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THE PURPOSE OF THE TRANSFORMER

REDUCES THE VOLTAGE

Black Boxes on Electric Line
Poles Have Important Use
In Distribution of
The Current

Perhaps you may have wondered what job is being performed by the black iron boxes seen on many of the poles belonging to the Public Service company. The question may also have occurred to you "just what is a sub-station and what has it got to do with electric service?" Both are integral parts of an electric lighting system. It would be impossible to operate it without them. The box is a transformer and the machinery in the sub-station is just a transformer—that is it is the equivalent of three.

To electric light and power companies there are open two possible ways of providing line capacity for growing demands or loads. One involves increasing the size of the transmission wire. The other method is to raise the voltage or pressure on the circuit. Conditions render the first mentioned plan impracticable and so recourse must be had to voltage increase. When this is done—when pressure is raised above a certain point it passes beyond the power of endurance of appliances and right here comes in the transformer.

Wonderful Invention

It is one of the most wonderful inventions ever made and likewise one of the simplest machines imaginable. There are no moving parts in it. Its principal features consist of two coils of wire wound on a core the number of turns varying with the design. The end of one coil is connected to the high voltage supply. From the terminals of the other wires are extended into the customers premises.

In operation the electric current flowing through the high voltage coil sets up a magnetic field which expands and collapses as the current reverses in the circuit. This causes the second coil to pass through a magnetic field and generates in it a difference of potential proportional to the high voltage in direct ratio to the number of turns in the two coils.

Insures Safety

That is all and the meaning expressed in non-technical language is that this simple, efficient and self-working device brings down the pressure to the safe point of use. The big transformers housed in the sub-stations do the same thing on a larger scale. Current from a distance at high voltage enters them and emerges to travel distribution circuits at lower voltage.

The Public Service company has many thousands of transformers in service ranging from the smallest to the largest made. Its investment in this item of its operating plant alone runs into a great sum.

MAIL SERVICE IN ALASKA EXPENSIVE

Highest Per Capita Cost Shown
In Overland Mail in
Territory

The highest per capita cost of the United States postal service is in Alaska where the government spends \$200,000 per year for overland mail service to serve 38,000 white men. Pack trains, dog teams, and other primitive methods of transportation are employed. However, the importance of this service is illustrated by the fact that these men regulate their lives by the postal routes. The government inspector recently visited Alaska found that men served by these mail routes waited until two and three o'clock in the morning for the arrival of the carriers. The coming and going of a mail carrier in these communities is distinctly an event, it being the only time the communities come in touch with the outside world.

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Sundays 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. for reading only.
Maintained by, First Church of Christ, Scientist, Highland Park. Services are held in the church edifice, 381 Hazel avenue. Sunday morning at 10:45. Sunday school at 12:00 o'clock noon. Wednesday evening Testimonial Service at 8:00 o'clock. You are cordially invited to attend these services and to visit the Reading Room.