit papers has printed wireless messages to the effect that the expedition were nearly icebound in Lake Erie, and had lost a wire net overboard. The "Professor" claimed he sent these messages, but Mr. Griffin denies that they were received, and stated there was no net lost overboard and but very little ice seen. Had the "Free Press" not been assisted by their two operators the probability is, that with the "Professor" aboard the boat, and one of his "graduates" at the home office, some of the Detroit papers would have had their front pages, well plastered with

wireless messages. At Cleveland the "Professor" informed The Associated Press that one whole message had been sent to Detroit while no one except those closely connected with the experiment were present, a mistatement on his part.

Mr. Clark who has been to a large expense in trying to perfect this system, has recently made several improvements and will soon have another trial, but it is safe to say it will be conducted without the aid of the "Professor."

Detroit, Mich.

OBSERVER.

In the Marconi station at Table Head, Cape Breton, there will be four towers of corrugated steel each over 200 feet high.

Senator Mason wishes to secure an appropriation of \$150,000 to connect by wireless telegraphy the post office of the principal cities of the United States.

There are any number of wireless telegraph companies in existence, but they are all apparently too busy selling stock to heed the Government proposals for bids to establish a wireless telegraph system in Alaska. General A. W. Greeley, Brigadier General, Chief Signal Officer at Washington, D. C., is asking for such bids.

The Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company has announced that it has signed a contract to sell its rights in the United States to an American company with a capital of \$6,150,000. The vendors receive \$250,000 cash, in addition to shares giving them a controlling interest in the American company and a further payment for existing stations in the United States.

The signs are appearing that the inevitable battle over wireless telegraphy is about to begin. That scientific marvel has grown from theory into accomplished fact. The practical leader, Marconi, or at least the Marconi company, is already making money from it, and money is the signal for war. Who invented wireless telegraphy? Marconi of Italy claims it. Slaby of Germany claims it. Another German, or rather Alsatian, Braun, claims it. Tesla of America, claims it; and doubtless many other experts will appear. At present the contest is in the newspapers, but it must soon be transferred to the courts.

Captain Morse, chief signal officer of the Department of California, has received orders from the War Department to open negotiations for the installation of a system of wireless telegraphy between army stations in Alaska. There are four routes mentioned. Route A is to be between Fort Davis, at Nome City, and some point on Stuart Island, ninety miles distant. Route B is the preferable alternative to Route A and is to extend from Davis to Fort St. Michael, on St. Michael's Island, approximately 108 miles distant. Route C is to extend from Rampart to Winter Hours, on Tanana River, or some other convenient and suitable place near the mouth of

Delta River, 136 miles distant. Route D, the preferable alternative of Route C, is to be extend from Fort Gibbon to some point on the Tanana which is 165 miles distant. The station at the latter place must be at or near the mouth of Delta River or at Bates Rapids, and must be at some point accessible to boats. It is required that the system be installed on Route A or Route B by September 1, and on Route C or Route D by October 1.

An interesting, not to say important question, is raised by the refusal of the Marconi operators, both on land and sea, to take and answer messages sent from vessels equipped with Dr. Slaby's wireless telegraphic apparatus. Whatever may be deemed good policy in the case of the naval vessels of different nations, it is unquestionably desirable that merchant ships, whether they fly American, British French or Russian colors, should be able to communicate freely with each other and with land stations. The Marconi company, having been the first to enter this sphere of usefulness, has an excellent excuse for trying to establish a monopoly. Yet newcomers are not without rights, and it may become necessary to have an international conference in the interests of compromise. Such a proceeding might prove an advantage rather than a disadvantage to the company which now backs Marconi, if it should ever appear in patent litigation that some one else had anticipated him in the use of any essential feature of his system.

#### The Latest 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.

## 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.]

## ST. LOUIS, MO., WESTERN UNION.

Resignations: Misses Katherine Reilly and Bertha Sack, two of the most popular young ladies of the Wheatstone office, to accept similar positions at Atlanta, Ga.; Jesse L. Lewis to the Wheatstone department at New York; Joseph Halle, who has gone to Sligo, Mo., and Charles De Silva who goes to Dallas, Tex.

C. W. Groos, eastern division chief, who was sent to relieve Manager Ryan at Hot Spring, during the latter's recent illness, has resumed charge of his division, Mr. Ryan having fully recovered; and Charles Fry who filled Mr. Groos' place now has charge of the "Woods" during Frank Spencer's absence.

