

TRIED TO MAKE HIS DOG TALK

One of Dr. Alexander Graham Bell's Experiments

He was a Prophet Who Lived to See Some of His Predictions Fulfilled to the Letter and Beyond.

The Boston Herald of March 5, 1922, contained the following interesting article relating to the late scientist:

Two anniversaries of great significance to Boston and Bostonians fall in March. They both have reference to the invention of the telephone, that epoch-making device that, more perhaps than any other, has served to unite the country in one organic whole.

On March 17, 1876, forty-six years ago, Dr. Alexander Graham Bell obtained the original patent on his invention. Could the importance of that event have been foreseen it would have doubtless been marked by a celebration. As it was, it passed off unnoticed.

Seventy-five years ago, on the third day of March, Dr. Bell, "father of the telephone," pioneer in acoustics, inventor of the phonograph, champion of the Montessori system of child training, teacher of deaf mutes, inventor of a device to keep a house as cool in the hottest of dog days as it is in mid-October, scientist, investigator and philanthropist, was born.

The reason why the two anniversaries are of peculiar interest to Boston is because it was in this city that Dr. Bell, in 1876, constructed and used the first practical two-way telephone, the precursor of the wonderful commonplace through whose agency human beings converse with one another regardless of geographical limits.

In that year the young Scotsman was experimenting upon a machine by which he hoped the deaf might be made to hear and the dumb taught to speak. In doing so he made a discovery which practically annihilated distance as far as sound is concerned. He discovered the principle of the telephone and thereby created one of the greatest industries in the world.

First Considered Mere Plaything.

The first experimental line was set up in Brantford, Ont., and a "one way" message sent over it. But it was in Boston, in the same year, that young Bell perfected his invention and made it, for the first time, a practical instrument and a commercial possibility.

Alexander Graham Bell's mind has never ceased to project its energies into the future. The present accomplishment has always been with him, a starting place for further experiments and discoveries in the interest of science and humanity. He is a prophet who has lived to see his predictions fulfilled to the letter and beyond.

The first telephone was regarded as an impracticable plaything. Bell foresaw its marvelous future with unerring vision. He saw more. In 1905 he said to a newspaper correspondent: "I believe we shall soon have an automatic telephone service in which every subscriber by means of certain buttons, a combination of wires, will be able to call up whomever he pleases without the annoyance of the central station."

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today, which Dr. Bell has lived to see, is a demonstration of the accuracy of the prophecy.

He foresaw the inauguration of a system whereby news and other announcements could be "broadcasted" to subscribers, exactly as they are by radio today. He believed, as early as that, in the possibility of telephoning without wires, and even went so far as to make experiments to prove it, although it is very likely that the results he obtained were caused by the earth transmitting his signals.

The other day, with the same sort of modesty, he told a group of officials of the U. S. patent office: "I rather think that you know more about the telephone today than I do." He then called attention to the more than 8,000 patents relating to telephones granted since he obtained the original patent.

Early Experiments.

In connection with the observations of Dr. Bell's seventy-fifth birthday, the National Geographic Society quotes from a communication in which Dr. Bell asserts that his invention of the telephone really began with his grandfather, Alexander Bell of London, England, who died

the year our civil war ended. Of his grandfather, Dr. Bell writes: "He was an eloquentist and a corrector of defective utterance. He was the first in the family to take up the study of the mechanism of speech with the object of correcting defects of speech by explaining to his pupils the correct positions of the vocal organs in uttering the sounds that were defective."

Dr. Bell then recounts the boyish experiments he made with vocal utterance, including an attempt to make a dog talk. And, on his seventy-fifth birthday, the inventor still is to be found in his laboratory, often working until three or four o'clock in the morning, experimenting with the same keen, boyish zest. Continuing his boyhood reminiscences, Dr. Bell writes: "My father, Alexander Melville Bell of Edinburgh, Scotland, was also an eloquentist and corrector of defective utterance."

"I was always much interested in my father's examinations of the mouths of his elocutionary pupils. They differed in an extraordinary degree in size and shape, and yet all these variations seemed to be quite consistent with perfect speech. I then began to wonder whether there was anything in the mouth of a dog to prevent it from speaking, and commenced to make experiments with an intelligent Skye terrier we possessed. To make a dog talk.

"By the application of suitable doses of food material, the dog was soon taught to sit up on his hind legs and growl continuously while I manipulated his mouth, and stop growling when I took my hands away. I took his muzzle in my hands and opened and closed the jaws a number of times in succession. This resulted in the production of the syllables 'ma-ma-ma-ma', etc., as in the case of the talking-machine.

