

"HELLO, 'FRISCO!"

Father Knickerbocker Salutes Miss California.

The Telephone Carries Speech From the Empire State to the Golden Gate and Bell and Watson Talk Across the Continent.

Less than 40 years ago, Alexander Graham Bell, standing in a little attic at No. 5 Exeter Place, Boston, sent through a crude telephone, his own invention, the first spoken words ever carried over a wire, and the words were heard and understood by his associate, Thomas A. Watson, who was at the receiver in an adjacent room. On that day, March 10th, 1876 the telephone was born, and the first message went over the only telephone line in the world—a line less than 100 feet long. The world moves a long way ahead in the span of one man's life.

On Monday afternoon, January 25th, the same Alexander Graham Bell, sitting in the offices of the American Telephone & Telegraph Company at New York, talked to this same Thomas A. Watson in San Francisco, over a wire stretching 3,400 miles across the continent and part of a system that includes 9,000,000 telephones connected by 21,000,000 miles of wires.

In that same memorable year of 1876, Dom Pedro de Alcantara, Emperor of Brazil, visiting the first telephone exhibition at our first great national show, the Philadelphia Centennial, picked up the receiver, listened as Professor Bell talked at the other



THEODORE N. VAIL

President of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, the man whose far-seeing mind first understood the necessity for universal communication and the Transcontinental telephone line

end of the room, and, amazed at the wonder of the thing, cried out "My God—it speaks!" Had Dom Pedro tried to see the Pan American Exposition he could have heard Professor Bell talking to him, not merely from the other end of a room, but from the other side of a continent.

The Pan-American Exposition itself, planned to celebrate the completion of the Panama Canal and the joining of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, will mark a still closer welding of the East and West. When its gates are thrown open on February 20th, San Francisco will not only be nearer to New York through a shortening of its water ways, but will be in constant and instantaneous touch with it through the medium of speech. It is a curious fact, too, that this second great feat of engineering, this other canal, this even more intimate connection between the two seaboard, has been completed in the same year—quietly, almost unnoticed, but steadily and bravely while the gigantic team shovels were cutting their way through the earth in the South, the engineers of sound and electricity were weaving their magic webs through the air and pushing on toward the Golden Gate. Their work has been less spectacular. It has excited little attention, but these men have met obstacles as hard to overcome as the Culebra slide, and they have conquered them. The long-dreamed-of Transcontinental Line is no longer a dream. New York can talk to San Francisco.

The Transcontinental Line Open. Monday, January 25th, 1915, has taken its place among the momentous dates in the annals of science and human progress. On that day, in the presence of groups of prominent men on either coast, the Transcontinental telephone wires were given their first public test, and the completion of the line was formally celebrated. Distinguished men in the offices of the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company in San Francisco conversed freely

with distinguished men on the Atlantic seaboard, and one more great chapter in the history of telephony was finished as Bell, sitting in the offices of the American Telephone & Telegraph Company in New York, talked to Watson across a continent. There was no hitch in the program, or any doubt as to the immediate success and practicability of the new line. Those who talked over the telephone did not raise their voices above the usual conversational pitch, and the replies came back from across the continent, clear and instantaneous. There was no more effort, delay or indirectness than in talking across the table. Professor Bell says:

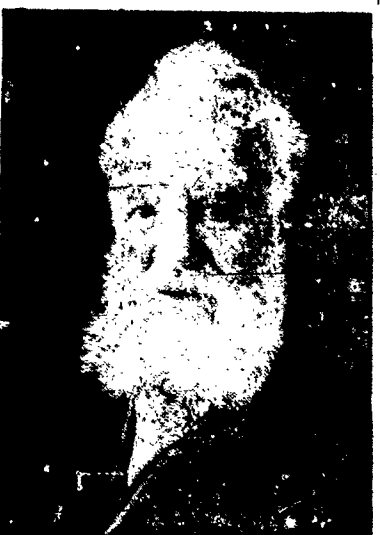


JOHN J. CARTY

Chief Engineer of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, the man chiefly responsible for the actual building of the longest telephone line in the world.

