

The English Government has decided to postpone the reduction of telegraph rates till some future time. This would indicate the department was running behind. We are of those who never believed in the control of the telegraph by the Government; their management of the same, and that of patents in general. We consider it as detrimental to the full development of the hidden mysteries of electrical science.

THE QUEBEC FIRE ALARM TELEGRAPH.

The fire alarm telegraph of the ancient capital is a central office system, and has lately been moved from the second to the third story of the Fire Station, No. 1, on St. Ursule street. Here five rooms are in use by this department, viz., the fire alarm office, sitting room, battery room, mechanical department and store room—all these are on the same floor for convenience. Although the mechanism has been seventeen years in use, it is practically equal to a new outfit. This speaks well for its original make, and the good care under which it has been managed. The system is composed of three signal circuits with 53 alarm boxes and three alarm circuits with 20 electric gongs. There are three tower strikers and a private line connecting the operators' residences with the department, and the Citadel from which is received the daily standard time. The whole system is under the superintendency of L. P. Brunelle, who has labored hard to bring it up to its present efficient condition.

MORSE RELIC.

The Editor of this paper has in his possession a piece of the old style original white paper that ran through the first Morse instrument at Baltimore, on the first public line built, running from Washington, D.C. It is two feet six and a half inches long, torn nearly straight off at each end, and is one and a half inches wide. The raised Morse characters run directly across the centre, from one end to the other, and were transmitted by the hand of Prof. S. F. B. Morse, the father of the telegraph, on the 28th day of April, 1846, from Washington, D.C., to Henry J. Rogers, who was receiving operator at Philadelphia, Pa. The telegraphic characters are well embossed, clear and easily read, and would indicate that the Professor had been a fine operator. The translation is part of a telegram from Secretary of the Treasury Bibb to Mr. H. J. Rogers, and reads as follows:—"P.M. Yours received. I never doubted friend Rogers politeness or his disposition. All is O.K." This relic of the early days of telegraphy we highly prize, having received the same from the late Mr. Rogers, many years ago.

Edison, the inventor, indulges in the following prediction: As to the changes which will be effected by electricity within fifty years in the city of New York, I believe that electricity will propel the cars of the streets and elevated railroads, light the city within and without its buildings, furnish power for all purposes, work telephone and burglar alarms, deliver the opera, convoy parcels, detect and signal fires, operate fire-engines, and possibly displace animal locomotion for vehicles.

We wish to call the attention of our readers to the advertisement of Messrs. Seth W. Fuller and Holtzer, of 22 Milk street, Boston, Mass.

The firm is so old and well-known, that encomiums from us is unnecessary. All their transactions are on the old-fashioned business principles of 1809, and they are very pleasant gentlemanly men, so that if any of our readers wish any of their goods we can guarantee satisfaction will be given by this noted old house.

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