

UMBRELLA TELEPHONE IN OPERATION



WIRELESS UMBRELLA

INGENIOUS YANKEE INVENTS SIMPLE TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

Massachusetts Man Now Working on Automatic Phonograph Device Which May Soon Supplant Lighthouses.

Boston.—Charles E. Alden, of Oak Bluff, Mass., which was formerly known as Cottage City, on the little sea islet of Martha's Vineyard, has just come into prominence as the inventor of a wireless telephone system that promises to be of great utility in the coast service and possibly, in time, of commercial use and value. Just as Count Arco announces in a dispatch from Berlin that he has discovered a wireless telephone system whereby he has been able to converse for two miles, Mr. Alden succeeded in sending messages by his crude system to passing vessels in Long Island sound and Vineyard sound for distances up to ten miles.

While Count Arco catches ether waves on a pole 30 feet high, Mr. Alden walks around with an ordinary steel-handled umbrella, with a common telephone receiver attached to the handle and, when he wishes to hear the phonograph in his house, he spreads the ribs of the umbrella and listens to the sounds that come through the receiver. It's the simplest thing ever and anyone can make one for experimental purposes, but with the success he has already achieved Mr. Alden is making preparations to perfect his system and to extend its uses.

Having succeeded in sending wireless messages to his assistants shouldering tall bamboo poles, he is working on a device to be used for warning vessels that are approaching dangerous rocks, either on a dark and stormy night or in a fog. The idea is to place upon the dangerous rocks along the coast an automatic phonograph that will be worked by the action of the waves and that will keep saying "Keep off" and give the name of the charted rock, so that the mariner will know at once where he is, turn from his course and avert disaster.

He figures that with a receiver in the pilot house of steamers and near the wheelman of the coastwise sailing craft, to which is attached a megaphone sort of arrangement to increase the volume of sound which his umbrella-ribbed arrangement will gather in on passing these phonographic beacons along the coast, every skipper will be able to tell just where he is all the time and can easily judge the distance his craft is from the dangerous rocks by the volume of sound. This method will in time possibly supplant lights, which so often prove unreliable in a fog, and bells, which are silenced by the groaning and whistling winds. In time it may do away with lighthouses and lightships along the coast and the great lakes, and, in fact, if successful there will be no need of lifesavers, for there will be no wrecks unless a skipper willfully runs his craft ashore or does so while suffering from a "brainstorm."

The trouble with wireless telegraphy aboard ships is that it swells the expense and increases the crews, for at least one operator is required and some ships carry two, and there are extraordinary expenses for equipment, etc., whereas with the Alden system there is but a trivial first cost for apparatus. Any sailor by this method can understand what is said through the telephone and does not have to take a special course at a telegraphers' college. One coastwise steamship company has given Mr. Alden permission to install his apparatus on its boats for experimental purposes and he is planning the installation of phonographic warning stations along the coast.

**Pays \$16,000 For a Book.**  
Philadelphia.—A copy of the first folio of Shakespeare's plays, printed in 1623, was purchased in London recently by Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach for a well-known bibliophile in this city. The book was bought for about \$16,000, being the highest figure ever paid for a copy of Shakespeare. Of this first edition there were 150 copies. There are only 25 that are known to be in what is called good condition. Many have been lost or destroyed, but so precious are the copies that there is a complete record of every known volume, its owner and its condition as well as its history as far as possible. This copy is the twenty-fourth of the edition.

MANGANESE DISCOVERIES.

Many Scattered Deposits Are Unearthed in Mysore, India.

Washington.—The discovery of new and large deposits of manganese in Mysore state, southern India. Consul General W. H. Michael, of Calcutta, reports, has aroused activity in prospecting and for concessions concerning which he writes:

"The Mysore gold mining rules have been found inoperative respecting manganese and it is proposed to formulate new rules. The Dewan is to hold a manganese mining conference to consider the area of mining grants, the royalty that should be levied and all other matters that pertain to the new and growing industry. Representatives from manganese mining syndicates and companies will be invited to participate in the deliberations.

