AMERICAN RAILROADS EFFICIENCY INCREASED BY TELEPHONE USE

Over 60 Per Cent of 248,000 Miles of Railway in the United States Now Operated by Telephone Control



Top: Along the scenic New River canyon in West Virginia, Chesapeake and Ohio Railway passenger train in the distance.
Bottom, left: Section of the C. & O. Co.'s telephone private branch exchange system at Richmond.
Right: T. S. Tutweiler, dispatching a train by telephone control.

Efficiency in American railroad operation is outstanding. Millions of people are transported annually over thousands of miles of track in addition to the vast tonnage of freight that is handled year in and year out by these efficient carriers.

One of the methods by which the railroads have increased their efficiency in recent years is by telephone dispatching. Of the total railroad mileage in this country, 60 per cent is now operated by telephone control. Many railroads such as the Chesapeake and Ohio, the Virginian, Norfolk and Western, and Pennsylvania are now operated entirely by telephone control.

Railroading in America has just passed its hundredth milestone. The telephone came along a half-century later and is now in its fifty-third year of service. With the invention of the telephone in 1876 when there were only two of these instruments in existence, there were more than 70,000 miles of railroad in operation. Today this country is served by about 20,000,000 telephones and 248,000 miles of railroad.

Dispatching trains by telephone is nothing new, for as early as 1879, three years after the telephone was invented the Boston, Revere Beach and Lynn Railroad used the telephone for its train dispatching system and has used it continuously to date, according to Telephone Topics.

This railroad has been in operation since July 28, 1875, and was the first railroad in the world to use the telephone for dispatching trains.

Not only do railroads utilize telephone communication for train dispatching, but they are large users of telephone service. In fact, nearly every railroad in the country operates private branch exchange systems at its general headquarters and at division and district points along its lines, and as well are served by telephones in railroad stations everywhere.

Ambassador, in Theory, Ranks Above Minister

An ambassador is head of an embassy and a minister is head of a legation. Under international law and usage an ambassador is the personal representative of the sovereign or head of a state and is accredited directly to the head or sovereign of another state. A minister is, under international law and usage, the representative of the government (as distinct from the head of the state) and is accredited to the government of another state. Theoretically an ambassador has the right to converse directly with the sovereign or the head of the state to which he is accredited, and likewise may correspond directly with the sovereign or head of his own country. A minister, on the other hand, in theory carries on his correspondence with the minister of foreign affairs of the state to which he is accredited, and similarly corresponds with his own government through the minister of foreign affairs of his own country. In practice the duties of an ambassador and a minister are the same. At a social and official function an ambassador, on account of his superior rank, takes precedence over a minister.

Blue Paint Unpopular With Deep-Sea Sailors

Seafarers in general are emphatic in their dislike of blue paint on a vessel. It is a deep-rooted belief with them that bad luck will follow the use of the color. Twenty-five years or so ago the Donna Briggs, a little three-masted coasting schooner, was a familiar caller at ports between Nova Scotia and Boston. The men of the sea and ships declared that whenever she dropped anchor a storm followed. The schooner's hull was blue.

"I recall that a few years ago," said a Fulton Market fish dealer, "we engaged a Gloucester skipper to go down to a Maine port and bring back a schooner that had just been launched for us. When he found they had painted the hatches blue, he picked up his grip and started back for the railroad station."—New York Times.

Made Store a Shrine

The secret of a little general store in an English village, shuttered and closed for forty years, was disclosed on the death of its owner. Flaxius Josephus Wilkinson had left the store absolutely unaltered since the death of his father. Calendars and papers of forty years before were found, and on the counter was a pair of old-fashioned scales. There was also a yardstick that had evidently been used for measuring cloth, and the medicine bottles, tea canisters and jars were as the old man had left them—even the jacket of the old shopkeeper still hung on the wall. Few persons knew of this remarkable instance of a son's devotion to his father's memory. The son had been left comfortably well off, but he carefully dusted and swept the little store and lived for many years in the house adjoining it.

Pigs as Currency

A traveler who has returned to England from the Pacific has been telling some amusing stories of things that go on in the New Hebrides. Pigs, he says, are not only eaten on a large scale, but they are the standard currency in the island. There are certain ceremonies at which it is very important to have pigs, and they are frequently borrowed. The men who lend pigs are like money lenders, demanding interest on their loan, and when the pig is paid back it must be the size the pig that was loaned would have grown to during the time it was borrowed.