"The mouth proved to be too small to enable me to manipulate individual parts of the tongue, but upon pushing upward between the bones of the lower jaw, near the throat, I found it possible to completely close the passageway at the back of the mouth, and a succession of pushes of this character resulted in the syllables 'ga-ga-ga-ga', etc.

"The simple growth was an approximation of the vowel 'ah', and this, followed by a gradual construction and 'rounding' of the labial orifice by the hand, became the vowel 'ma-ma-ma', which, by the exercise of a little imagination, readily passed muster for 'How are you, grandmamma?' ('Oh-ah-oh-gamma-ma')."

Dog's Interest.

"The dog soon learned that his business in life was to growl while my hands were upon his mouth, and to stop growling the moment I took them away, and we both of us became quite expert in the production of the famous sentence, 'How are you, grandmamma?'"

"The dog took quite a bread-and-butter interest in the experiments, and often used to stand up on his hind legs and try to say this sentence by himself, but without manipulation was never able to do anything more than a growl. 'The fame of the dog soon spread among my father's friends and people came from far and near to witness the

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1 lb. Cornmeal 25c
1 lb. Pepper 25c
1 lb. tin Finest Baking Powder 27c
2 cans Corn 25c
2 tins Peas 25c
2 tins Tomato Soup 25c
2 tins Tomatoes (large) 35c
2 tins Blueberries 33c
2 tins Golden Wax Beans 33c
Maple Leaf Peaches, a tin 23c
Maple Leaf Pears, a tin 25c
Pumpkin, a tin, large 16c
3 tins Carnation Milk 25c
Finest Small Picnic Hams, lb 26c
1 lb. block Pure Lard 19c
1 lb. block Shortening 18c
Finest Dairy Butter, lb 32c
2 qts. Finest White Beans 23c
2 qts. Red Eye Beans 34c
1 lb. Clear Fat Pork 18c
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performance. This is the only foundation for the newspaper stories that I had once succeeded in teaching a dog to speak.

Tall and well built, with a magnificent mass of white hair crowning his noble head, Prof. Bell is one of the most distinguished-looking men in the United States. Today despite his 75 years, he is as vigorous in mind and body as he was a quarter of a century ago, and is keenly interested in scientific and humanitarian developments.

It takes imagination to invent, and Prof. Bell has that faculty in the highest degree. His vision, based upon his great scientific knowledge, is wider than that of the ordinary thinker, and his creative mind is always reaching out and suggesting new things. That was evident throughout the conversation.

In the course of an article describing the discovery, Prof. Bell wrote: "From 1870 to 1876 I was a resident of Salem, and came into Boston every day for my professional work. Then I would spend my summer vacations at Brantford, Can. at the home of my parents. So these three places, Salem, Boston, and Brantford, are concerned in the early days of the telephone."

Boston is par excellence the home of the telephone, for it was here that all the apparatus was made, and where the most distinguished experiment went on. Brantford was my thinking place, where I would go and spend my summer holidays and look over the line of experiments that had been made in Boston, and plan for the future.

First Success.

"And so it happened that in the summer of 1874, during my visit to my father's house in Brantford, considering the numerous experiments I had made in Boston relative to the reproduction of musical sounds by electricity for the purpose of multiple telegraphy, the thought of the membrane telephone was suggested."

"From the summer of 1874 up until June 2, 1875, the development of the telephone was delayed by the thought that the magneto-electric impulses would not by themselves be sufficient and would require a battery current."

"Then came the discovery that a magneto-electric current would produce by itself sonorous effects at a receiving station. In a moment all the difficulties in the way of the practical solution of the telephone disappeared, and orders were

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11 oz. pkgs. Seeded Raisins 15c
4 lb. tin Pure Fruit Jam 49c
4 lb. tin Pure Orange Marmalade 55c
4 lb. tin Pure Raspberry Jam 69c
2 tins Corn 25c
2 tins Peas 25c
Peaches 20c, 25c, 30c. tin
Pears 25c tin
Plums 18c tin
2 tins for 35c
3 pkgs. Lipton Jelly Powder 25c
3 pkgs. Jello 25c
7 cakes Castile Soap 25c
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given to construct at once the membrane telephone that was conceived in Brantford in 1874.

"When it was tried it was sometime in June or July, 1875. We have present records of experiment on July 1, 1875, and I remember these experiments. We had only one membrane telephone and the receiver was one of the old tuned reed instruments. It was held up to the ear. You examined the armature against the reed to listen to its vibrations."

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LOCAL NEWS

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