There seems abundance of manganese in Mysore, but it is found in scattered localities, thus making the transport of ore to the extracting mills expensive and difficult. In view of this the government desires to fix low royalties in order to encourage the industry and to make regulations fair to all. The Dewan is anxious to place the industry on a plane on which individuals and small concerns will be on an equal footing with large syndicates. In fact, he seems determined to keep out monopolies. The opening of the manganese mines will be a source of large revenue to the Mysore state and of immense benefit to the laboring classes of that part of India. I understand that an American company has a scientific agent in the Mysore field for the purpose of reporting on the opportunities for investment. The mineral fields of India, I feel quite sure, offer splendid inducements for American knowledge, energy and capital."

SEEK TO STOP BRIDGE CRAZE.

Town Council Makes Private Gambling a Jail Offense.

Mellette, S. D.—Aroused over the spread of the bridge whist craze among the women of Mellette, the council of this town has, by a unanimous vote, adopted an ordinance making it a criminal offense to play cards in the privacy of the home or elsewhere for prizes.

The ordinance provides that any one convicted of violating its provisions shall be imprisoned for 30 days. The town marshal, fearful of the wrath of the women at whom the ordinance is aimed, has resigned his office. His successor has been appointed and he declares that he will observe the instructions that have been given him promptly to place under arrest any person of either sex whom he may find playing cards for prizes.

The ordinance not only makes it a criminal offense to play cards for prizes, but it also forbids the selling of chances on any articles. A church fair at which chances were to be sold has been given up on account of the ordinance.

The women of Mellette are up in arms over the passage of the ordinance, declaring that there was no justification for its passage and that those who voted for it shall be made to feel the weight of their displeasure. The men of the town, however, are pleased at the passage of the ordinance and commend the council for the action it has taken to compel the women to quit gambling.

WHEAT FIGURES RUN UP HIGH.

Estimates Place Yield in Kansas at 100,000,000 Bushels.

Topeka, Kan.—Reports made to Secretary F. D. Coburn, of the Kansas department of agriculture, by nearly a thousand experienced correspondents and observers, representing every county in the state, indicate at this time that Kansas will produce 100,000,000 bushels of wheat. The yield as reported officially by the department at Washington for 1906 was in round numbers 82,000,000 bushels.

Mr. Coburn makes the average condition throughout the state 84. On April 1 of last year, when the government reported the condition as 85, the indicated yield was 94,153,000 bushels.

The Kansas official, in his report, says the present acreage of wheat, after allowing for all that has been plowed up on account of drought and the ravages of the green bug, is larger than ever before. Combining the government figures on condition and state figures on acreage and using the combination as a basis of calculation, the 100,000,000-bushel prospect is the result.

WORDS WHICH MEAN NOTHING.

Woman Criticizes Commonplaces Used in Polite Society.

"We have many commonplaces in so-called polite intercourse," said a woman who does a bit of thinking for herself, "and one of the most meaningless of them, to my mind, is the expression frequently heard: 'Now, be sure to call upon me if I can do anything for you.' I say, 'meaningless,' because, when it is said, it ought to mean a great deal, and, as a matter of fact, in the great majority of cases, it doesn't mean anything at all. It's instructive, though rather disheartening, to take people who give this sort of invitation at their word, and see the surprise upon their faces. They can do something for you, you have decided, and, therefore, you bring the matter to their notice. It may be an introduction, a loan of a book, or the doing of an errand. You are, indeed, made to feel that it is more blessed to give than to receive. No one likes to be a suppliant, you know, and it is even worse to be made to realize that you are a suppliant.