Miss Elsie Tanner has recovered from her recent illness and returned to the office April 1.

Miss Etta Ostermann, one of our branch office operators has the sympathy of her friends in the death of her brother which occurred on March 31st.

Mr. F. D. Nash, manager at Fort Scott, Kan., visited our office March 31st.

## QUEBEC, QUE., GREAT NORTH WESTERN.

Miss M. Jones has resigned to accept a position with the Canadian Pacific Telegraph, Montreal.

R. G. Morean is the latest addition to the staff.

Messrs. J. Lawrence, J. Alexander, A. Lacheurotiere and Geo. Alexander have returned to the main office after working in the Parliament House office.

## MONTREAL, QUE., GREAT NORTH WESTERN.

Harry Bowles, operator, has been appointed manager of the north branch office, vice George Falle, reappointed to a position in the main office.

Mr. James Barclay, chief operator at Quebec, was a recent caller.

Herbert Keating of this office transmitted 106 messages in 60 minutes with the Boston Stock Exchange office lately. This is said to be the best record made by a Canadian.

## BALTIMORE, MD., WESTERN UNION.

One day last week a group of operators were discussing Mr. Emanuel's feat of receiving fifty messages in thirty minutes on a typewriter, as mentioned in the Age's account of the "Atlanta Tournament." "Whats that you say? fifty messages in veteran "Phil" Hess. "Why thats nothing; thirty-three years ago, Paul W. Bossart, chief

operator for the Bankers' and Brokers' Company, in this city, received from the late "Billy" Purden in New York one hundred and eight actual messages including a seventy-two word special with a pen in an hour, and the messages were all copied and delivered. Every check proved to be correct, showing the carefulness of both sender and receiver."

The next day Paul W. Bossart, of Philadelphia, manager of the Eastern District, of the Kellogg Switchboard and Supply Company, and the former chief referred to, visited the operating department looking hale and hearty. Several ambitious youngsters wanted to match their typewriters against his pen.

Resignations: John W. Shock and L. J. Lapsley, to broker positions; "Nat" Owings to Baltimore & Ohio.

Arrivals: Howard Ruff and William Petty. Floor boy Alvin Hammond, has been appointed operator at Mt. Royal station.

George Kreh and Jacob Lepper have the sympathy of all in the death of sister and wife, respectively.

## 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.

Quad Chief Harrington has been assigned to the Buckingham system as chief, also Messrs and Muscal. Mr. Cox succeeds Mr. Harrington, and Mr. O'Ryan vice Cox as timekeeper; Mr. Bowen vice Mr. O'Ryan to third New York. William Dickinson succeeds Bowen, C. D. Avard vice Edward Paine; Arthur Pratt vice W. J. Ryan, and Ryan vice Biggane who left here a few months ago to take a trip around the world.

Arrivals: F. E. Robinson, C. H. Labonte, J. Landon, M. Ross and F. H. Jennings.

Departures: M. J. McDonough and J. M. Winder.

## WASHINGTON, D. C., WESTERN UNION.

Mr. Edward Libbie of the capital office, and Mr. Irving Harne of the clerical department, were lately married. Both were remembered by their many friends in the office, in the way of handsome presents.

Night Chief Operator Young went to Charleston, S. C., with the Presidential party.

Mr. L. V. Luber is confined to his home with rheumatism.

Departures: Phillip C. Hyam, Jr., for New York; James Griffith, Jr., for Pittsburg, Pa., and Miss Maud Robinson for Atlantic City, N. J.

Arrivals: Press Duff, "Lafe" Jamieson, Messrs. Reynolds, Morris, Keister, Moffett, Lemisch, Arnold, Wilkins and Chilcott, and Miss Laura



See and Mr. Frank Springman from branch offices.

Charley Burlingame an old Washington operator is here reporting the Bennings races.

Mr. Lawrence Parker is in charge of the race track office at Bennings, assisted by Messrs. Hohbein, Nolan, LaGorce and Pfaff.

