

**EASY TO TELEPHONE ACROSS OCEAN NOW**

**TRANSATLANTIC SYSTEM**

**Interesting Facts About Opening of New Service Recently; Secrecy Still Unobtainable**

The family telephone in every cross-roads hamlet in the country is now become a possible link with London following successful inauguration of the transatlantic radiophone service.

No greater technical difficulties would be involved in extending the service to other cities, officials of the American Telephone & Telegraph company, said, than would be met in ordinary long-distance connections. Further extension, they said, depended merely upon the public demand.

More than 40 conversations marked the opening of the New York-London service at an estimated cost to the subscribers of \$12,000, according to the Christian Science Monitor.

The possibilities of extension of the service to inland cities was demonstrated in a call between the New York World and its London representative during which the St. Louis Post-Dispatch listened in through an ordinary long-distance connection.

**Talk All Day**

The service officially opened at 8:44 in the morning with formal ceremonies and continued until 6:30 o'clock at night. During that period financial transactions involving more than \$6,000,000 were completed, news dispatches were received, personal matters discussed and advertisements taken.

Instances of the nonprivacy of the service were revealed during the day. The New York World prints verbatim copies of many conversations picked up by its radio-receiving station, and a wireless amateur in Johannesburg, South Africa, reports he was able to listen in at will.

The world's log of conversations records how one man said "can you hear me whistle," and he whistled to the evident enjoyment of someone in London. Another said, "Hello, this is Dover talking. Fine!" and someone replied, "Yes, fine," another was "yesterday we signaled; today we speak; tomorrow we see."

**Experimental**

The World, in explanation of printing the overheard conversations, says the first day's conversations were all experimental. Reporting the conversations does not become eavesdropping, but a record of the successes

and failures of the various conversations.

The telephone company, however, had already warned that secrecy, was impossible at the present stage of development of the service.

**MANY CONTACTS IN TELEPHONE CIRCUIT**

**SOME FACTS OF INTEREST**

**Facts About Technical Operation of Lines Which Are Used Daily by Millions in U. S.**

Whenever a telephone connection is established, electrical circuits must be closed and opened. The point of contact between two metallic surfaces is controlled by the action of a relay, and if the control functions properly the telephone call may be readily put through. Relays are, in effect, gates along the highway of speech.

Each day users of the telephone connected with the Bell System in the United States make over 70,000,000 calls, which means that about 70,000,000 circuits must be set up and taken down. In each of these circuits, established between subscribers served by manual exchanges in a multi-office district, upwards of twenty-one relays are involved. In cases of connecting circuits, established by machine switching systems, as many as 146 relays are utilized.

In a city of upwards of 50,000 inhabitants, served by a multiple switchboard of 10,000-lines capacity, there are over 160,000 of these contact points in a telephone office. They are about half as big as the head of a pin and weigh from five to eight milligrams, while there are a few major ones that weigh as much as eleven milligrams. Just how heavy this is can best be realized by the fact that an ordinary postage stamp weighs about fifty milligrams, and that there are 450,000 milligrams in one pound.

As a substitute for platinum, used for many years as a contact material, a new alloy has been developed in the Bell Telephone laboratories. Because of the rapidly increasing demand for platinum in the jewelry, dental, chemical and electrical industries it has risen greatly in price. This made it desirable to have a platinum substitute for contacts which would be available in greater quantities and could be purchased at a lower price, and after a long series of tests covering a period of years an alloy of gold, silver and platinum, in specified proportions, has been

found to have the necessary features and is now being used in the Bell System.

**Saving Is Large**

This alloy at the present time is being used in approximately 95 per cent of all telephone relays and keys. The individual savings in each tiny contact is small, but on account of the great number of relay and key contacts necessary in the telephone plants of this country this saving mounts up to a large total each year.

**PUBLIC SERVICE CO. PERSONNEL CHANGES**

**AFFECTS THREE DISTRICTS**

**Promotions of Officials Made And Also Transfers To New Locations Are Reported**

Important changes in personnel, affecting three major districts and one sub-district of the Public Service company of Northern Illinois territory, have been announced by Charles W. Bradley, vice president in charge of public relations and service.

Harry L. Judd, who has served the company for 18 years as district manager in Oak Park, has been promoted to the position of assistant to vice president Bradley. During his long term of service in Oak Park, Mr. Judd has made innumerable friends and has been actively identified with many civic enterprises. His new capacity will permit the enlarging of his scope of usefulness and will also open a larger field in which to develop such friends as characterized his long stay in Oak Park.

B. G. Smith, the company's present district manager in Chicago Heights, will be brought to Oak Park to replace Mr. Judd. Mr. Smith also has been with the Public Service company for many years, having served as district manager in Kankakee prior to his Chicago Heights appointment.

W. C. Dowdy, who now holds the position of district manager in Kankakee, has been named to succeed Mr. Smith in Chicago Heights. Mr. Dowdy formerly was district manager at Streator.

W. P. Crowley, at present district superintendent in the Maywood-Elmhurst region, is being promoted to the position of Kankakee district manager, following approximately two years at Maywood.

H. W. Lee, at present attached to the company's construction department in the general offices, will succeed Mr. Crowley as superintendent of the Maywood-Elmhurst district.

All of the above changes are distinct promotions, and are indicative of the steady growth and development of the company's business.