"I'd prefer to have an out and out refusal without explanation, of a request which I had felt privileged to make, than a grudging consent given with the very evident air of conferring a favor. Oh! I don't get caught very many times in this way, as I grow older, but occasionally I do, and it's because I think a good many others do, as well, that I'm freeing my mind. What I plead for is a little more sincerity in conversation—especially when the lack of it is likely to lead to embarrassing situations."

LOOKING BACK TO THE PAST.

Pioneer Saw Indian Hunting Ground Where Stands Busy City.

"Stranger, 33 years ago I marked the site for this town," said O. J. Burwell, while in Lenora the other day, "and I have seen herds of buffalo galloping through here and hundreds of Indians camping on this very spot. Lenora was built on my homestead because I had faith in this country. I have seen some hard times, but I refused \$100 an acre for my farm last week. I landed here 34 years old, without a cent, and now I am, of course, no wealthy man."

There was a ring of pride in the voice of the old pioneer as he spoke of Lenora and its beginning. As he spoke, the street was lined with farmers' teams, rural carriers went driving by; the whistle of the incoming train was heard, and the high school bell was ringing.

A glance down Main street revealed the long line of large stores that bespeak a wealthy and populous community. The old pioneer could still see the Indian encampment, and the wild buffalo, and he was envied the panorama of the years that he gazed upon, in which was developed the busy little city.—Topeka Capital.

An "In" and "Out" Problem.

The Association of Collegiate Alumnae at a recent meeting listened to addresses from six women who had held fellowships from the association, says the Youth's Companion. Four of the six may write Ph. D. or Litt. D. after their names. Their researches have been in diverse fields—Roman archaeology, old English, comparative psychology, aesthetics. Their stories of their work show their vigor and ingenuity in the pursuit of knowledge, and humor in facing the difficulties of their tasks.

For example, one of them wished to study a manuscript in the monastery of Monte Cassino. She found the rules of the order forbade any woman to work in the library or any manuscript to be taken out. But a gentle appeal to the abbot resulted in his sending the desired treasure to the porter's room at the gate. By a free construction of the regulations the book was there said to be "in" and the maiden was said to be "out," and all requirements were met.

Congratulations Made Easy.

It is said that in the late '70s and early '80s, when the late Lord Falmouth's colors were well nigh invincible on the turf, Lord Rosebery had a hundred forms printed, beginning, "My dear Falmouth, allow me once again to congratulate you on the success of your horse — in another classic race," etc. He used to fill in these printed forms with the animal's name and that of the race.

After Lord Rosebery's Kermesse had beaten Lord Falmouth's own filly in the Champagne stakes at Doncaster, Lord Falmouth retaliated and sent one of these forms back again with "Rosebery" substituted for "Falmouth," and Kermesse for the horse that had been forwarded to him.

Population of Siberia.

The bulk of the population of Siberia is made up of emigrants and exiles from Russia proper. At present the exile form only eight or nine per cent of the whole, and this proportion is decreasing, while the number of voluntary emigrants is growing each year. The latter are chiefly farmers, who are given government land, rent free for a number of years, after which they are obliged to pay a small tax.

Measure of His Success.

Nicks—Your friend Marryat tells me he's got his wife pretty thoroughly trained now.  
Wicks—Yes, he's got her trained so that he can make her do pretty nearly anything she wants to do.

REAL SPEED OF THOUGHT.

Limited by Rapidity with Which Nerve System Can Act.

How long does it take to think? Prof. Helmholtz argues that the whole probably feels a wound near its tail in about one second, and requires another second to send back orders to the tail to defend itself. The reason why the time occupied by this preparation seems to us so infinitesimal lies in the fact that we are unable to perceive more quickly than our nerve system can act, and thus the intervals required for its operations appear to us imperceptibly small. Astronomers vary in their estimation of the moment at which a star crosses the web of their telescopes by more than a whole second, while the estimates of any individual taken by himself agree within one-tenth of a second if frequently repeated. Still more surprising is the difficulty of determining whether the beats of two gently ticking watches coincide or fall between each other if held to either ear, while nothing is easier than the same determination if both are held to the same ear. Helmholtz pictures the matter to himself in this way: "The two perceptions of different organs can be estimated only as regards their time relations, when there is a sufficient interval between to reflect. Now that you have perceived one, but not as yet the other." Our thought is not so rapid as we usually believe, as has proved by his experiment of taking an electric shock at any point on his skin and then trying to move his hand as quickly as possible.