### CHICAGO, ILL.

**WANTED, A FIRST CLASS OPERATOR.** Type-writers make numerous first class operators that are always in demand. To be first class requires both quantity and quality of work; can't keep up the quality with dirty, blurred type, nor the quantity if you spend 15 minutes daily, cleaning type. Get one of our brushes that cleans your type while you work. Postpaid, 50 cents each. Eacutt & Cawthorn, 2704 N. Lincoln St., Chicago, Ills.

Mills bought, sold and rented. Repairing and renting a specialty. Lowest prices and terms. Write for descriptive catalogue. Wholesale dealers in platens and parts. Agency Telegraph Age. Telegraphers' Type-writer Co., Rooms 5 to 3, 122 La Salle Street, Chicago; O. T. Anderson, manager.

### WESTERN UNION.

The Overland Division is now under the control of John O'Brien of the Wheatstone, who is only assisted by Messrs. Pierce and Auld.

James E. McDermet, manager at Aurora, Ill., recently made us a visit. The Aurora office is fast coming to the front rank, as business is on the increase under the energetic managership of Mr. McDermet. He is a ceaseless and conscientious hustler.

H. F. White, formerly manager at Elgin, Ill., has been assigned to the managership at Bloomington to succeed C. S. Morgan. Mr. White is well known here, is an excellent executive and we may expect good results under his direction. Mr. White is a constant reader of TELEGRAPH AGE.

Messrs. Deacon and Cosgrove promise another pleasant affair by the Signal Corps soon, declaring that it will overshadow the former function.

Frank J. Scherrer who has been Recording Secretary of Morse Council National Union since its organization nearly thirteen years ago, resigned his office at the last meeting of the Council on account of his departure for New York whither he accompanies President R. C. Clowry of this company as private secretary.

Morse Council loses a most faithful and efficient secretary, who has been elected to succeed himself each year. The Council in appreciation of his services presented him with a handsome silver trimmed fountain pen and also a beautiful scarf pin. Frank M. Crittenton was elected Secretary of the Council to fill the place made vacant by Mr. Scherrer's resignation.

Fourteen of the Signal Corps of the 2d I. N. G. made a visit to Phil Sheridan Post of the G. A. R. a few evening since at Oak Park, a suburban city. Sergeant Deacon read a paper on signaling devices and the methods of conveying intelligence

in use in the United States Army after which a practical illustration of the "wig wag" signals was exemplified by members of the corps, messages being sent and received from either end of the hall. Wireless telegraphy was also demonstrated to the mystification of the audience of whom more than three hundred people were present. Adjutant Hotchkiss of the Post being a member of the Chicago operating staff was the prime mover in the affair.

Through the careless handling of matches by the son of Division Chief McGrath, a serious fire in the residence of the latter was narrowly averted.

### POSTAL.

Mr. W. H. Bowman and Mrs. A. Reynolds were recently married. They have the best wishes of the entire office.

Mr. "Al" Lassman is now sending Associated Press report vice J. Harrington who goes to the main office.

Arrivals: Louis Trocky Konefsky and Messrs. Easton, Ridge, Burke, Nelson, Hearn and Phinney.

James P. Browner has been appointed to regular extra. John Brosnan is now working days at Board of Trade.

Departures: C. S. Springer to Western Union; Thomas Deacon and J. A. Heffernan to St. Paul.

Mr. Arthur Hanlon is now night chief check.

### PHILADELPHIA, PA., WESTERN UNION.

In honor of his recent splendid achievement at the tournament at Atlanta, Ga., many friends and admirers of Mr. Harry V. Emanuel, tendered that gentleman a complimentary testimonial in the shape of a banquet on Saturday evening, April 5. The affair was a decided success and was largely attended. Jolity prevailed during the entire evening. Brilliant oratory, music, singing and dancing were indulged in. A unique feature was that "shop" talk was tabooed, the penalty for so doing being a speech from the offender; fifty speeches were made by actual count. Edward Morton a splendid performer on the piano, won great applause with ragtime songs and other music. In course of the evening, Mr. Emanuel was called upon for a speech which he delivered with fine effect, dwelling modestly upon the events at Atlanta, in which he took a prominent part. Ending his remarks with words of appreciation for the cordial tribute of his friends, not for himself individually as he expressed it, but for the glory of the Western Union boys of Philadelphia.

George W. Catherman, a well known operator of this city has been appointed manager at Altoona, Pa., vice A. G. Strickland, resigned.

