$28,000,000 EXPENDITURE FOR MARYLAND TELEPHONES

Five-Year Construction Program Provides Additional Facilities in Every Section of State. Will Operate 243,000 Telephones by 1934 is Estimate



Graham K. McCorkle, General Manager

The business expansion now under way in Maryland is making itself felt in nearly every industry. Particularly is this true with the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Baltimore City which furnishes telephone service throughout the State. This company now operates more than 202,000 telephones, which is an increase of about 40,000 during the past five years. Five years hence the company expects to operate about 243,000 telephones, according to Graham K. McCorkle, general manager of the telephone company.

To provide the neecssary facilities for this anticipated growth, the company's construction program calls for additions and improvements to the telephone system in the State involving gross expenditures of more than $28,000,000.

This five-year program will include new central offices and office buildings involving expenditures of $4,400,000: telephone equipment including private branch exchange systems and associated apparatus, $6,000,000; long distance facilities including pole lines, wire and cable, $2,900,000; and underground and aerial cable extensions, pole lines and wire $10,500,000.

Plans are under way for the construction of five new central offices and major additions to switchboards and associated equipment in a number of existing offices. Fifteen hundred miles of open wire copper toll lines and 150 miles of toll cable will be added to the system by the end of 1933 in order to meet the increasing demands of the public for telephone service, Mr. McCorkle states. The placing of long distance lines in these storm-proof cables not only provides additional facilities for the growth of the toll service, but also materially reduces the storm bazards of sleet, wind and rain in the maintenance and operation of these telephone lines.

While the telephone was more universally used in Maryland last year than ever before, approximately 285,000,000 local calls being made, it is expected that at the end of the next five years the yearly calls will number about 350,000,000. Telephone users are now making 15,250,000 out of town calls each year. Mr. McCorkle estimates that Maryland telephone users will be making about 23,000,000 toll calls annually by 1933, which is an increase of nearly fifty per cent over the number now being made.

During the last few years a very appreciable improvement has been made in both local and toll telephone service. This improvement has been most marked in out of town calls. The average interval between the time a telephone subscriber files the call and the time he starts his conversation or is given a definite report has been decreased from three minutes in 1926 to 1.2 minutes in 1929. While this is a striking improvement in the service, still further improvements may be expected.

Today about 98 per cent of the toll telephone calls in Maryland are completed or the subscriber is given a definite report without hanging up his receiver. Where the calling party knows the number of the party wanted in the distant place a toll call is made in practically the same way as a local call.

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This Fortune Teller Out of the Ordinary

"Of course I don't believe in fortune tellers and all that bunk but I went to him just out of curiosity. Betty swears by him. She says he told her things about herself that even she didn't know. So I went to him just out of curiosity. Well, my dear, he said I had the most extraordinary crystal. He'd never seen a crystal as extraordinary as mine. He said my aura just glistened with fame and fortune. He said that I would make a wonderful writer. Yes, he said he saw pens in my crystal. And I'm going to travel. Maybe not this year but next year or the year after. He didn't say exactly where I was going but he distinctly saw a train or a boat in my crystal. And listen to this, dear. He said I was going to marry a tallish, sort of dark man with grayish-brown eyes. Isn't that a perfect description of Fred? He isn't exactly tall, but he is more dark than light and his eyes are more gray than blue. I'm sure he means Fred. He said we'd be married next summer or the winter after that. It's really quite remarkable the things he tells you. Of course, I don't really believe in fortune tellers and I know it's all foolish, but he's awfully good and you must go to him—just out of curiosity.—Kansas City Times.

Jewelers Unable to Duplicate Goa Stone

Goa, a settlement on the West coast of Maia, has for centuries been the property of the Portuguese, says an article in London Tit-Bits. Shortly after their occupation, the Jesuits appeared and set up a monastery, and it was there that a special sort of "jewel" was made. The Jesuits made these stones, which have come to be known as Goa stones, from various solidified drugs, but we today are totally "in the dark" as to what drugs they were composed of and how they were made.

Each stone was mounted in a silver filigree case and represented fine examples of old workmanship.

