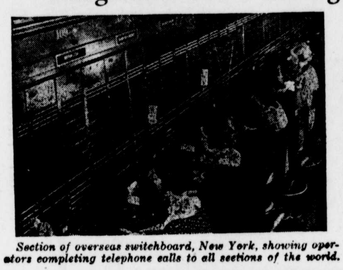
Overseas Telephone Service Inaugurated Ten Years Ago



Section of overseas switchboard, New York, showing operators completing telephone calls to all sections of the world.

Telephone service inaugurated between New York and London, January 7, 1927, has been extended to nearly every section of the globe and now includes about seventy countries and geographical locations. Calls may also be made between ships at sea and land telephones. With the opening of the service ten years ago, the cost was $75 for a three-minute conversation between New York and London. A similar call today is $21 on week days and $15 at night and on Sunday. Calls to other points have been reduced proportionately.

Walter S. Gifford, president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company and Sir Evelyn Murray, secretary of the General Post Office of Great Britain made the initial call opening the service a decade ago. The world was startled to know that instantaneous telephone conversations could bridge the Atlantic.

24-Hour Service

When the Bell Telephone System first offered its overseas service to the public, it was available only four and one-half hours each day. Telephone calls may now be made anytime during the twenty-four hours of the day. Whereas calls were completed ten years ago on an average of thirty-eight minutes, the usual call today is completed in approximately twenty minutes. Overseas telephone calls are largely made on a person-to-person basis.

After ten years of overseas telephone service, the Bell System now operates 10 radio telephone stations, 9 circuits and 3 operating rooms devoted to the completion of calls.

Newspapers Talk

Telephone service to other countries has been employed for a wide variety of personal and business matters with the financial world probably the heaviest user, for every unexpected turn in news or price trends on the exchanges is reflected in the volume of calls. Newspapers are large users and in business activities telephone service has been employed to buy and sell automobiles, flour, real estate, rare books, gasoline and diamonds. Department stores have obtained eye-witness accounts of such breathlessly awaited events as fall fashion shows, while manufacturers and merchants have talked with their representatives abroad to secure accurate pictures of events in foreign fields or to decide quickly on some urgent matter.

Governments have employed overseas telephone service in following stirring events that have marked the history of recent years. The overseas telephone circuits have also provided valuable radio links for international broadcasts.

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Poultry

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First French Railroad

The first French railroad was achieved by the work of "Saint Simonians," a strange religious group whose cult was actually based on the construction of railroads. As far as is known, Saint Simonism is the only gospel that ever proclaimed railroad construction as a religious act and sacrament. The first French railroad company was organized in the church of this religious group in Paris, and soon a sort of "Railroad University" was established from which emerged the engineers, administrators and financiers who were to organize the large French railway systems.

Hobson's Choice

The expression "Hobson's choice" indicates no choice at all. The chooser is always jockeyed into a position in which he believes he is exercising his own selection. The expression goes back to the days of Tobias Hobson, first man in England to operate a livery stable. A man desiring a horse was told to take his pick of the 40 or so owned by Hobson, but when the picking was over almost invariably it was the horse nearest the door which was selected. Hence the expression.

Most Useful Animals

The camel, yak and llama are among the world's most useful animals, as they furnish all the fundamental necessities of mankind such as clothing and tents, which are made from their hair; transportation; meat, milk, fuel; and rugs and blankets, which are made from their skins. Even their tails prove to be useful as fly swatters.—Collier's Weekly.

Watch Drafts

Rains and cooler nights make it necessary that the farm poultryman take particular precautions to avoid drafts in pullet and laying houses. If the birds come into the house wet and are crowded, drafts are practically sure to result in fall colds and roup. Mature birds should have one foot of roost space per bird and pullets should have proportionate space as they mature. Green feed is essential in preventing colds and it can be used liberally. Removal of low vitality birds will decrease the danger of disease and colds throughout the winter, since the weaker pullets take cold more easily and become a constant source of infection. — Prairie Farmer.

Bog Not Swamp

A bog is not a swamp and a swamp is not a bog, according to Dr. E. M. Gross, Pennsylvania botanist. A swamp is watered by a surface stream, and a bog by cold springs usually from below. In the case of the swamp the water overflows the land, whereas a bog results from vegetation encroaching upon or overgrowing the water.

Gray Squirrels' Litters

Gray squirrels have two litters of four to six young a year. The old squirrel is a devoted mother and if the nest is disturbed she will at once carry the young to some safer retreat.

An Ancient Cemetery

The Campo Santo, a cemetery in Pisa, Italy, was made, about 1105, of 53 shiploads of earth which came from Jerusalem's fields surrounding the spot where Christ was crucified.—Collier's Weekly.

Attainment Through Labor

The law of worthy life is fundamentally the law of strife. It is only through labor, painful labor, by grim energy and resolute courage, that we move on to better things.

First Campaign Slogan

The slogan, "Equal rights for all; special privilege to none," which helped elect Jefferson in 1800 is believed to be the first presidential campaign slogan.

Goodbye, Mr. Gloom!

. . . We're a jolly bunch of renegades . . . our sole purpose in life is to give Old Man Gloom the gate and usher in Mr. Sunshine by way of a million laughs. Turn to the Funny Page in every issue and let us help dispel those troubles!

● No man can really live by bread alone. Yes, we admit he'll EXIST, but there will be heavy lines of care running down his face, he'll forget how to smile.

● Verily, we humans need a few hearty guffaws now and then to chase away those wrinkles of care and give our spirits a lift. That's why this newspaper runs a collection of laugh-provoking comic strips on the Funny Page. Amid the depressing news of floods and earthquakes, crime and war, economic troubles and a host of other maladjustments on the face of Mr. World, it's a pleasant relaxation to shut your eyes on the day's bad tidings.

● You can get a joyful lift in spirits from the comics. We invite our readers to take a big swallow of this bottled sunshine. Turn to the Funny Page right now and forget your troubles!

● Our comic characters are a versatile lot, as you'll notice by glancing down the accompanying panel. If you want to chuckle over real troubles, turn to C. M. Payne's strip "S'Matter Pop," and see what a whale of an order he has to keep these boys of his under control . . . Or glance at the adventures of the intellectual Adamson, as drawn by O. Jacobsson.

● Something that will truly draw tears—of laughter—are Gluyas Williams' mischievous but lovable youngsters, Junior and the Baby . . . Then there's "Finney of the Force," by Ted O'Loughlin, as comical and as true-to-life an Irisher as ever flipped a night stick . . . Life out in Cactus Center, as described in S. L. Huntley's "Mescal Ike," has its exciting moments when its rip-roaring citizens are on the loose . . . And when it comes to "The Featherheads," by Osborne, they speak for themselves. In fact, that's the best thing they do!

● Let these bearers of fun whittle your blues down to size. Toss trouble right out the window and get a new lease on life through the comic page—turn to it right now!

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