M. E. Balliet has resigned and will take a vacation of several months duration visiting his old home in Watsonstown, Pa.

Joseph Dolphin has the sympathy of many friends in the death of his mother which occurred recently at the age of 82.

During the Hawes trial at Mt. Holly, N. J., Messrs. Abdill, McMahon, McBride, Eisenberg

and Swearer who were sent there, handled the enormous amount of press matter in splendid shape.

Miss Nellie Hayes, H. C. Kline and Samuel Eisenberg are new arrivals.

After several weeks illness J. E. Shivers has again returned to duty.

#### PHILADELPHIA, PA., POSTAL.

A more desirable position in a broker's office fell lately to the lot of W. C. Cornell. His place on the Pittsburg local was assigned to Joseph Lane.

Miss Nellie Hayes, a popular operator in the city department, has resigned to accept a more remunerative place elsewhere. Miss Lillian Greiner now fills the position relinquished by Miss Hayes.

New arrivals have not been so plentiful of late, Mr. Emil Michel being the last addition to the extras.

Mr. F. J. Mitchell was absent a few days in consequence of the death of his brother-in-law.

Mr. John Jeffries has been transferred from the service department days to the position of chief clerk nights, vice Hugh Coyle, resigned.

The recent great fire at Atlantic City caused an immense amount of extra telegraphing, which, being anticipated, was promptly met by the timely action of Chief Operator C. A. Stimpson, who, accompanied by Messrs. George McIntyre and Robert Mecredy, went to Atlantic City to help out during the rush.

The local Aid Society held another of its successful "Euchre-Banquet and Dance" socials on the evening of the 9th inst.

#### SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., WESTERN UNION.

The San Francisco Telegraphers' Aid Society gave a very enjoyable entertainment and ball at Union Square Hall, April 1, which was largely attended by the fraternity of San Francisco and vicinity. This society was organized about ten years ago with a membership of about a dozen, and now has eighty-nine members, with a surplus of \$827.45 in the treasury. Prior to the entertainment a meeting of the members was held at which officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President, Wesley Davis; Vice-president, W. A. Galvin; Secretary, Miss M. C. Sanquist; Treasurer, T. H. Reynolds. The entertainment programme, under the able management of the committee, Mrs. Fleming and Messrs. Swanson and Elberg, was a decided success. Some selections by local talent were presented, demonstrating the fact that the telegraphers of San Francisco need not go outside of their profession in order to get up a good entertainment. A flute solo by Mr. Stewart and a song composed by Mr. Hawcroft, deserve special mention. After the entertainment the floor was cleared and the greater part of the audience indulged in a good-old-time dance which lasted well into the small hours.

On account of the severe storm which swept recently over this section and crippling mostly all of the wires, Operators Whipple, Summerel, Ryan

and Luithle were sent to Sacramento to help out for five days.

Miss Nellie Foster, who has been visiting relatives and friends in Bellflower, Ill., since December last, has returned.

Edward Harrington, formerly manager at Fresno, Cal., has resigned that office and been added to the operating force here.

Edward Dorgan helped out at Hotel Del Monte, Del Monte, Cal., during March.

Born, to our night traffic chief and Mrs. Harry Jeffs, a son.

Arrival: W. A. Warrensford.

#### MONTREAL, QUE., CANADIAN PACIFIC.

With the opening of navigation business has commenced to increase rapidly and every available wire is tasked to its full capacity. Some additional facilities as well as an increase in the staff is in contemplation, and from present indications an unusual busy season is anticipated.

Among the recent arrivals are: F. C. Allen and C. E. McWha from Sydney, N. S.; H. S. Newson, Hamilton, Ont.; J. Watson, South Africa; Miss M. Jones, Quebec, and E. L. Herdman, Halifax, N. S. Mr. J. A. Cooke, manager at Sydney office was a recent visitor and enjoyed a week's sojourn in the city, sightseeing, etc.

Mr. Mathew Fanning, a well-known telegrapher of this office, but at present in the Ottawa office, has the sympathies of his many friends in the death of his father which occurred March 28. The operators contributed a beautiful floral offering on the occasion of the funeral.

Mr. Walter J. Barclay, has resigned and gone over to the Anglo Cable office. Although Mr. Barclay was one of the youngest on the staff, he was capable of manipulating any of the heavy circuits and promises to be one of the coming "gilt-edge" operators in the near future.