HID HIS MONEY IN HIS TIE.

But the Cautious Farmer's Secret Was Guessed by a Detective.

"You have often heard the question, 'Where a man's treasure is, there will his heart be also,'" said a detective. "I saw in illustration of that not long ago on a railroad train. A detective employed by the railway company and I were seated near a countryman who adjusted his necktie every few minutes.

"That tie bothers the old man," I said to my companion.

"Don't think it's the tie," replied the railroad detective.

"Then he leaned forward and said to the farmer, 'Better take your money out of that necktie.'

"Who told you I had money in my tie?" demanded the farmer.

"The detective then explained that his actions in adjusting his neckwear led to the supposition. The farmer admitted that he had chosen the tie as the hiding place for a number of bills.

"His idea was all right," concluded the detective, "but he couldn't keep his hands off the cravat."

Rats as Judges of Ivory.

The ivory dealer pointed to a half dozen rats gnawing among the yellow heaps of tusks and ivory fragments in the garret.

"They are quite tame, you see," he said. "Why shouldn't they be so? The fact is, they are on my payroll. They work for me. Their wages are a pound of cheese and a loaf of bread a week.

"Ivory dealers like rats, for rats are ivory's best judges, and without their help we should often want a higher price for a bad tusk than for a fine one."

He took a fragment of ivory from the floor and pointed to certain small furrows in its surface.

"The rats did that," he said. "These furrows are a proof of the ivory's excellence. Rats gnaw the ivory that contains animal glue, or gelatine, a substance of which they are fond. And this substance it is that makes ivory excellent, yet a mere man can't tell whether a tusk contains it or not.

"The rats can tell. They are ivory experts, and they work so cheap."

Branded as a Deserter.

An army pension has just been granted to J. Tomlin, of Nottingham, England, who is now 81, and his medals, granted for Sevastopol, have been replaced.

It seems that he was invalided home from the Crimea and granted a month's furlough. While enjoying his rest he was stricken with typhoid fever, but, being unable to read or write, did not acquaint the officers of his regiment with his misfortune or ask a friend to do so. The consequence was that when his furlough expired he was posted as a deserter, and while on his way to rejoin was arrested.

At Aldershot he was tried by court-martial and sentenced to be branded with the letter "D."

Hard Heads Matched.

Among the songs of Robert Burns is one upon a whistle used by a Dane; who visited England in the retinue of Anne of Denmark. This whistle was placed on the table at the beginning of a drinking bout, which was won by whoever was last able to blow it. The Dane conquered all comers, says the story, until Sir Robert Lawrie of Maxwellton, after three days and nights' hard contest, left the Scandinavian under the table.

Tillman's Good Definition.

A reporter asked Senator Tillman rather maliciously what he thought of a certain opponent's speech. "My boy," said the senator, "it was like a fine bottle of champagne."  
"Yes," murmured the reporter, rather taken aback.  
"Yes," said Senator Tillman; "lots of froth and very dry."

THE GROWTH OF FISHERS.

Males Attain Their Maturity Earlier Than Females.

There is now in course of arrangement in the Central hall of the Natural History museum at South Kensington, says the London Daily Graphic, a most interesting exhibition illustrating some of the principal features of the fishery investigation work of the Marine Biological association, toward the support of which the chancellor of the exchequer was recently asked to increase the government grant. Specimens of pollack are on view showing the annual growth rate in the English channel, which varies from about one and a half to two and a half inches at the age of three to four months to 2 1/4 inches at the end of the sixth summer. A series of scales taken from the same fish at various periods are also exhibited in illustration of another method of determining the age of fish. In like manner a number of plaice taken from the bays and estuaries on the east coast of England, the English channel and the southern part of the North sea are on exhibition, an examination showing that for the first three years the growth rate of both males and females is practically identical, and that after that period the growth of the males is slower than that of females, a circumstance which is associated with the earlier maturity of the males.