When the owner of the stone was troubled with indigestion he had only to scrape off a small portion of his stone, and drink it in a glass of water, and he was quite all right in a few moments.

Goa stones today, however, are rare and are only to be found in valuable collections of antiques.

Tryout of Air Brake All That Was Needed

The air brake was invented by Westinghouse in 1869. When he was twenty years of age an accident started his interest in railroad problems. While studying unified control of brakes he read of the use of compressed air in drilling the Mont Cenis tunnel in Italy. After his first patent was issued he interested W. W. Card, superintendent of the Steubenville division of the Panhandle railway, and obtained permission to equip a locomotive and four passenger cars for a practical tryout. Shortly after leaving the terminal station in Pittsburgh, as the train emerged from the tunnel at Fourth avenue, the engineer, Dan Tate, saw a drayman drive onto the tracks ahead. Tate reached for the handle of the new brake and brought the train to a complete stop four feet from the prostrate man, who had been flung from his wagon by the rearing of the horses. This proved a wholly satisfactory demonstration of Westinghouse's invention and a few weeks later the Westinghouse Air Brake company was organized, July, 1869.

Dodo Easy Victim of Greed and Ignorance

The dodo, often spoken of as a prehistoric bird, is said to have been in existence during the time of Charles I. But it has since been extinct a matter of 200 years, which gives force to the tag, "as extinct as the dodo."

The bird was known only in Mauritius, and soon after the Dutch colonization in 1598 its proverbial fate fell upon it. It was a large fowl, it could not fly, and even at walking or running it was slow and unwieldy. To top these handicaps to its self-preservation, the dodo was, unfortunately for itself, good to eat. Its destruction came quickly. Though the colonizers might have remembered that you can't eat your dodo and have it, and taken steps to insure its continuance, hungry men are not far-sighted. Moreover, the destruction of the dodo was no doubt hastened by the dogs, cats, and swine which accompanied man in his migrations.

When Memory Falters

How hard it is sometimes to collect things into memory! How difficult it is to get it to work well when years have dulled its use, or rusted its hinges. Old folk find they cannot recall names as they did formerly. They forget things in fashion almost ludicrous, when compared with that of other days. The little cells of memory do not now fly open readily as they once did. Human mechanism is not made to last forever, as it is now. No matter how well it is trained it will no more go on always, than will any other machinery. Even steel will not preserve its elasticity forever. Big bridges have to be replaced at times, generally by piecemeal to save expense. Some conceal it well, some fight against it at peril of life, for that way apoplexy lies.

Oldest Scientific Society

The American Philosophical society is the oldest of America's scientific societies. The society originated in the Junto established in Philadelphia by Benjamin Franklin in 1727. Fifteen of its members were signers of the Declaration of Independence and 18 members helped frame the Constitution. Nine Presidents of the United States, including Washington, Jefferson, Woodrow Wilson and Herbert Hoover, have been elected from the society's membership. Three other Presidents, Cleveland, Roosevelt and Taft, became members after election. All seven Americans who have won the Nobel prize have been members of this organization.

No Sound-Proof Room Has Been Developed

Henry Bernstein, French playwright, hired a builder to build him a sound-proof room in his apartment. The room cost 175,000 francs and failed to be sound-proof, so Bernstein sued the builder and recovered 37,000 francs damages.

Publisher Horace Stokes, discussing the case, said:

"Writers are always looking in vain for sound-proof rooms. You remember the sound-proof room that Carlyle built on top of his little house in Chelsea. It wasn't sound-proof at all.

"Carlyle couldn't sleep in his Chelsea home on account of a rooster in a neighbor's garden. At last, worn out, a nervous wreck, he went to the neighbor and said:

"'For the love of heaven kill that rooster of yours, or it will kill me. Look at my bloodshot eyes and shaking hands. The bird crows all night and I never get a wink of sleep any more.'

"'No, no, Mr. Carlyle,' said the neighbor, 'it don't—it can't crow all night.'

"'Perhaps not,' said Carlyle, 'but when it isn't crowing I lie there, breathless and tense, waiting for it to begin again.'"

Great Conqueror Had Spice of Philosophy

After having defeated and taken prisoner Bajazet, emperor of the Turks, Timur-Lenk had him brought to his court.