Mr. H. Lyle has returned from North Bay, Ont., where he had been relieving for the past two weeks.

#### NEW YORK CITY.

"My Old Virginia Home Upon the Farm," one of the sweetest songs published; "God's Will Not Ours be Done," (McKinley's last words) strong descriptive song with martial music; "Left on the Battlefield;" "Down Where the Cotton Blossoms Grow;" "I'll be With You When the Roses Bloom Again;" "Any Old Place I Can Hang My Hat is Home Sweet Home to Me;" "Heirloom Waltzes;" "Zenda Waltzes;" "Utopian Waltzes;" "Metropolitan March and Two Step;" 18 cents each. If you want any other sheet music write to me about it. I can save you money. PIANOS SOLD ONE DOLLAR PER WEEK. Address, B. L. Brannan, 195 Broadway, New York.

#### POSTAL.

Mr. J. E. Albright has been transferred from the night to the regular day force; Mr. John E.

Seamon from the day to the night force; Mr. John Mann to the 6 A. M. and J. P. Williams and Irving Roloson to the 7 A. M. force; L. E. Harper from Chicago bonus wire days, to Chicago bonus wires nights. Messrs. R. F. McKune and George McGill are holding down the second Philadelphia bonus wire.

The following named have been transferred from the waiting list to a split trick: T. Tarangiola and J. J. Kelley.

Mr. J. T. Ewing has returned to duty on night force, after an absence of six weeks, during which time he was on special duty at the White House, N. J., test station.

W. A. Hayden of the City department has resigned.

Miss Nonie Lyons for the last four years at a Brooklyn branch office died Sunday, April 6 of heart trouble. Her funeral was largely attended and numerous floral remembrances were sent.

"Uncle Billy" Clum is still confined to his home with rheumatism. This is the longest siege he has had in several years. Mr. Clum has been actively engaged at the key since 1846.

Mr. J. H. Twyford has been transferred from traffic chiefship to the electrical engineers office.

**WESTERN UNION.**

The first monthly meeting of the New York Telegraphers' Aid Society was held in Secretary Quinn's office, April 5. F. F. Norton, the newly elected president, assisted by E. E. Brannin occupied the chair. William J. Quinn and R. Ferguson, respectively financial and recording secretaries, were present. The executive committee was represented by Miss Sarah Dougherty, and Messrs. M. F. O'Neill, Andrew Gillman, Charles A. Kilfoyle and F. J. Sheridan. The usual business of the society was transacted and the following officers and committees were appointed for the ensuing year: Trustees—Thomas M. Brennan, J. J. Calvert and J. C. Robinson; Relief committee—Edward Howell, Charles Shirley and Miss Shea; Membership committee—Thomas M. Brennan, F. F. Norton, E. E. Brannin, Andrew Gillman and Miss Shea; Entertainment committee—Joseph Gschwind, F. J. Sheridan, W. W. Price and R. C. McDonald.

Mr. Robert C. Edwards of this office has devised a mutiple automatic repeating combination, on which six wires can be worked automatically. He believes there are occasions when such a combination would be very serviceable.

Mr. Walter C. Burton, regent of Amaranth Council Royal Arcanum of Brooklyn, delivered the panegyric, upon the unveiling of a monument, in honor of one of their deceased members. It was an effort worthy of the orator.

J. Ragsdale, who has for some time been ill with fever in Florida, has returned to duty.

Robert Morton has been promoted to the position of traffic chief of the Wheatstone and Buckingham systems.

To Misses Bertha, Anna and Lillie Herklotz condolences are extended in the death of their father, which occurred April 4.

The women as well as the men are very much interested over the plan for pension, and there has been considerable talk on the subject.

Electrical Engineer J. C. Barclay, under the guidance of R. H. Morris, recently inspected the office. Those of the force who know Mr. Barclay speak in high praise of his many good qualities.

Frank B. Rae, now an electrical engineer in this city, and for many years an operator here, has presented to the Old Time Telegraphers' and Historical Association an album containing photographs of many men who were prominent in the early history of the telegraph. It is quite an addition to the many objects of interest now in the possession of the Association. It is hoped that the Association may soon have a room in the Western Union Building where these historical specimens may be exhibited.

