

SIGNOR MARCONI DECLARES THAT WIRELESS TELEPHONING IS NOW AN ACCOMPLISHED FACT

Inventor Has Constructed an Apparatus Where-
by he Can Telephone Successfully Without
Wires for a Distance of One Hundred
Miles

London, July 10.—One of these days the head of a London business may step to the wireless 'phone.

"Ring up New York," he'll order. "Get my New York manager on the ether."

"That isn't impossible. Guglielmo Marconi says so. Perhaps the New York manager is indisposed. Maybe he doesn't want to talk to his superior. In which case he may try to disguise his voice. But it wouldn't do him a bit of good."

"Ah, ha," the London manager would say, genially. "You little rascal, you. I see you."

A further miracle of the etheric waves may come in the future. It may be that the New York manager is deter- mined to abstain from conversation by wireless with his boss. It may even be that he may hide behind the door. Even that would not help him. A further applica- tion of the etheric waves may pene- trate that door and disclose the guilty shiverer to the gaze of his incensed master.

"We are now talking for short dis- tances by wireless," said Mr. Marconi when I called upon him at Marconi House, on the Strand. "By short dis- tances I mean up to 100 miles or so. Within another month or so this sys- tem will be working commercially. It is quite as feasible to talk for long dis- tances by wireless as for short dis- tances. It only requires then applica- tion of more power."

To Talk Across Ocean.

"Will the day ever come when tele- phonic conversation across the sea by wireless may be possible?"

"Undoubtedly," said Mr. Marconi. "I will go further. We will be talking from London to New York by wireless long before we will be talking between the same cities by cable. Wireless telephony over great distances is a less difficult undertaking than is telephon- ing similar distances by cable."

Very recently there appeared the an- nouncement of an invention by which it may be possible for the parties to a telephone conversation to see each other. The inventor declares the ap- paratus to be a comparatively simple one and capable of universal use.

"I see no reason to doubt it," said Mr. Marconi. "I have been too busy with my work for the wireless to pay much attention to it. But there is no- thing inherently impossible in the theory."

Mr. Marconi laughed. He has a sin- gularly taking smile, this man who has made either help carry our burdens. He sat with his back to the window in the great office in Marconi House. This structure itself, by the way, is quite unlike American business offices. It retains something of that guarded se- clusion, that residential quality, which is so dear to the English heart. One steps from the rear of the Strand to a quiet hallway, almost cathedral like in its vaulting, and drawing room like as to its carpets. A commissionaire cov- ered with service medals desires to know in what manner he can serve you. In the end one finds his way by a silent lift to Mr. Marconi's office, to find a kindly, somewhat reticent, rather tired man willing to answer ques- tions. He does not volunteer informa- tion.

Where Science Overreaches.

"Let us hope that seeing-by-wire plan does not come into general use," said he. "One may have a very good friend who is yet a bore. Nowadays our good friends rings us up and says

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Uses Wireless 'Phone Regularly.

Marconi's time has of late been given over to the perfecting of his wire- less telephone apparatus and to the adaptation of wireless to the uses of the aeroplane. The first, as has been stated, is now complete. For some time he had a wireless phone in operation be- tween his office and the Savoy Hotel, across the street. He has communi- cated with ships at sea at distances of thirty or forty miles with less diffi- culty than one would experience in tel- ephoning to a neighbor forty miles

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away. He has heard sounds through his phone when efforts were made to telephone from Berlin to London, but the words were indistinguishable. Fur- ther work needs to be done before long distance telephony may be expected as a practicability.

"At short distances," said Mr. Mar- coni, in an effort to make clear in un- technical language the difficulties he has encountered, "the voices seem to dominate the wireless wave; but as the distances are increased and waves of greater power are needed in order to carry, the voice seems unable to control and dominate the waves. We need a greater and more perfect apparatus for distance work."

"But we shall be able to telephone by wireless across the sea before tele- phoning is possible by cable. The ex- planation is that with distance the sounds become weaker when wireless is used, but the voice is not distorted. One may hear with difficulty but the syllables are perfectly articulated. On the other hand, after a certain dis- tance the sounds are distorted in tele- phoning by cable. This distortion in- creases with the square of the dis- tance."

It should be made clear that at pre- sent there is no thought of establish- ing a wireless telephone exchange. For the present the wireless phone is for use only on ships. All ships within the radius of the speaking instruments can take part in any conversation that might be going on.

"One might couple instruments to- gether," said Marconi, "but we have not given that phase of the problem any thought as yet."

Some Experiments.

"The day may come when it all will be possible to call by wireless from London to New York for a given phone —and be free of interference from any other phone. But we have not bother- ed with this because we do not believe that wireless telephony will ever sup- plant wireless telegraphy. You could

not speak code words, for example, as you could write them. It is hard enough to understand ordinary words over the best telephone. And coding is a necessity of modern business, for half a dozen reasons."