There have been few more dramatic moments in the history of science than when the venerable Professor Bell lifted the receiver from his booth and called to Watson, the friend and fellow-workman of his youth, in far away San Francisco. There was a wonderful story in that first "Hello," a marvelous tale of miracle-working, of heroic struggle and sublime achievement. Few men have seen so great a dream come true, probably no two men before. In all the history of the world's discoveries and inventions, ever lived to see such magnificent results from work in which they had been the pioneers. Hardened telephone men as all of those present were, and accustomed to big events as most of them were, a hush that was tinged with awe, an almost solemn silence, fell on the assembly as the great inventor talked to his associate. Every one felt that he was taking part in an epoch-making event, that in the future, school children would be made to learn January 25th as one of the big dates in the world's scientific, commercial and political history, one that ranked with that other day when "What wonders hath God wrought" was flashed over Morse's wire.

In the Space of a Lifetime. Most wonderful of all, perhaps in the minds of those present at the opening of the new line was the fact that this achievement, the crowning of a dream that had been in the making for so long, had taken place within the space of a man's lifetime. On March 10th, 1876, Professor Bell, working away at the simple telephone he had invented, called to his comrade, "Mr. Watson, come here, I want you," and Watson heard that first of all telephone messages over the wire. In New York on January 25th, 1915, the same voice was talking, and, in San Francisco, the same ear was listening, as on that spring day, 38 years ago, but un-



ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL. The inventor of the Bell Telephone, as he looks today.

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The Canal was begun nine years ago and has cost \$300,000,000; within the same space of time the Bell company has spent twice that amount in its engineering construction work alone.

Two Leaders in the Work. The building of the Transcontinental Line depended on the solution of no one isolated problem nor will the glory of it be given to any one isolated individual, but there are a few names that will always stand out above the rest in connection with it. There must be great generals for armies that win such victories.

For many years there has been a dream of Theodore N. Vail, president of the American Telephone & Telegraph company, the goal toward which he has pushed and toward which he has steadily led his associates and the army of his employees. Not the dream of a dreamer, but the prophetic vision of a practical, forceful, capable man, a man of unlimited business energy and knowledge, who could see anything in telephony except impossibilities. He not only cannot see them, but will not admit that they exist; he does not find the word "impossible" in his dictionary of engineering terms. Almost from the beginning of the telephone, his energy and enthusiasm, his dauntless optimism and ambition in everything relating to its perfection and promotion, and his idea of "universal service," have dominated the company and made enthusiasts of every one connected with it in great things or little.

At his side through most of these years has been a slightly built, lithe, keen-eyed man, whose eyes he is said to have once when a great thing is to be done. A nod, and a line goes to Denver, a word, and it stretches to the Pacific coast. That is John T. Carty, Chief Engineer of the American Telephone & Telegraph Company. A leader among the scientific men of all nations and honored by his rulers for his distinguished services in engineering accomplishments, his wide knowledge, his keen judgment and his indomitable energy have combined to make him one of the great factors in telephone achievement and advancement. He is a wizard of the wires. Long ago he said this great thing could and should be done, and through the great banks of silence that separated the East from the West, the Goethals of electricity has been cutting his way year by year until the great canal of human speech is done.

Others have played big parts in this drama of human endeavor and achievement, and thousands have given of their share of thought and labor, but, whoever is forgotten or remembered, the names of Vail and Carty will be linked with this new triumph as long as man talks to man.

There has been no greater achievement in the history of the Bell Company, none in the history of telephony, few in the history of the world. The gain to science is great, immeasurably more precious, however, is that to the nation, and incalculably greater are the benefits to commerce and society. What the Transcontinental means to the future of the country, what it will bring about by drawing the East and West closer together, how much of increased prosperity and happiness these thousands of miles of wire will insure, no man can gauge.

What It Means to the Country. One of the most prominent of the guests who talked over the longest of long distance telephones at the celebration, said:

"I thought I had gotten over wondering at the miracle of the telephone, but what I have just done amazes me as much as the first words I heard over the wires many years ago. Even now I can hardly conceive that it is possible I have talked over long distances many a time before, but this is far beyond the limit. Chicago is an used to, even Denver, but this talking from the Atlantic to the Pacific gives one a thrill. It appeals to the imagination—it is a theme for poets.

