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The Atlantic Cable

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CH F SHORTIS

at my disposal, even through the ex- affairs the whole of the document tensive columns of the Evening Telegram. Many changes have taken "Dawes' Report." place since I entered the service of ciates (except my old friend, Adam passage in less than nine hours. Many Martin of Heart's Content) of those books contain less than 40,000 words, early days have passed from amongst but there are not so many of greater us. It is true there are a few still in importance to a greater number of the fiesh, but they have long taken countries than is the product of careup their residence in the United ful consideration given by highly States and Canada, and, for the mo- competent experts to an enormous! ment, I can only recall Peter H. difficult problem. Glendinning, who has retired, at The getting by cable of dispatches present and for years past, residing of this length, "runs into money," as in the State of Kansas, U.S.A., Wil- the saying is, and reflection on its liam and Edward Earle in the Prov-

Cable was operated by what was papers. This particular dispatch, then known as the "mirror," on which however, though it probably breaks. which were "spelled" out by one op- high mark of expenditure in getting. erator, and taken down by another. news from abroad. Not a few times Even on our land lines the "tape" The Times had spent more for inforwas used in some of the offices, which mation from places not so easily acmarked the dots and dashes, and was cessible as Paris, or when the infortaken down in writing on the official mation was for its exclusive use. In paper as the messages passed this case, of course, nothing had to be through. I think the last office to paid for the material sent, the excling to he tape system was Carbon | perts desiring that it should be as ear, in which my old friend, Mr. Geo. widely and quickly distributed as pos-Nicholl, was in charge for many sible. vears. After a time it fell into disuse, But what interests us in Newfoundand I do not think there is one of land more particularly is the fact those primitive instruments to be had that one of our young countrymen, in Newfoundland to-day.

Bartlett, father-in-law of the equally C. A. Price, Eastern Division traffic famous Capt. Charles Dawe, was in chief for The Associated Press. wilds of Africa, he asked Bennett paration Commission. what he was to do? The reply went . It marked the first time in history with Spartan brevity, "Find Living- an ocean cable was operated directly (Buenos Aires time). The South Am-

facilities for dispatching were not would total more than \$4,000. near so great. The means adopted to Checking up the operation shows that could only reach New York city by a provements which have taken place get at the report was as follows:

when the message from Belgraph Office, working continuously to Harbor Grace Telegraph Office, 9.45 p.m., and a third was working inhired Lahey's, Croke's and Parsons' horses and carriages. He went to Bay This gives an average speed of 2,700 others were kept running between speed is 1,200 words per hour. harge on board the Tigress. I mean the senior officer of the "Polaris" exedition. I think his name was Tyson. The poor fellows drifted over 2,000 miles on the iceffees, and a baby was born at the time, one woman (an Eskimo) being amongst the shipwrecked crew. They would never have survived if it were not for the famous Eskimo, Hans Christian, who has played a prominent part in Arctic exions. There is at present a large hotograph of the rescued explorers in the Museum, and it brings up old

As the installments of the message were brought to Harbor Grace office by the horses and traps they were sent on to New York, via Heart's Content, and it is needless to say no time fimes: People who gave time and ought to the task of getting within ten words each of the few telegrams hey send—and usually attain that

To write and describe the evolution to be highly appreciative of one of the of the Atlantic Cable system since dispatches from Paris which appears the successful laying which was con- in the New York Times. For that sinsummated on the 27th July, 1866, gle communication from the City of would occupy far more space than is Light offers to the student of foreign which has come to be known as the

There are more than 40,000 (forty the old Anglo-American Telegraph thousand words) words in the dis-Company the pioneer company in patch, every one of which came Newfoundland-on the 24th June, across the Atlantic over one or an-1870. And sad to relate all my asso- other of the three cables making the

cost may inspire with wise caution inces, and James Hagen of St. Pierre. some of the folk who speak so cooly-In my early days, the Atlantic about the establishment of new newsfashlight indicated the letters, all records for length, does not set a