Mr. Marconi has lately been very active in his efforts to adapt wireless telegraphy to the use of aeroplanes. For weeks Gustav Hamel the brilliant young airman, who was drowned in the English Channel, over which he had flown in safety a score of times, was a daily visitor to his office, and was one of the most confirmed experi- menters. Three great difficulties stand in the road of wireless from a plane, according to Marconi. The first is the great weight of the ap- paratus required, the second the constant vibration, which interferes with per- fect sending and receiving, and the third a purely human element—that of the excitement from which every man who goes up in a plane suffers, how- ever, wireless with perfect ease from a plane is only a little further away.

"It has been said that you are ex- perimenting in an effort to drive planes by wireless?"

"That is one thing I never tried," said he. "I do not think I ever will. One can transmit power by wireless, but the percentage one transmits is so small in proportion to the power one starts with that—as Americans say—it doesn't pay. For example, I might have a 100 h.p. engine here and hard- ly able to get one-half a horse power by wireless at a short distance from it."

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Influenced to Win.

It was toward the end of August, and our team of the Boynton Ath- letic club had done splendid work at winning baseball games, placing us in an excellent position to be one of the teams to play for the champion- ship at the end of the season, but the Harkerville club had just as good a record, and we must beat it or be thrown out of the line of competi- tion.

We knew what everybody knew—that under ordinary circumstances we could win from the Harkerville club. But our twirler, Jim Grigsby, though the best in our part of the country, was unreliable. There were times when he would make tosses which only a marvellous batsman could hit, while at other times his pitching was decidedly poor.

Bob Twining, our captain, made a study of Grigsby to find out why he could not twirl as well at one time as another and discovered that he needed a stimulus. He also discov- ered that the excitement of the game could not be relied upon to make Grigsby do first-class work. This puzzled the captain.

Twining must hit on some expedi- ent at once. His sister, Jaqueline, was one of those girls who seem to be able to draw men as a magnet will draw metal, and Twining told her that he wished her to concentrate her flitting for the couple of weeks that remained before the deciding game on Grigsby.

Jack—as she was commonly called—was at the time receiving the attentions of one George Elliot, to whom Twining seriously objected. Jack worshiped her brother and wouldn't marry without his approval. She proposed to do what she could to influence Grigsby to win the coming game, provided Twining would concur in her choice and back her up with their parents, who were of the same opinion as the brother. Twining finally reluctantly agreed to her proposition, provided the game was won, and she took Grigsby in training.

"Jack," said Twining a week after this agreement, "let up on Grigsby. You are absorbing so much of his time, that I can't get him out for practice."

"I thought you relied on me to make him win."

"So I do."

"Very well. Never mind his losing practice. He's had practice enough. He needs a motive. If the team needs a pitcher for practice get some one in his place. Let Mr. Grigsby alone till the game comes off."

Twining grumbled, but thought it best not to interfere with his sister's plans. He did not, and could not know what means she was taking to make Grigsby win the game. He only knew that she would if she could and did no more scolding when the twirler cut practice to go galavanti- ng with Jack.

Of course Bob and his sister were the only two in the secret, which was of too delicate a nature to be spread broadcast, and the captain was at his wits' end to keep his team up to its work without its pitcher, especially since his absence from practice was a discouraging feature. By the time the game came off Twining was tired out with the situation, having forced his team to keep in condition despite its discouragements.

Jack would give her brother no in- formation as to what was passing between her and Grigsby. Twining asked her if she wished a seat on the stand where the pitcher could see her plainly, and she said she wished for two seats, not conspicuous. He didn't understand this, but gave her a place a few rows back from the front.

The weather was favorable, and, since there was a good deal of inter- est in the game, a large crowd was in attendance. No one except those mentioned knew anything about the bargain that had been made. Twining had supposed that Jack wished the extra seat for a girl friend, and when he saw her sitting beside her he wondered. But Jack knew the game she was playing and her brother did not.

There was the usual cheering when the teams went on the field, and the rooting for each team was well and incessantly kept up by the leaders. Grigsby looked about for Jack, and when he saw her sitting by Elliot he knit his brows. What was going on in his mind was unknown to any one but himself—and possibly Jack. Twining was watching him and be- lieved that whatever it was, would be a big hit or a big miss.

It turned out to be a big hit. Grigsby covered himself with glory. His Curves were marvellous. From the start our fellows led, and at the end of the game, when we had beaten our opponents badly, we carried Grigsby off the field on our shoulders. Then

the field that had been so lively was deserted.

When Bob Twining and his sister were alone at home he took her in his arms, kissed her and told her that she might marry Elliot with his full consent and that he would throw all his influence with the old folks for the same cause.

"But how did you manage it with Grigsby?" he asked.

"I promised to marry him if he won the game."

Jack kept her promise, threw Elliot over and astonished the world. "You can never tell," her brother remarked, "where a girl is going to land till she has landed."

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