SHEEP FATTENED ON SNAILS.

Makes the Finest Mutton on Earth, Says a Breeder.

"Most people would be horrified to learn that the finest mutton in the world comes from sheep fattened on snails," says a large breeder of South-down sheep; "nevertheless, it is a fact. In seasons when snails are plentiful the mutton from our sheep has a delicious flavor which it never acquires from the most scientific form of feeding. On the continent a diet of snails is a regular cure for consumptives and is said to fatten and nourish the body in a wonderful way.

"There is a popular superstition," he adds, "that the unique and delicate flavor of Southdown mutton is due largely to the quantity of wild thyme which they crop with the grass in their pastures. But, personally, I give the snails the greater part of the credit for the soft, plump flesh and the sweetness of flavor in our celebrated sheep. So much is this the case, that the saying, 'Good snail year, good sheep year,' has become almost a proverb among shepherds and breeders."

Brilliant English Woman.

Lady Huggins, now that Miss Agnes Clerke is dead, says a London writer, may be regarded as our only lady astronomer of real eminence. When about ten years old Miss Margaret Murray, as she then was, went to work at astronomy systematically, and by the time she married Dr. Huggins she knew enough to be of the greatest assistance to him. They established themselves at the Tulse Hill, then a mere lane in the midst of fields, and carried out the "new" astronomy, the principle of which was to investigate not only the motions of the heavenly bodies, but also what they are made of. Lady Huggins is, indeed, a many-sided woman, for she has managed to find time to cultivate music, painting, wood-carving and botany, and she is devoted to her beautiful garden. She is a great judge of bric-a-brac, and possesses some wonderful examples of medieval craftsmanship. She plays the piano, the organ and the concertina.

Not the Right Man.

A large number of readers, including many clergymen from all over the country, entered the clerical anecdotes competition of the Church Family Newspaper. The first prize goes to Rev. G. Emery, rector of Penmaen, S. O., Glamorgan, England, for this: "At a village church a wedding was fixed for a certain date. The happy morn arrived, and in due course a youthful swain and faire ladye presented themselves at the chancel steps.

"The service proceeded smoothly as far as the question, 'Will thou have this woman to be thy wedded wife?' Whereupon the supposed bridegroom stammered blushing, 'Please, sir, I'm not the right man.' 'Not the right man,' exclaimed the clergyman, aghast. 'Then where is the right man?'

"He's down at the bottom of the church, sir. He's asheamed to come up."

Clever Autograph Flend.

Hall Caine has a great horror of the autograph hunter, but during his latest visit to America he was trapped by a wily collector in a very curious way. One day a porter at the hotel brought him a registered letter. He signed the receipt, and was then asked to sign a second paper, which he was told had to be returned to the sender of the letter. New to American ways, he did so, and when he opened the letter found it to be a note of thanks for his autographs, which he had, of course, appended to the paper.

Spoken With Patriotic Pride.

"You have nothing that carries with it the charm of antiquity," said the European.  
"Oh, yes, we have," answered the rich American. "It won't be long before we have the market in that line cornered. We're buying up antiques faster than you can make 'em."

CLAIM AN OLD SLAVE'S CASH.

Deposit of \$400 Made in 1823 Has Grown to \$6,000.

One of the most complicated cases on record in the recovery of "dead" funds in savings banks is being investigated by William P. Hamilton, Jr., and Albert J. Graefe, lawyers, who are trying to divide a \$6,000 pie among 22 hungry heirs, says the New York World.

