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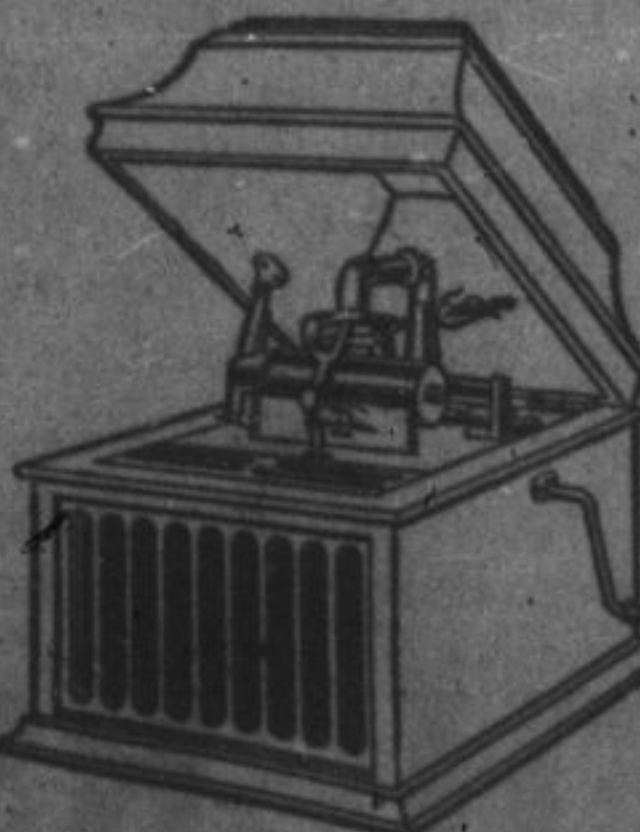
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The New Edison Amberola



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Telephones In Japan

THERE are many pleasant things about life in Japan, one of them is that when you get hard up, you can take your telephone out and pawn it for two or three hundred.

Telephone numbers in Japan are a commodity, just as wheat or railway stocks. Numerous brokers with large capital deal in telephone numbers. They buy and sell numbers at the current market quotation of the day. Other business men lay up numbers when they are cheap and rent out the telephones at so much a month. Others again lend money on the number just as a pawnbroker here would lend on your diamond ring.

This interesting business development is the result of the Government telephone monopoly, and the failure of the Government to keep up with the demand for service. Annually Parliament appropriates a certain amount for telephone extension. When that sum is gone no more instruments can be put in that year. The monopoly yields the Government a profit of 10,000,000 yen. But this money goes into the general fund and is not available for telephone extension.

As a result of this situation when Mr. One Two decided to start in business as a grocer he goes up to the Governmental telephone headquarters and applies for a telephone.

"I shall put your name on my honorable list of applicants," replies the sogasha-like clerk girl behind the counter.

"How long am I going to wait?" inquires Hon. Grocer One Two.

"Well, maybe two-free year," replies Miss Apple Blossom. "Not long, anyway."

"But," protests One Two San, "that very long time to wait."

"Long time?" inquires the charming Apple Blossom. "Why, some people make apply seven, eight year ago—no got yet. Hon. Tokyo Town now only 61,000 telephone—Japanese peoples here and all around got him 120,000 more name on waitee-waitee list."

"No can wait," says Hon. Grocer One Two, and goes away very angry to the telephone broker.

"How much you make him honorable telephone up at my peachy-blossom grocery house store quick-quick."

The so honorable telephone broker takes a look through his stock. "Here very nice number—2222," he explains. "Suppose you like—five hundred dolla."

"Two much," protests Mr. One Two.

"No, no, very cheap," cries the dealer. "All numbers like 5,000, 2020, 1234—make the so-easy to remember—cost very big high. Five hundred every time money."

Mr. One Two takes a phone with a plain number for 1400 and sets up his grocery, saving thus from two to five years' wait.

The Government allows the instruments to be taken out or installed without change of number. When the business man needs a little extra working capital he puts his telephone up as collateral for a loan. The instrument is not removed, but papers are drawn up which pledge the repayment of the loan with usury upon a certain date. If the money is not repaid the telephone, which he sells or rents to some other Japanese.

The highest price ever paid for a telephone number was 1,250 yen, which translates into \$625. The present market price is high, telephone service advancing in cost like any other commodity, during times of business activity. The present quotation is from 800 to 1,000 yen, according to the desirability of the numeral combination.

Of the 61,000 instruments in use in Tokio 13,000 are at present in pawn. The amount of money lent on this security is said to be 5,000,000 yen. One may easily raise as much as 1400 on a number that is regarded as desirable.

To become a subscriber to the telephone system is doubly expensive. One must not only pay the 800 yen or more that the broker charges for a number, but he must pay the Government sixty-six yen a year for the service. When he sells out, however, he can get back his original outlay. In fact, unless the Japs reform their monopoly methods, the investor in telephones is likely to make a profit, for the habit of wire conversation is growing faster than the equipment provided. The result is that phone numbers annually sell at higher levels. The Tokyo bankers and business men are in the habit of putting their surplus cash into telephones whenever one is offered at a fair price. The speculative investor can rent out the phone and after a year or two sell its number for a nice profit. Some business men make a business of leasing telephones. One princely dealer of this kind owns 150 telephones and has an income that is beyond the dreams of the Japanese styles of avarice.