"What it means to the country, it is impossible to estimate. For one thing, it is a final blow to sectionalism—it has put a seal on the fact that there is no longer East and West, North and South. Not even the railroads and the new canal have done or can do so much toward bringing the States closer together and uniting them more firmly, not only in commerce, but in thought and language. Provincialism will become rarer and rarer, localisms, dialects—all such things that depend on isolation—are getting to be an impossibility in the United States, and the telephone has been the greatest agent in bringing about this desirable condition. It is hard for people to get very far apart when they are in such constant touch with each other, and I know of nothing which is doing more to strengthen the bonds between individuals and communities than the network of wires the American Telephone and Telegraph Company is spreading over the country. So much importance do I attach to this idea, that, extreme as the statement may seem, I believe quite firmly that, had the telephone system reached its present perfection previous to 1861, the Civil War would not have occurred. The wires would not have let the North and South drift so far apart."

The new Transcontinental Line is a concrete exemplification of the possibilities of universal service and a justification of the arguments for a single system. Under no other plan

would such a line be possible. This line, 3,400 miles long, and joining the Atlantic and Pacific, is part of the great Bell System of 21,000,000 miles of wire, connecting 9,000,000 telephone stations located everywhere throughout the United States. Comprising this system are the American Telephone & Telegraph Company and its associated and connecting companies, and thousands of them, giving instant and perfect communication among 100,000,000 people.

The opening of this line is the culmination of the Bell idea of universal service—in presenting it for the use and convenience of the public, the American Telephone & Telegraph company renders an account of its stewardship. It has fulfilled its promise and, not only in itself, but as an earnest of what is to follow in future development, this nation-wide line proves that it is the intention of the American Telephone & Telegraph company to make it possible for every man who can talk, to talk over the telephone to every man who can hear.

The telephone was born here and it has reached its greatest perfection here; under no other conditions, except such as exist in the United States, could it have come to its highest development. With its dozens of telephone systems, Europe has no long-distance line to compare with this. The Transcontinental Line is a culmination of an art that was born in the United States, the high water mark of a science that was created and has been developed entirely by American genius and enterprise. It is the highest achievement of practical science up to today—no other nation has produced anything like it, nor could any other nation with such resources, so gigantic—and it is entirely American.

MADE HIM A PROFESSOR.

He Didn't Know Very Much, but His Bluff Won the Appointment.

In one of the Japanese papers are some reminiscences of the war with Russia, and among them is the following: When peace was concluded between Japan and Russia the study of the Japanese language became something like a craze among Russians. At Harbin, for instance, Japanese were in great demand as teachers of their mother tongue. Many Japanese barbers and laundrymen shut up their shops and became instructors of Japanese.

As in most cases the instruction was not conducted on a systematic method, many Russian students of Japanese only succeeded in acquiring a smattering of the language.

Then one day a Japanese interpreter who taught Japanese to Russian railway men at Harbin received a letter from one of his willow pupils asking for a certificate of his proficiency. As a matter of fact, his knowledge of Japanese does not extend beyond what may be called plain Japanese, but a certificate was forwarded to him as requested.

A few weeks later the interpreter was surprised to receive a letter from the Russian informing him that he had been engaged by the government as professor of Japanese at a monthly salary of 500 roubles. Japanese Chronicle.

SEEK THE BRIGHT SPOTS.

Don't Grouch in the Gloom, but Look Up and Be an Optimist.

He who thinks the world is full of good people and kindly blessings is much richer than he who thinks the contrary. Each man's imagination largely peopled the world for himself. Some live in a world peopled with princes of the royal blood, some in a world of paupers and privation. You have your choice.

This is a big, busy world. It cares precious little what you think of it or what faults or troubles you find in it. It is a choice that concerns yourself more than all others combined, whether you grouch in the gloom, the companion of hateful goblins, or stride in the sunshine, seeing smiles and catching shreds of song.

Men and women in God's image were not made as wailing, groveling beings. They were made to stand erect, mentally as well as physically; to labor well and joyously, to take the gifts of providence, whether they be joy or sorrow, and bear them cheerfully and with courage, to add ever something to the world's store of happiness, if it be only a smile.