Stephen Skeer, or Scarr, who was born a slave in Elkton, Md., came to this city in 1823 and the following year deposited \$100 in the Chamberlain Street bank, now the Bank for Savings, at Fourth avenue and Twenty-second street, August, 1824, he drew out \$12.

The bank was unable to find any of the heirs. In 1901 George A. Smythe took hold of the case. He found two heirs, John Andrew Stephen Skeer of 670 Third avenue, and John Alfred Scarr of 92 Fifth avenue, Brooklyn, and had them appointed administrators of the estate.

Charles C. Halpine, who was the attorney of record for the administrators, received \$165 for his services. After his death he was supplanted by Williams and Caldwell, lawyers, who received \$100.

Then other heirs suddenly turned up. They went to Lawyer Graefe and asked him to get the whole account readjusted. With Lawyer Hamilton he filed objections to the account in the surrogate's office and Edward G. Whitaker of 141 Broadway was chosen referee. A hearing will come up soon. With compound interest of 7 1/2 years the amount would be \$6,000.

Scarr alleges that he has not had what is due, and with 20 other heirs has placed a claim in Lawyer Hamilton's hands.

ORIGIN OF TWO CUSTOMS.

Ship Baptism Is of Dread Significance—Firing of Salutes.

If fair young women sponsors who take a great deal of pride in breaking a bottle of champagne over the prow of a ship as she slides into the water for her first float, knew something about the origin and significance of the launching custom the chances are they would not be so eager to see the bottle crash and the foaming liquid wet the sides of the vessel.

It is a survival of a barbaric custom when sacrifices were made to the gods and some living victim or offering was held up and its throat cut so that the blood flowed over the prow of the ship being launched. The vessel was baptized in warm blood. Now sparkling wine or pure water is used, and the change has many advantages, though the symbolism remains.

There is another curious custom aboard ship that is interesting in the way it has been handed down to us. When a dignitary visits a foreign country the moment that his ship enters port a formal salute is fired as a signal of welcome. This custom was observed years ago, when it was considered the correct thing for a port to fire its guns to show the visiting stranger that the citizens and authorities placed such confidence in his friendliness that it was not considered necessary to keep the guns loaded, so all the shot was discharged.

Egotism Rebuked.

Anent the Longfellow revival, Jacob H. Schiff, in the course of the recent dinner that he gave in New York in honor of James McCrea, the president of the Pennsylvania railroad, told an interesting story about the poet.

"During one of Longfellow's visits to New York," he said, "Booth, who was playing Hamlet, was taken suddenly ill, and it was seen that his understudy would have to take his place that night.

"The understudy was highly elated, and in order to have a sufficiently distinguished and appreciative audience he sat down forthwith and wrote some dozen notes to the effect that he would take Booth's place that night and dispatched them to everybody of distinction in New York that he had ever met or heard of.

"One of these notes went to Longfellow. Longfellow's laconic answer was: "Thanks for timely warning."

The National Anthem.

Admiral Dewey told the story of the adoption of the "Star-spangled Banner" as the national anthem at a meeting of the Francis Scott Key Memorial association, held recently in Washington. He said he was instrumental in its adoption by this government, stating that once while he was abroad and was dining with Prince Henry, of Prussia, on the latter's flagship, the band played "Hail Columbia." He called the prince's attention to the fact that it was not a national anthem, and referred to the "Star-spangled Banner."

Later he and Justice Moody, then secretary of the navy, discussed the incident, the result of which was the issuance of the president's order designating the "Star-spangled Banner" as the recognized national anthem of this government.

Only Explanation.

It was bargain day. An excited man rushed into the crowded drygoods emporium.

"Say, where will I find my wife?" he queried of the head floorwalking gentleman.  
"Really, I don't know, sir," replied the party of the floorwalking part. "She hasn't been here to-day."  
"Great Scott!" exclaimed the excited man. "Then I must hurry home at once. She is either dead or dying!"