An odd result of the system is that there are no private exchanges. The Marshal Field of Tokio does not have half a hundred trunk lines united under one number. On the contrary he has half a hundred different numbers. Whenever business expands to the point of making an additional number necessary he goes out into the market and buys one. But to merge its identity in any of his other phones would be to lose his purchase money. A number is a number, no matter whether it carries with it one wire or a dozen. The result of this system is that the would-be customer must start in on a list of ten, twenty or thirty numbers and call down until he arrives at an instrument that is not busy.

Chamberlain's

Charity is a cloak that covers a multitude of amateur theatrical performances.

When a woman begins to assert her rights she magnifies her wrongs.

LIGHT BEGINS TO DAWN

GERMAN PROFESSORS GIVE UP IMMORAL BELIEFS.

They Acknowledge That Nations Should Observe Treaties and That International Relations Must Be Based on the Idea of Right—One Very Hopeful Sign of the Times.

FROM an article in the "Vossische Zeitung," of Berlin, it appears that the German professors of political science and international law are beginning to show a new spirit in the treatment of questions concerning treaties and international rights. These professors have much to answer for. It will be recalled that about a score of them brought out a joint work "fully justifying" the sinking of the "Lusitania" "from the standpoint of international law." And before the war not a few of these political pundits taught the doctrine that might makes right, that the state can do no wrong, and thus prepared the way for dealing with treaty obligations as scraps of paper. It was freely taught that all treaties are valid only so long as circumstances remain unchanged, and that each state must judge for itself whether circumstances have changed.

But now a different spirit begins to manifest itself. Dr. Erich Eyck, writing in the paper already named, indicates that the breaches of international law in the early stages of the war were so numerous that people began to scoff at it as "an illusion of the day before yesterday," just about good enough still to keep up a ghostly existence in the books of unworshipful professors.

But it was the practical statesmen themselves who were the first to feel and admit the necessity of fixed laws between nations; they spoke first of international arbitration courts for adjusting differences between states; it was they who demanded that right should consort with might as an equal factor. Eyck says that the views laid down by Count Cayrol regarding international legal arrangements would have been laughed at only a few years ago as the fantasy of an incorrigible idealist.

It finds that the idea of international courts of arbitration has quite recently found strong support among the political science professors of Germany. Prof. Schuecking, of Marburg, has repeatedly expressed himself in favor of them. Even Prof. Zorn, of Bonn, one of Germany's representatives at the second Hague Conference and a man of very conservative tendencies, has recently given his support to such international arrangements. Also Prof. von List, of the University of Berlin, not long ago brought out a little book under the significant title: "From the League of States to a Community of Peoples," in which he strongly favors the process denoted by that title.

But two more elaborate works have recently appeared, dealing with this and other international law questions. One is by Dr. Leonard Nelson, professor of philosophy at Gottingen, and bears the title: "Political Science Without the (Conception of) Right"; the other by Prof. Robert Redlob, of Rostock University, showing historically the progress of the world toward the development of a universal system or league of states which shall guarantee the observance of international law.

Leonard reviews the teaching of some of the best known German writers on international law and theories of the state, and shows that they have all been led into error and self-contradiction through their failure to make the idea of right the foundation of their systems of international law. Especially does he attack the view that the state, as being the only criterion of right, is to be the sole judge in extending or limiting the validity of its treaties. The doctrine that treaties are valid only as long as circumstances remain the same is utterly rejected. If this doctrine should prevail, he says, then the theory of law would correspond all the more completely to the practice of the nations in proportion as these drop all moral considerations and give the reins to their lust for power, in proportion as the violence and treachery of the strong triumph over the weak.

Prof. Redlob is ready with a practical example to show the world what can be done in the direction of creating a league of nations. He takes the confederacy of the Swiss cantons as such an example, shows how it came into existence as a necessary arrangement for removing strife between its component parts, and how it developed from a loosely allied group of cantons into the present firmly united federal state.

Upon this model, says Redlob, should be constructed the league of European nations. As the Swiss cantons passed from an arbitration arrangement to a unified state so can the course of development go in Europe; and all that is needed is the proper psychological preparation of the various nations. That preparation consists chiefly in strengthening the determination of the various peoples to establish law and justice between themselves. This system of free states has its roots in the freedom of the individual citizen.

The Swiss people, says Redlob, can serve as an example for the nations of the earth in their struggle for harmony, not only in the technical structure of many of their institutions, but also in the spirit that unites them.

An Improved Hand-car.

An old hand-car may be transformed into a motor-propelled vehicle by installing thereon a "power top." The power top, which uses kerosene as fuel, is a gas engine outfit. With this equipment, the car will carry a crew of eight men; it will also draw a supply car.

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