**Gold and Stock Life Insurance Association.**

The auditor's report of the Gold and Stock Life Insurance Association for the first quarter of 1902, ending March 31, is as follows:

RECEIPTS.		DISBURSEMENTS.	
Balance on hand at last report . . . .	\$17,485.47	Death claims \$2,100.00	
From dues . . .	1,874.30	Expenses . . .	43.24
From fees . . .	31.00	Total . . . .	\$2,143.24
From inter'st . . .	163.46	Balance on hand . . . . .	\$17,410.99
<b>Total . . . .</b>	<b>\$19,554.23</b>		

**The Up-to-Date Agent and Telegrapher.**

In glancing over the interesting columns of the January "Telegrapher," I noticed that "OS" would like a few suggestions as to what constitutes an agent and telegrapher of the highest efficiency. While my views may be challenged by some of my older brothers, I take the stand that the following, if rigidly observed by the man of ordinary intellect and learning, will bring him to the highest round of efficiency.

First of all, the man must be qualified. To be qualified, he must be neat, manly, studious, prompt, a good talker, deep thinker, and temperate.

Neatness, one of God's graces, is sadly lacking with a great many of our fraternity. If a man is neat, both in dress and surroundings, a great many minor deficiencies are overlooked. Make your office a little paradise, and you will be bright and happy.

To be manly, you should stand before your fellow-men with the conviction that you are a superior being. I don't mean to be overbearing, but let the public know that you are as you would wish them to think you, and that the company and your superior officers have made a wise selection in giving you your present berth, whether large or small.

Be a student at all times. Be always ready to learn more. Do not carry the idea that you have at any time learned it all. When you receive circulars and tariffs from your superiors, give them a careful reading, and see the knowledge or instructions contained therein are safely stored away in your memory, ready at any time in case of emergency.

Be prompt in all matters, large or small. Do your daily work up with dispatch. Never put off until to-morrow what you can do to-day. Do not sit with your feet cocked up on the desk, reading the daily paper, and let the dispatcher break his arm off trying to get your office. He will recognize your promptness if you give him no cause for complaint. If you have men under you, be a strict disciplinarian. Allow no foolishness in your office during office hours. If you are called upon for decision, give a prompt and decisive answer, which you should always be ready for.

Be a good talker, and able to fathom your patron's mind and see at a glance what will please him. Argue the point with him, and show him by your talk and actions that you understand your business, and he can't help but admire you for it. Always have your tariffs and references at hand, to be consulted at any time.

Be temperate. I cannot dwell too heavily on this subject. You may take an occasional drink, but let them be few and far between. Do not be seen going to public drinking places. It is exceedingly bad form, and causes talk and comment, even from your most intimate friends.—C. E. Hilton in the Railroad Telegrapher.

**Business Notice.**

The Telegraphers' Typewriter Co., O. T. Anderson, manager, of 122 La Salle street, Chicago, holds a well merited position among the telegraphic fraternity in the big city on the lake, as

a reliable source of "mill" supplies of all kinds and descriptions. For it has come to be generally known that the operator can always obtain about what he wants, and as he wants it, in the way of a typewriter, etc., at Mr. Anderson's place and this being so it is almost superfluous to say anything more.

[Advertising will be accepted to appear in this column at the rate of three cents a word.]

**AMERICAN DISTRICT PLANT FOR SALE.**—Owing to illness, the manager and owner of an American District Company in a prosperous condition, located in a city of thirty-five thousand inhabitants, desires to sell same. In connection a night watchman's signal system has been established for the past four years; four large mills and factories being equipped and many more to be equipped; that the district system is under an exclusive agreement and no other district can be put in under these agreements. Terms, etc., upon application. Address "American District," care TELEGRAPH AGE, 253 Broadway, New York.

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**The Modern Service of Commercial and Railway Telegraphy** (5th edition, revised and enlarged,) by J. P. Abernethy. The theory and practice, including railway station and express service. Arranged in questions and answers. 425 pages, 46 illustrations. Price \$2.00, expressage prepaid. Address John B. Taltavall. The Telegraph Age, 25 Broadway, New York.

**IMPORTANT TO YOU**

J. S. TOWNSEND—The Telegraphers' Jeweler, 1554 Wabash Ave., Chicago, offers any article in his elegant stock at net wholesale prices. A rare opportunity. Any watches or jewelry advertised can be bought at a lower price from this well known firm. J. S. TOWNSEND, 1554 Wabash Ave., Chicago. Our 400-page catalogue sent on application. Agents wanted. Established 1877.