**PLAN DIRECTION OF FOREIGN COMMERCE**

**Measure Introduced to Definitely Establish Position of Dept. of Commerce Representatives**

There is a bill pending in congress to definitely establish the position of foreign trade representatives of the United States Department of Commerce and to provide for their classification under various grades. The measure has met with favor in the lower house and it will undoubtedly pass the present session of congress.

About twenty years ago the United States began to realize the necessity of extending its trade relations into foreign countries, and the agitation began with demands that Central and South America trade be taken away from England and Germany.

A Systematic Effort  
Ever since Secretary Hoover became head of the Department of Commerce systematic efforts have been made to expand our foreign commerce as rapidly as possible. It is

gratifying to know that "foreign commerce," under Hoover's guiding direction, has been made an actual endeavor instead of a mere mouthful of words. Automobile manufacturers are placing their American cars everywhere, and the monthly statements of foreign commerce show that hundreds of new industries have broken into the world markets. The Department of Commerce and the state department have been co-operating in all matters relating to the nation's export and import business. Whenever American manufacturers need the help of the government in a foreign trade center these departments propose to be in a position to have "a man on the job."

Congress Aiding  
Congress has gone into the question of strengthening our foreign trade field and a report has been submitted by the house committee on interstate and foreign commerce which shows that the government foreign commerce service is rapidly becoming a splendid example of efficiency.

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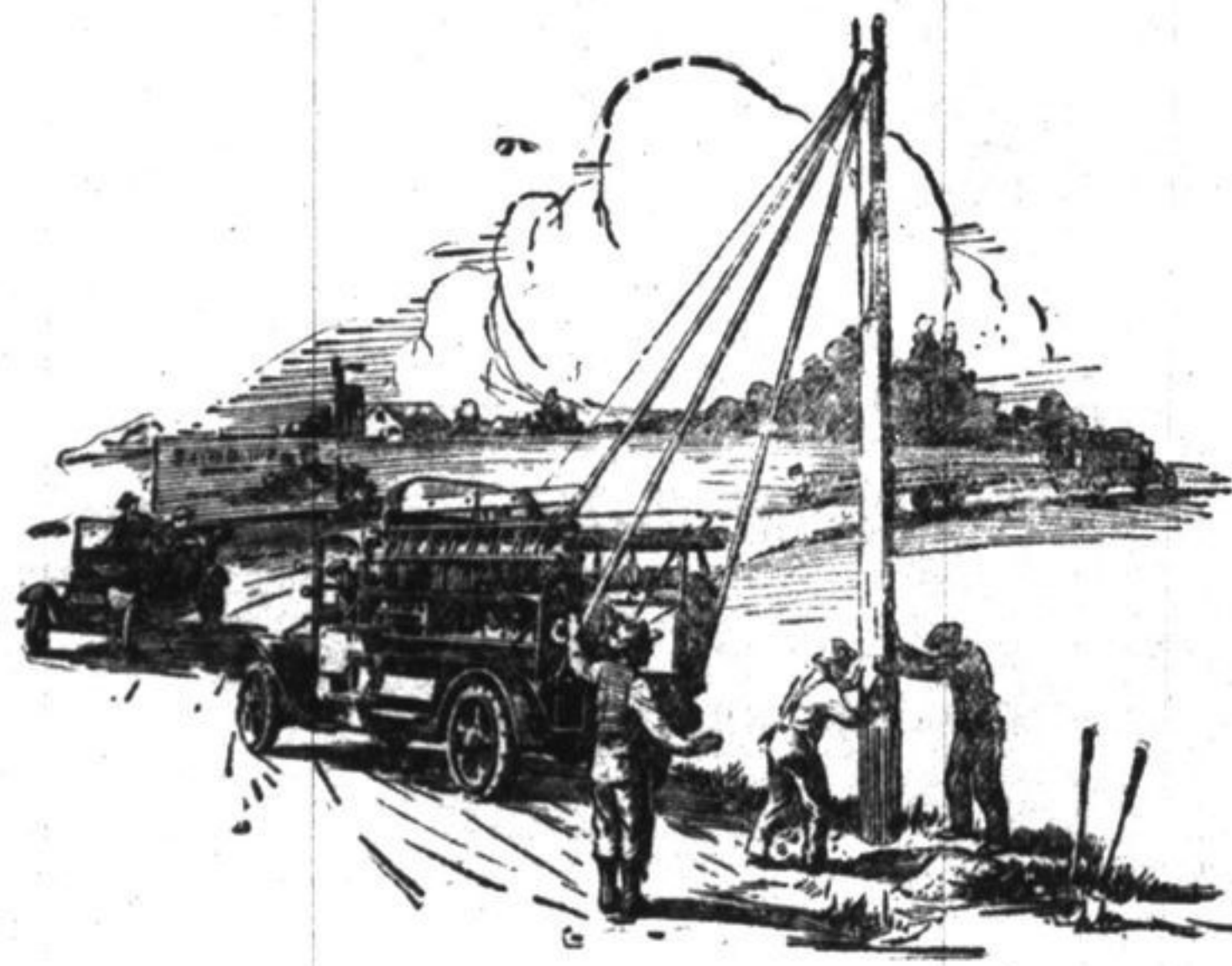
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