Whitman's "Ballyhoo"

Walt Whitman, writes Harvey O'Higgins in Harper's Magazine, at the time his first book of poems appeared, ballyhooed himself, anonymously, in the American Phrenological Journal as the "haughtiest of writers that has ever yet written and printed a book." And in the United States and Democratic Review, for the same month of September, 1855, he hailed himself anonymously, as "one of the roughs, large, proud, affectionate, his costume manly and free, his face sunburnt and bearded, his postures strong and erect."

Mystery of Sleep

Science has evolved drugs that will put one to sleep, but just what it is that brings natural sleep is as great a mystery today as it was to the caveman who curled up on his rock mattress, with his flowing beard spread over him for a quilt.

It is a commentary on human nature that we are more particular about our food than we are about regular hours of sleep, yet it is a fact, definitely established, that it is possible to live much longer without food than without the benign embrace of Morpheus.

Prices of Wheat and Flour

It takes five bushels of wheat to make one barrel of flour. A barrel of flour makes 300 loaves of bread. For every change in price of flour, of $1 per barrel, the baker's cost is affected to the extent of one-third of one cent for each one-pound loaf. In short, wheat would have to either advance or fall 60 cents per bushel, before it could affect the price of bread one cent per loaf.

An Adventure by Night

By DUFORD JENNE

(Copyright.)

SUMNER let his car slide swiftly through the summer night homeward. It had been a tame day and even tamer evening, and it promised to be a tame night. He watched his headlights sweep the darkness aside in front of him. He was wondering if—

Suddenly his foot shot to the brake pedal, and he sat up with the night anything but tame in front of him.

He had seen a girl stagger from the darkness into the bright field of his headlights' glow. She stood there, swaying in front of him. Thoroughly alert, he swung from his seat to the road, noting as he did so that she was in evening dress.

"Please take me away—take me away!" she cried in gasps.

He felt her round arm trembling as he led her to the car. He tucked her in, then turned to her. Her oval, girlish face was white.

"And now where to?" he asked quietly.

"Anywhere—just away," she answered breathlessly, her old fear evidently sweeping her.

The big roadster hummed and was off.

A car came up. He felt her sink against him, making herself, as a child might wish, as small as possible. The car passed, but she remained close to him. Her nearness brought him a new sensation. He sudenly realized that it would not be so bad after all to have some one like her riding many a mile with him.

They swept around a curve. Ahead of them two lights went on, making a clear spot in the road, and in the light coming from the side of the road, where motorcycles were parked, stood two state troopers — plain enough in their uniforms; and one raised his hand.

"Oh! don't let them take me!" she cried, and began to tremble again.

He put one hand over her small cold one. "Just leave it to me, little stranger," he said softly.

He rolled into the glow of the lights. The tall officer stepped up, and looked at them.

"Who is this young lady with you, sir?" came the sudden question.

It caught Sumner off guard. He caught at the first thought that went across his mind.

"Why—my wife, of course," he answered promptly.

The officer glanced at his hand still covering the small hand that was trembling under his. "Pardon me, but we're stopping everybody. Now if you will give me your name and address," he added.

Sumner did not quite like the idea—complications might follow. But he gave his name, "Milton Sumner," and his address without hesitation.

"Your father, Mr. Sumner, the lawyer?" the officer asked.

"He is—and the same address!" Sumner answered.

The officer nodded and motioned them by.

Sumner let the car roll along at reasonable speed, then farther down the valley he fled away for miles. He came to the crossroads, hesitated, then swung the car northward along the river.

"But you're not going to the city," a small voice said at his shoulder.

"No," he answered. "You are safe. The night is lovely; and I am wondering what it is all about," he suggested.

"Besides, you have a wife on your hands," the meek voice said.

He caught a faint glimmer of amusement in the tone.

"It was a bit sudden, I admit. It's all been sudden, but if you prefer to go straight home, I'll take you."

"No. You have been good to me. I'll explain truly, but it—it's awful. You see, I am secretary in the Hill and Lambert office, and I'm new to the city—and I was a bit lonesome. So when one of the men there asked me to go to the Willon Inn—"

Sumner whistled. "A wild place," he said briefly.