He noticed that he was blind in one eye and began to laugh.

Bajazet was indignant.

"Do not laugh at my misfortune, Timur!" he cried. "Remember that it is God who gives us realms and empires; the same disaster can happen to you tomorrow that has happened to me today."

"I know," said Timur, "that it is in God's hands to dispose of crowns as He will. I am not making fun of your misfortune, God preserve me from it; but the thought that went through my mind on seeing you was that God must look on these thrones and scepters as very paltry things if He gives them to such badly made people as you and I, you who are blind in one eye and I who am lame."

Preserving Rose Scent

Attar of roses is obtained by distillation from small white roses, known as Musata, and a dark red variety, known as Rosa Damascena. Usually it takes 180 pounds of rose petals to make an ounce of rose oil, but twice this amount has been used at times, depending upon the quality of the flowers and the climatic conditions at harvest time.

The harvesting of the roses occurs during the latter part of May and the beginning of June. A good harvest lasts about twenty-five days and requires damp, cool weather, as the flowers are picked in the morning while the dew is still on them. A period of hot sunshine during the harvest time will seriously damage a good crop.

Clementi Lived Long

Clementi, the pianist and composer, was born when Handel, Scarlatti, Arne, Gluck and Haydn were alive. And before he died, at the age of eighty, Rossini, Berlioz, Mendelssohn, Chopin and many other famous musicians were born, including the quite recent Cesar Franck. The fact of one man's life covering such a number of composers and such an amount of music as they represent, reminds us of the prolific output of genius from the middle of the Eighteenth to the middle of the Nineteenth century. There is no likelihood that the 1850-1950 period will in that regard come within measurable distance of the preceding hundred years.

Disturbed Honeymoon

The little man dashed along the platform as the train was moving out and made for the last carriage, at the window of which a woman was frantically waving her handkerchief.

He was about to grasp the handle of the door when the porter pulled him back.

"You mustn't board the train while it's moving," said the porter. "Besides, that compartment is engaged."

"Engaged!" shouted the little man, dancing about in his rage, as he watched the train disappearing. "Of course it's engaged! I engaged it myself, and that's my wife at the window, off on her honeymoon!"—London Answers.

Heroic Self-Sacrifice

When Jerusalem was taken there were three strongholds: One—Masada—endured a siege for three years, but the commander of the town realized at length that there was no hope of escape except by death and decided to anticipate their fate. Each man slew his wife and children, ten men were selected by lot to slay the rest, one man slew the other nine, fired the palace and fell on his own sword. When the place was finally stormed there were found living two old women and five children hidden in caves.

No Elbow Room

"What do you sell at your lunchonette counter?"

"Spoon vittles only," announced the druggist. "I haven't got room for the man who has to square away with knife and fork."

Roman Relics in London

Excavations on an unprecedented scale being made in the city of London for new buildings are leading to remarkable discoveries of Roman and medieval remains.

A pair of antlers found in an excellent state of preservation indicate that the Romans used to have good hunting near the city, and, with other objects found, throw a vivid light on the London of 2,000 years ago. Among the objects discovered are toilet articles such as the Roman equivalent of the lipstick, various pottery, shoes, and jewelry.

Warship Sets Record for Lengthy Pennant

After United States men of war have been on foreign services for more than a year they are entitled to fly the homeward-bound pennant on their departure from the foreign port and on entering the home port. The pennant is a coach-whipped affair having a red and white stripe running its length with the exception of the blue field surmounted by thirteen stars at its head. The length of this pennant is determined by the number of men and officers in the crew. One foot is allowed for each individual in the ship's crew. The longest homeward-bound pennant flown in recent years was on the Pittsburgh when she returned from four years' service as flagship of the American forces in European waters. This pennant was 900 feet long. In order to overcome the difficulty of flying the pennant, about fifty balloons were used to give it additional buoyancy. After the Pittsburgh returned to home waters every member of the crew received a part of this pennant as a keepsake.

