

threw out the stick of wood. Whenever the cow-bell sounded the train was brought to a stand in short order, and some passenger knew that he must either come down with his fare or get hustled out between stations, regardless of circumstances. At one stroke Poppy Ayres subordinated the engineer to the conductor, and increased the revenue of the company."
—United States Miller.

The Real Inventor of the Telephone.

The "American Bell Telephone Company," whose shares are now selling in Boston for four times the actual amount of money put into them, base their monopoly of the entire art of transmitting speech by electricity upon the claim that Alexander Graham Bell was the original inventor of the telephone. They have obtained possession of Prof. Bell's patents, and are managing them with great shrewdness and enormous profit, because of the entire exclusion of all other telephone companies who are desirous of meeting the public requirements in the matter of transmission of speech by electricity.

And yet Prof. Bell was not the first inventor of the telephone, and the monopoly of the Bell Telephone Company is based upon a pretense which is likely to be exploded whenever it can be fully examined upon its merits by a competent court. The inventor of the speaking telephone was Philip Reis, who was born in Germany in 1834, invented the telephone in 1850, and died in 1874. It was his death in the latter year at the early age of 40, which has enabled the American Bell Company to wrest from him the honor of his invention, and assert without successful disproof up to this time that the telephone was invented by Alexander Graham Bell in 1876.

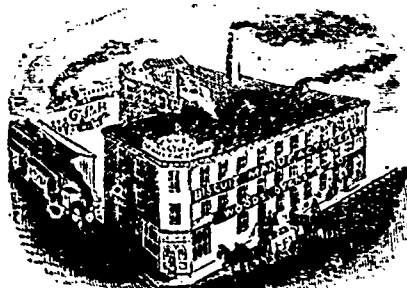
Whenever confronted with allusions to Reis's invention hitherto, the answers of the Bell monopoly have been that it was only a musical toy, intended to sing and not to transmit speech, and that Mr. Reis never meant it to talk nor expected that it would do so. But an abundance of evidence exists to show that Reis's Telephone was expressly intended to transmit speech; and that it will transmit speech today.

Witnesses who were contemporary with Reis have given testimony of their knowledge of the transmission of speech through the instrument; and in a prospectus drawn up by Reis himself in 1863, to accompany instruments sold in Frankford, occur the instructions: "One beat—Sing; two beats—Speak." Letters are in existence from well-known persons in Germany and England who state unhesitatingly that Mr. Reis intended his telephone to talk, and that it did transmit speech. Prof. Quincke, professor of physics in the University of Heidelberg, has written a letter to the effect that he was present when Mr. Reis exhibited his telephone at the Assembly of the German Naturalists' Association in 1864. Prof. Quincke states that he listened at the apparatus and heard distinctly both singing and talking. Prof. C. Bohn, formerly secretary of the German Naturalists' Association, gives similar testimony, and adds: "It was known to me (in 1863-64) that Reis intended to transmit spoken words as well as those sung."

Herr Leon Garnier, the proprietor of the Garnier Institute at Friedrichsdorf writes. "I remember especially that standing at the end of the wire or conductor, I distinctly heard the words: 'Good morning, Mr. Fisher.' 'I am coming directly.' 'Pay attention?' 'What o'clock is it?' 'What's your name?' We often spoke for an hour at a time." Other letters are in existence containing similar testimony.

The legitimate inventions controlled by the American Bell Company undoubtedly cover many of the details of successful telephony and the appliances which have brought the art into its present state of perfection. For these subsidiary devices, the company is entitled to consideration. But it claims to a patent upon the original invention of the telephone is wholly unwarranted.—*Leather Gazette.*

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