"It was! I wanted to leave the moment I got there—but he had the car—so I stayed—and then, suddenly, the police came—a raid—I was so afraid! Then he said they would just take our names—that was the last—I thought of my name in the papers caught at such a place—and my mother and friends at home—Oh! it was terrible—then—the worst—a short dark man who had been arguing with a big officer near me shot him—I saw the officer's face!" She shrank back, and her voice was a whisper. "Then everything went wild—and somehow I got out—and I saw your lights!"

"Don't worry any more. My father happens to be one of the well-known men of the city. Even if your friend is caught and gives your name, dad'll see that everything is taken care of. And now, I have a scheme! If you go to your boarding place in that torn dress, there will be questions perhaps. Let me take you home, and Mother Powell, dad's and my housekeeper, will fix you up; and then I'll take you home. How's that for a plot?" he asked, smiling.

"It sounds very nice to me," she said quietly.

"Then, besides, I can see you a little while longer unless you're—"

He was sure he saw a little color creep into her cheek. "I'm in no very—very great hurry," she said softly.

TO SELECT CORN EXHIBIT

The many Kent County farmers who produce fine quality corn with which they have won numerous prizes in past yars will be pleased to learn that Professor Oldenburg of the Extension Service of the University of Maryland will spend one or two days in aiding growers to select their exhibits.

Two Shows are in the minds of the growers. The National Hay and Grain Show at Chicago, held just after Thanksgiving, at which two varieties of corn are shown viz. Reid's Yellow Dent and Boone or Johnson County White. The State Show is to be held early in January.

Professor Oldenburg advises the prompt selection, by the growers, of as many show type ears as possible and the drying of such ears quickly, so that nomoulds may form on the ears. Later he will work with them in selecting the best possible exhibits from their corn. Exhibits for both the State and National Show should be selected as soon as possible. Winning in these big shows is fine publicity for the County as well as satisfaction to the growers.

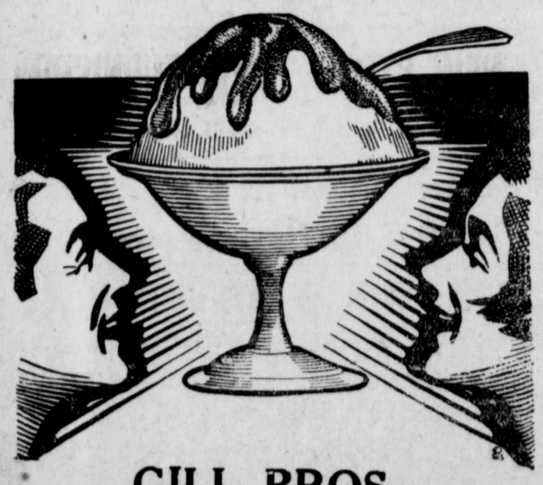
Theater Seats Of Rubber

At a recent exposition of the rubber industry, held in London, there were shown some very attractive and very comfortable theater seats made of rubber. In response to the present craze for color, there were also displayed some vtry pretty designs of table tops, mats and similar articles with pretty designs blended into the rubber base.

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Morton's Salt 2 small pkgs. 15c
Hershey's Chocolate ½ lb. 16c
Eagle Brand Cond. Milk can 18c
Lucky Strike, Old Gold, Piedmont, Camel, Chesterfield CIGARETTES 2 pkgs. 25c $1.25 carton
Karo Syrup, Blue Label No. 1½ can 11c
Vermont Maid Maple Syrup jug 23c
Brer Rabbit Molasses Green No. 1½ can 12c
Shredded Wheat pkg. 10c
Cliquot Club Ginger Ale bot. 13c
Lux Toilet Form SOAP 3 cakes 19c
Quaker & Mother's OATS pkg. 9c
Scot Tissue TOILET PAPER.....3 rolls 23c
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CHIPSO.....small pkg. 8c, large pkg. 19c
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Palmolive SOAP 3 cakes 20c
GOLD DUST.....large pkg. 23c
Octagon Laundry SOAP.....2 cakes 11c
Sweatheart SOAP.....cake 5c
Double Tip MATCHES.....box 3c
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