Gains and Losses in Language About Equal

In the past the English language has gained two or three words and lost one or two every year. The rate of gain and loss is now much higher. Since the world has grown smaller, we have gained many scientific and foreign words, but because time also has dwindled, we have lost many that were worth a thought. While the spread of a literary sense of humor is forcing some good Anglo-Saxon words out of use, the mechanical and scientific apparatus which now form a great part of our outer life are bringing in an era of modified, democratic Latinity. The old speech, though it served George Eliot well, will hardly serve us. The scientific and analytic spirit of the day, which takes too little for granted, has made words derived from Greek and Latin fashionable with English writers, while the imposing language used in commercial advertising must eventually affect the vocabulary of the general public.—Observer, London.

Beauties of Gibraltar

Gibraltar is considered by a traveling correspondent to be one of the most beautiful and picturesque landing ports in the world. Rio, New York, and Sydney, he writes, are all fair and lovely places, but they are all outshone by Gibraltar. As one steams up the straits the scene is one of surpassing beauty, with the rugged and weird North African coast on the right hand and the stately beauty of the Spanish coast on the left, with the fairylike Tarifa lighthouse jutting out into the water from the Spanish shore. Above all, the rock of Gibraltar itself looming in front, with its green shore and massive height rising in majestic grandeur above the town at its foot, presents one of the grandest sights in the world.

Concerning Grumbling

Grumblers may be divided into many classes. There are perpetual grumblers and occasional grumblers, Scrooge-like grumblers and cheerful grumblers; but even the habitual grumbler is better to be borne with than the grumbler who grumbles as if he really means it, says a London journalist.

A little grumble relieves a heavy heart, so we all like to grumble at times. We all like to complain of our lot if we feel it it a sad one; we like people to agree that it is a sad one and that we are hard done by. We like people to listen and be sympathetic, but most listeners will be very grateful if we make an attempt at a grin at the end of the dreary recital.

Cromwell's Music

Before Oliver Cromwell became Protector, music was proscribed in England. And as Cromwell was musically inclined, he had a professional musician among the members of his household. When, by the authority of parliament, the organ was removed from the chapel of Magdalen college, Cromwell had it erected at Hampton court, where he resided, and frequently had Milton to play it. At the Restoration the organ was returned to Magdalen college, but after some years it was disposed of and re-erected in Tewkesbury abbey, where part of it remained in use until a few years ago.

Currents of Great Rivers

There is no stream which has a regular current of 60 miles an hour, or even half that. The lower Amazon flows at a rate of three miles an hour. The Mississippi, in its lower course, has a velocity of about three and a half miles an hour. The Congo has for many miles above its mouth a current of about seven miles an hour, the impetus of its great falls extending for a great distance below them. The Nile, similarly influenced, moves for a long distance at nine miles an hour.

Mud Burned for Power

Burning mud to produce electric power is being tried in Germany with remarkable success. Mud at the bottom of a small tributary of the Rhine was found to be permeated with combustible matter. Up to that time it was considered worthless and a serious obstacle to navigation in the Rhine into which it was carried. The wet soil is being fried out and used as fuel in an electric generating plant.

Man Marries Grandmother

Marriage of a grandson and his grandmother has just been reported from a village near Swole, in the Province of Overijssel, Holland. This is how it happened: A man married a girl of twenty, whose mother was forty-five. By his first marriage this man had had a son and this son married the mother of his father's second wife. Relatives figure out that the youth not only married his stepmother, but became stepfather to his own father.

Difference in Rainfall

There is uncertainty about what constitutes a day's rainfall. At London, for example, popularly regarded as a wet place, it seems that the best the clouds ever have done was 3.12 inches of rain in 24 hours. In France, however, there was a shower at Joyeuse which checked out at 31.17 inches in the same time. At Genoa, the best rain was 30 inches for a day's job. Gibraltar has a record of 33 inches, but it took 26 hours to get down. In the Khasi hills, India, the record drizzle is 30 inches a day for five consecutive days. This foots up at 15,000 tons on every acre.

Juror Kept Tab

In a trial at Cincinnati, one of the jurors kept track of the evidence with toothpicks. When the defense scored a point he would put a toothpick in one pocket and when the state scored a point he would put a toothpick in another pocket. There were so many toothpicks in the second pocket that this juror voted for conviction at once.



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