Look up! See how flooded with sunshine this beautiful world is when faced with smiling eyes.

If you would win anything, do anything, be anything, don't whine.—Christian Herald.

A Tartar Courtship.

Among the Tullin Tartars a curious mode of settling the question exists. The Tullin bachelor in search of a wife, having filled a brand new pipe with fragrant tobacco, stealthily enters the dwelling of the fair one upon whom he has bestowed his affections, deposits the pipe upon a conspicuous article of furniture and retires on tip-toe to some convenient hiding place in the neighborhood, local etiquette requiring that he should execute this strategic movement apparently undetected by the damsel of his choice or any other member of her family. Presently he returns without further affectation of secrecy and looks into the apartment in a casual sort of way. A single glance at the pipe he left behind him enables him to learn the fate of his proposal. If it has been smugged he goes forth an accepted and exultant bridegroom; if not, the offer of his hand and heart has been rejected.

The Black Bear.

It is the common idea that a black bear will hug people to death. This is, of course, a mistake. A bear almost invariably makes its attack by striking a stunning blow with the fore paw and tearing with his very formidable claws. A large black bear can strike a terrific blow and is capable of knocking down and mortally wounding a full grown caribou. When their enemy or prey is felled to the ground they usually bite them about the head and neck until death ensues. They are remarkable for the strength of their jaws and have been known to bite through the skull of a man. Many animals that can generally be counted on not to attack may do so when come upon suddenly, crowded, wounded or annoyed. The black bear is no exception. The more I see and study animals the more I am impressed with the fact that there is no fixed rule what the same species of animal will do under similar circumstances, as they seem to vary as much in mind and temperament as the individual. Although one might predict with a very good average of correctness, there would always be the exception.—Big Game Fields of America.

On Having the Blues.

If without any real cause of worry, says a writer in the Unpopular Review, you wake up two or three consecutive mornings feeling that the world is an unsatisfactory place probably you had better go to the doctor. He won't be apt to give you anything worse than rhubarb and soda. You might even try it before going, and if it is a sunny day try to glory in it, or if it is a rainy day try to think how cozy it will be by the fire, or if you have to go to day for steady work, when clients and customers are not apt to come in.

In similar vein Kipling prescribed for a case of the blues, which he referred to as a "cane-ulous hump," you remember, common to "kiddies and grownups too." When the hump rests heavily upon you, said Mr. Kipling—Don't frown with a book by the fire. But take a large hoe and a shovel also and dig till you gently perspire.

Where Mirrors Are Forbidden.

The followers of Jean de Labadie still flourish in some parts of Holland. The tenets of the Labadists forbid the use of mirrors as tending to foster vanity and a love of fine clothes. This self-denying ordinance is all the more creditable, seeing that, next to the founder, the leading figure among the Labadists was a woman. When Jean de Labadie left the Reformed church and founded a sect of his own orthodox sect made it impossible for him to tend his flock. Anna Maria van Scherman came to the rescue and enabled the Labadists to settle at Wierden, in Friesland, for eloquent sermons brought many converts to the new faith, for she was a pioneer of women's rights.—London Chronicle.

First Steps in English.

The police in Calcutta caught a native coming out of a shop early in the morning and arrested him on suspicion. The man had on the previous evening concealed himself inside the shop and had employed the time until morning in fitting himself with a complete suit of clothes, including a white shirt with studs and links, a red tie, carefully put on black socks, a pair of patent leather watch and chain, handkerchief, pocket knife, straw hat and cane. He even went the length of writing his name inside the hat. On being arraigned before a magistrate he gave the queerest excuse imaginable. He said that he wanted to learn English and, as a preliminary step thought it best to dress like an Englishman.

What He Wanted.

Arthur H. Engelbach in his collection of anecdotes of the bench tells this story about Lord Braxfield, who was among the last of the Scotch judges who rigidly adhered to the broad Scotch dialect.

"He's ye ony counsel, mon?" he said to Maurice Margot when placed at the bar.

"No," was the reply.

"Do ye want to be ony appointit?" continued the judge.

