

order, which is carried on by the companies controlling them. The "ticker", often confused with the telegraph, is purely local between telegraph office and clientèle, and does not require a telegrapher to operate it, although the quotations it records are primarily received by telegraph in the main office.

As a business barometer the telegraph is an unfailing dial. The increase or decrease of the average volume of business handled in one of the larger centres invariably and accurately reflects the fluctuation of general business, and the industrial and commercial status of the nation; and business men who have become aware of this open secret undoubtedly find it profitable at times to court the friendship of knowledge of this indicator.

Great Britain's telegraphs are handled by the post-office department. The London office employs about 4,000 persons. Incidentally, Mr. MacEwen, Controller of Telegraphs, is a Canadian, born in Hamilton. In England the great volume of the business is handled by the automatic "printers". As the business of the old world varies in method to that of the new generally, so, too, the telegraph system and methods differ. Shorter distances between the busier centres make it possible to use the automatic telegraph to a greater extent, which lessens proportionately the cost of service. The code characters also differ, being known as the Continental Morse, which has no "space" characters. The Continental Morse is also used for cable, wireless and army signalling service.

Cable operators working with the continent from London must be linguists to the extent of at least three languages.

An official of the London Telegraphs told the writer that more than 1,000 men from the London office alone were engaged in the army signal service corps during the war.

The longest working telegraph circuit on this continent, and probably in the world to-day, is the circuit that carries the grain quotations from the Board of Trade in Chicago. This circuit extends from Maine to California, embraces Canadian exchanges, and has more offices connected than any other circuit, and yet none can interrupt. The wire is so connected with what are known as "blind" automatic repeaters that should any leg or section of the wire fail, no interruption to the balance of the circuit is possible because of it.

One of the big companies maintained for some time as an experiment, a direct circuit from Chicago to Vancouver via Montreal and Winnipeg, with fair satisfaction.

The longest circuit successfully operated at any time, until the Peace Conference opened, was during the World's Fair in Chicago. At that time the representative of the Peruvian Government at Washington, was put in direct communication with the capital of his country over a single wire, with the Superintendent of Public Telegraphs of France as a witness to observe the possibilities of the present system of telegraph. The route was by way of Galveston, the Isthmus of Panama and a short distance by cable.

The same French official quite recently has had the unique experience of effecting a direct connection from his own country to the United States Capitol in connection with President Wilson's attendance at the Peace Conference.