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| Boston & Maine Railroad.                  | Colorado Midland R. R. Co.                   |
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| Lehigh Valley R. R. Co.                   | Chicago & Grand Trunk Railway.               |
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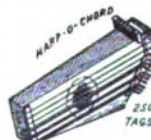
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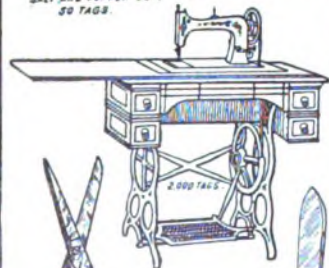
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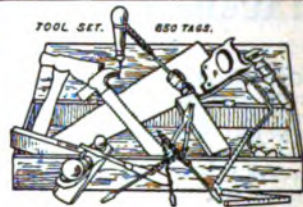
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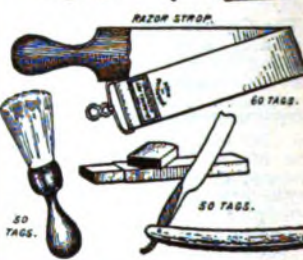
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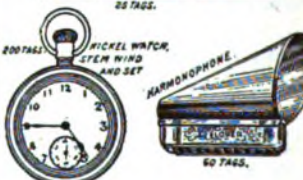
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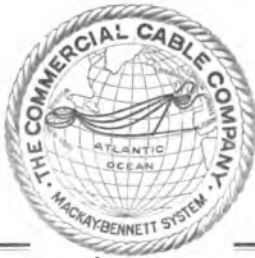
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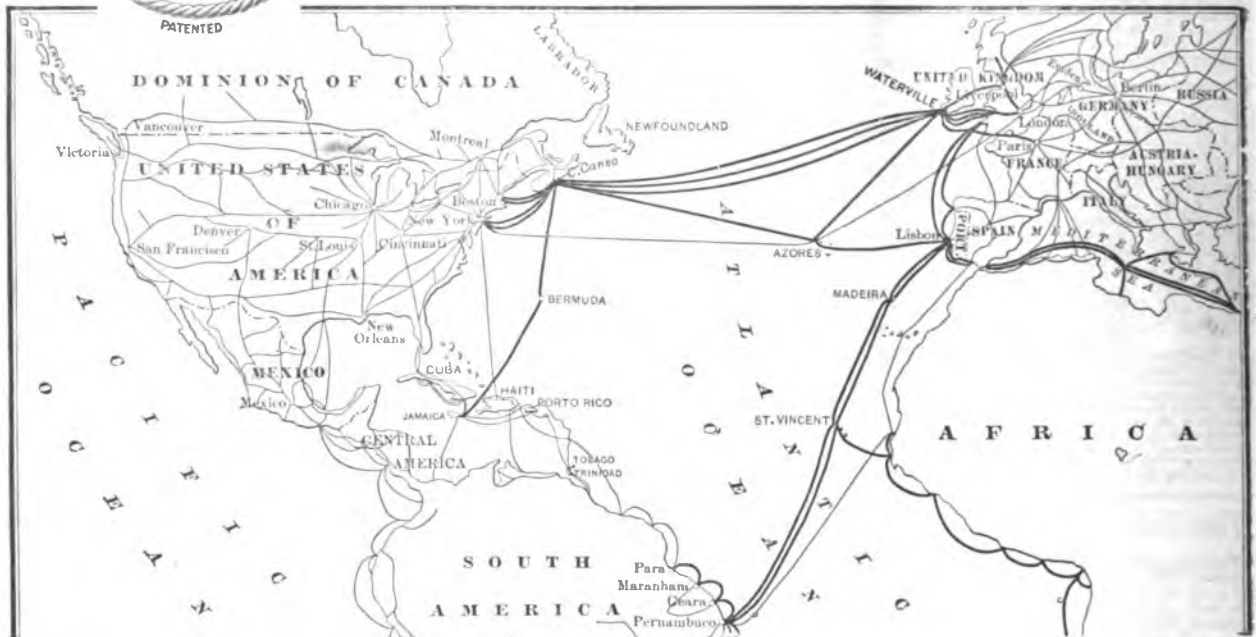
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