"No," said Margot. "I only want an interpreter to make me understand what your lordship says."

Greenland Summers.

Things grow very fast in the short Greenland summer. As soon as the snow melts off in many places the ground is covered with a vine which bears a small berry something like a huckleberry. It is nearly tasteless, but it is juicy, and the natives are fond of it.

To the Point.

Her Father—Young man, I must ask your object in coming here so often. Young Man—I love your daughter, sir. She is adorable, a queen. Her Father—Then, I take it, your object is to become her subject. Very well, she's yours.—Boston Transcript.

Insects in Flight.

Motion pictures of insects in flight show that they negotiate their speed by changing the inclination of their wings rather than by altering the rapidity of their motion.

Unpleasant.

"The man who tells us of our faults is our best friend," quoth the philosopher.

"Yes, but he won't be long," added the mere man.—Judge.

Perhaps it is.

"If you want a thing well done"—"Get an expert to do it for you. Ain't that more sense than what you were going to say?"

News From Ireland

Ashtown. The premises of Bennett & Company, wholesale confectioners, Corporation street, Belfast, were almost totally destroyed by fire recently.

Armagh. At the monthly meeting of the Lurgan Rural Council the following were elected to act on the school attendance committee for the ensuing three years: The Dean of Dromore, Revs. W. B. Sproule, A. Gibson, M. B. McConville, P. P., and Dr. J. M. Moore.

Carlow. At the meeting of the Carlow Board of Guardians, P. J. Scollon proposed a vote of condolence to James Brennan, Ballinabran-na, on the death of his father.

Cavan. The Cootehill Board of Guardians have adopted a resolution asking the Local Government Board why they had not sanctioned the appointment of Mr. Townsend, engineer, Enniskillen,

Clare. On the motion of M. Marinar, seconded by M. Scanlan, the Killee Town Commissioners co-opted Mr. Purtil a commissioner for the No. 2 Southward.

The Most Rev. Dr. Fogarty has received a letter from the Auxiliary Bishop of Cardinal Mercier thanking him for the contribution of £1,622 from the priests and people of Killaloe diocese for the relief of the Belgians.

Cork. A fireman named Chandler, 25, married, and a native of Cork, was found dead in a dormitory at the Tralee terminus of the G. S. and W. railway recently.

Cork harbor commissioners have unanimously elected Andrew Fitzgerald, son of Sir Edward Fitzgerald, assistant mechanical engineer at the port.

The late Mrs. Mary Horgan of Clanloughlin, Cork, left personal estate valued at £7,622.

Derry. On the motion of Mr. McDermott, seconded by Mr. Tattrick, the Derry Board of Guardians passed a vote of condolence with James Crawford, a member of the Board, on the death of his only brother.

Donegal. On a division, the Donegal County Council have elected the Rev. John McMahon, Bishop of Raphoe, as arousing great committee of technical instruction, in room of the Very Rev. Canon Sweeney, P. P. Killybegs, resigned.

The Crann Eithne movement, planned by the Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell, Bishop of Raphoe, is arousing great enthusiasm in the diocese.

All the members of the crew of the British steamer Tritonia, from Manchester for St. John, N. B., which founded after striking a mine off Inishtrahull, have been saved.

Down. Mr. McKernan, Warrenpoint, has after 32 years' service, retired from the position of town clerk. A collection of £565 for the Belgian fund has been made in the diocese of Dromore.

Dublin. The candidature of John P. MacAvin, P. L. G., as municipal councillor for Drumcondra ward, Dublin, was adopted at a meeting of local ratepayers.

On December 19, 1914, at the Convent of the Sisters of Mercy, Carysfort, Blackrock, the death took place of Mother Mary Liguori Keenan, in the eighty-first year of her age.

Fermanagh. The Lisnaske Guardians at their last meeting unanimously elected Mrs. McGuinness, Summer Hill, as nurse for the Derry, Lin Dispensary District.

Galway. The body of Honor Clancy, a dressmaker, who lived at Henry street, West Galway, was recovered from the river a short time ago.

Kerry. Rev. James Carmody, P. P., Milltown, has been appointed parish priest of Rathmore.