Mr. Thomas J. Foley, a native of the The longest dispatch ever sent over historic town of Brigus, C.B., played the telegraph lines (at least in New- a most prominent part in this recordfoundland) was that giving a descrip- making event. The work of installing tion of the rescue of the 19 persons the Western Union receiving sets, auof the "Polaris" expedition, after thorized by Newcomb Carlton, presibeing on the ice 197 days. They were, dent, was under the care of our young rescued by the S.S. "Pigress" when friend, Mr. Foley, Superintendent of on her second trip to the sealfishery, the New York Western Union Cable. and landed here on the 12th May, 1873. Office. Mr. Foley was in actual charge The famous sealkiller, Sapt. Isaac of the receiving co-operating with

command. The Tigress arrived in Bay | News transmission history was Roberts, and well I remember the written April 8th, when the full text message sent out from that enter- of the Dawes' Report was brought by prising newspaper man, James Gor- cable from Paris to New York, as don Bennett, of the New York Herald, stated by one of the American papers. to send on full particulars of the All speed records were broken. The rescue of the portion of the "Polaris" report consisting of 39,727 words were crew by the Tigress. There was no carried under the Atlantic to New mit mentioned at to the number of York in 8 hours time. Four cables, words. Bennett did not stop at trifles were brought into the A. P. office to and expense did not count. When speed delivery so that the full report Stanley was in difficulties through might be available for publication in shortness of funds and other causes, the United States, simultaneously in his search for Livingston in the more with its presentation to the Re-

ston," the necessary funds were into a newspaper or news association erican newspaper claims it was first the most progressive steps in the hisquickly sent on, and Stanley found office, Western Union officials declared in the world to print the full report. tory of submarine telegraphy made the report was the longest individual I should say there were between message ever sent by any means of over the success of their attempt with 3.500 and 4,000 words in the report wire communication, either cable or the new method and said the achieve- Saunders, Supt of the Anglo-Amerisent from Newfoundland, and it must domestic. At the regular rate for press ment was without a parallel in the can, and Mr. Windeler of the Combe remembered that the tariff was far matter from Paris to New York of 10 annals of ocean cable telegraphy. in excess of what it is to-day, and the cents a word, cost of the message

one cable was working almost continuously from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. New York city by a provements which have taken place in London and in the Provincial Towns and Industrial Centres of the United get at the report was as follows:

There was no telegraph office in

There was no telegraph office in

York time, and continuously from 4

The book continuo when the message from Bennett came p.m. to 9.45 p.m.; that a second was working continuously from 4 p.m. to termittently from 4 p.m. to 9.45 p.m.

were taken off at London. Using four transmission of the entire message at cables; United Press relayed the report from New York to La Prensa, Buenos Aires, in 14 hours. Release was flashed from Paris at 5.45 a.m.



Special Note:—Owing to the length of this production, Patrons are advised to make an effort to attend

Some few months ago, Mr. H. A. mercial Cable Company kindly Until recent years, such a volumin- brought me to their respective offices ous communication filed at Paris and explained to me the various im-Newfoundland. Here again it would brances of the happy days of yore,

Telegraph officials were jubilant during the past 60 years.

lish, transmitting them on a type-

writer as they were received. The

typewriter was equipped with wax

andles from which many copies of

Three cables were used in trans-

mission and a fourth was in readiness

in case it was needed. The method

was to break the message into 3 sec-

paratus which made the performance

the messages were made.

be relayed to North Sydney, N.S., re- mixed with regrets at the absence of transmitted afresh from North Syd-scores of my eld associates who shipped and the Colonial and Forest horses and carriages. He went to Bay words per hour for cable. The usual new to New York, and eventually replayed such a prominent part in the Markets supplied; transmitted from the cable office in telegrenh service of this country. Two others were kept running between Bay Roberts and Harbor Grace as quickly as possible, each having a supply of the statements taken down by Mr. Thompson from the officer in With the adoption of the regenerat- Ned Foley, Abbott, Larner, Pugh, DEALERS SEEKING AGENCIES ing repeaters, however, now used ex- Gosney, Sage, Honderson, Laurenson, dusively by the Western Union Cable and some score of others of those for each trade heading under which company, the necessity for these veteran repairers with iron constituseveral handlings at the intermediate tions and herculean strength have ments at 80 dollars per page. stations no longer exist. By the instations no longer exist. By the installation of this repeater Paris can
only some half dozen of the old New
one interested in overseas commerce,
and active will be sent by parcel post now establish instantaneous contact York, Newfoundland and London and a copy will be sent by parcel pos with New York at all times, and send Telegraph Company remain, and in for 10 dellars nett cash with order cable messages direct to United due course will also be called away. States, thereby eliminating the vexa-tious delays that accrued under the nessed the telegraph extension from 25, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4. old method of operation. _____its infancy to its present state of An operator sat by the recording competency, and as near as possible tape and as it unwound read the cable to perfection. signals and translated them into Eng-

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During the absence of the Secretary from town the affairs of the Association tions, the sending of each of which will be looked after by Mr. was begun and carried on simultane- E. A. Crowther, clo British Import Co.

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istoric message is dwarfed into alost insignificance by that sent a hort time ago from Paris to New ork, wheren the entire document of he Dawes' Report on Reparations was dispatched, and this report conined no less than 40,000 words. As as been stated by the New York

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