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AVERAGE LENGTH OF TELEPHONE TALKS
BUSINESS CALLS BRIEFER
 Home to Home Conversations More Leisurely, According To Survey Made by One Company

Spring Poetry

About this time, as the almanacs say, the spring poet used to walk into the newspaper office and drag out some laboriously wrought verses, which with a kind of hopeful diffidence she presented to the editor. That authority was not commonly

much impressed with their news value, but in many cases he printed them, out of sympathy for a kindly soul. We have more poets than ever before now, the majority highly sophisticated and cultured. Most of them seek less obvious subjects than spring. However the romance of the

spring time appeals to many people who still preserve simplicity of heart amid a complex age. The women voters are asking whether the presidential dark horses will be safe for any lady to drive. The political parties must be interested in the fishing industry, as they have to catch a lot of suckers.



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Once upon a time "neighborliness" included conversations across backyard fences and little jaunts from house to house in the course of which the wives of the nation exchanged the latest news concerning mutual friends or acquaintances.

In these days one frequently can find a person who remembers those days and bemoans their passing, sometimes giving rise to queries as to why such neighborly visits have passed. The answer is the telephone.

Makes Tests
 A large telephone company recently completed a series of observations, the results of which are basis for the conclusion that the old-fashioned backyard talkfests now are carried on by phone.

Equipping its central stations with devices which measured the length of each call made, without "listening in" on the conversations, the company found that there is a wide variation between the length of telephone conversations between offices and those between homes.

The tests showed that in all large centers of population the average call lasted only a fraction more than two minutes. This despite the fact that the average residence call was approximately four minutes.

Commenting on the results of its tests the company officials said:

Average Calls
 "There seems to be a consistent increase in the length of the telephone conversation as the grade of service decreases. For example, the average conversation on party lines is longer than on the average individual lines and persons having a message rate talk longer than those having a flat rate service.

"No effort was made to determine whether women telephone users talk longer than men, and telephone engineers say that is a matter of pure scientific research with no place in their present problems."

Comparatively few business conversations, it was found, are longer than five minutes, but conversations from residence telephones extending over an hour are not at all rare.

RECEIVES LETTER FROM SECY. DENBY

Waukegan Man Has Note That Is Clear on Ridiculous Panic of Senate

Atty. William G. Strong of Waukegan, friend of Edwin Denby, secretary of the navy who resigned recently following the "Teapot Dome" shakeup, has received a letter from Mr. Denby in which the latter sets forth his complete activities and reasons for resigning.

Secretary Denby states that at no time did he do anything that would be detrimental to the United States in the matter of leasing the naval oil reserve lands. He stated that it was after governmental and other experts had learned that this land was being drained of oil by privately owned wells adjoining those reserves, that it was decided the government would have to make other arrangements because in time it would be holding an empty shell. That they were being drained is undisputed.

Several plans were considered but the leasing plan was believed to be the one most advantageous to the United States.

Secretary Denby states in his letter to Atty. Strong that he did not resign because he felt that he had not done the right thing as an official but because his friendship for President Coolidge is such that he did not want to place that official in an embarrassing position either as a personal or political matter.

"As a private citizen, if I have committed any offense against the law," he writes, "I am still subject to action, I am able to fight my own battles, but I cannot fight slander protected by senatorial immunity. No one more than I can more deeply deplore fraud in public or private life, and where such guilt is shown it should be rigorously punished.

"The president has stood up manfully for right and justice. The sportsmanlike thing for me to do is to relieve him of further embarrassment of continued political maneuvers and partisan political trickery."

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