

line, I believe, does n't go out of the building at all, but notwithstanding, I got a shock from it and that was worse than the one on the long-distance.

Q. As the result of that second shock, which came, how soon after you came back to work?

A. A week after.

Q. And you were off duty, how long?

A. I think I was off three weeks, and three weeks after I called at the office and I think Miss Flanagan was in charge, and I asked her what time I was the following week, and I was 8 to 1, and I went on at 8 o'clock, and I think it was half past 10 or 11 o'clock they had to help me downstairs again. I couldn't stay on. . . . Nearly four weeks after that I went back—between 3 and 4 weeks.

Q. When did you have convulsions as a result of that second shock?

A. I don't know if they were convulsions, but some of the girls told me they were; the spells I took—

Q. Were your wages and doctor's bill paid this second time?

A. Yes.

Q. Were you given anything for the injury it had occasioned to you?

A. No, just my salary and the doctor's bill paid.

Q. Did you pay for your medicine?

A. I paid my own medicine with the exception of about two bottles. . . .

Q. Then, when you went on the long-distance were you told you would be likely to get a shock?

A. No, I don't remember being told.

Laura Rockall in her evidence, stated as follows:—

Q. Did you receive any electrical shocks over the wire?

A. Well, I have got pains in the ear like Miss Fiegehan says.

Q. Did that affect in any way your nervous condition?

A. Well just for the moment.

Q. Have you known of others to be shocked so as to be off duty and be in convulsions?

A. Yes.

Q. Did that knowledge in any way affect you?

A. Well, it kind of scared me—I was rather afraid of it.

Emily Richmond gave the following evidence:—

Q. You got a shock, did you not?

A. I did. . . . in 1905.

Q. With the result that you had to go to the doctor?

A. I did. . . . Dr. Anderson, 5 College street, ear specialist.

Q. And what was the injury occasioned to you at that time?

A. I haven't been able to use my left ear at all.

Q. Your left ear is not of any service to you?

A. Not at all.

Mention may be made at this point of a feature of operating which might, since it has to do with the size of the switchboard, be more properly included perhaps in a reference to the features of operating which are subject to mechanical limitation at the direction of the management; as, however, it illustrates the physical strain to which operators may, under certain circumstances, be subjected, its inclusion here may not be out of place. It has been shown that as subscribers increase in number, unless new exchanges are opened, the numbers on the switchboard before an operator will continually increase. At the Main exchange at Toronto the numbers on the board at the

time that the commission held its sittings, ran, as has been stated, up to 6,041. A large number necessitates the holes being very small in size and close together, which involves the exercise of considerable care by an operator to avoid the making of wrong connections. The larger the number, the higher of necessity the operating space on the switchboard extends. At the Main exchange in Toronto it was so high that the operators were obliged in some cases to stretch considerably in order to reach the more remote numbers; in fact, some of them were obliged to stand upon the rungs of their chair to conveniently do so. This stretching was held to contribute an element of strain which in some cases was considerable. One operator gave evidence to the effect that she had lost the use of one of her arms in consequence of the strain. Hilda Walton, who had been employed since July, 1905, stated:—

I was reaching one day and something happened to my

Q. You were reaching for what purpose?

A. To put up a connection.

Q. On the board—and what happened?

A. Something snapped in my arm, and I worked through—it was one Saturday morning and I was 28 position, and I was operating and it was a very hard position to reach, and somehow or other there was a new operator beside me. She was pretty busy and I was pretty busy and all the board was full of lights and I was stretching up and there was something snapped in my arm and my arm felt heavy and all that morning I operated as best I could with my left hand, and went home, and mother tried to do what she could with the arm, and she felt it was out of place, and Sunday I rubbed it as much as I could with liniment and so did mother, and Monday I was 7 to 12, and when I came that morning I found I could not work with the arm at all, so after 12 o'clock I went to the doctor's and he said the ligaments were torn and I would have to take two weeks' rest, and I telephoned to Miss —, and she said she would speak to Miss Bogart about it, and Miss Bogart was busy then and couldn't come and speak to me, and I said I would try and come down Tuesday morning, but I would have to take the two weeks' rest for the arm, and I came down Tuesday morning and I worked as best I could, and Miss Bogart gave me permission to take the two weeks' holidays, and I left off the Tuesday at 12 o'clock, and I came back two days previous to the two weeks, and my arm isn't any better yet. It is not as painful, of course, for I have been doctoring as well as I could. I went to the doctor's last Sunday night and he told me it was no better.

Q. How have you to operate now?

A. It is pretty hard reaching up. I have to get up on my chair. If I have to reach high the other operator puts up my connection. . . .

Q. And you have been back now how long?

A. Have been back since—this happened last May.

In cross-examination she stated:

Q. That was the history of your holiday?

A. I would never have taken them; I didn't feel I could very well take the holidays at that time, but I had to take them.

Q. Did you take your holidays at that time?

A. No, I was never paid for it; it was my own expense.

Q. You took the two weeks on account of the straining of the ligaments in your arm?

A. Yes.

Q. Then you went back in May, and you have been there ever since?

A. All but two weeks' time, in September.

Q. You took your holidays after that, did you?

A. Yes.