

termittently, the lamp going out each time the hook is lowered and relighting as soon as it is in the position it would be with the receiver off the hook. Moreover, a clicking or banging sound enters the ear of the operator each time the hook of the receiver is moved up and down.

It was alleged by some of the operators that the glowing of these lamps caused a strain upon the eyes and that the clicking sound injured the ear, but more particularly was the consciousness of a number of subscribers awaiting answers, and especially the consciousness of their impatience as reflected by the intermittent glowing of the lamp when calls were coming in at too rapid a rate to be properly overtaken, said to contribute an element of nervous excitement which enhanced the strain of operating, especially where an operator was conscientious in the desire to efficiently discharge her duties. The banging or snapping of the instrument into the ear, which is occasioned at times where connections are not promptly or are improperly made add, also, an element of aggravation.

Another element, kindred in a way, though perhaps more aggravating to a sensitive nature, is found in the hard words and occasional abuse to which operators are at times subjected by subscribers who may have become inconsiderate through being obliged to wait some little time for replies.

The possibility of injury arising from shocks is a feature also deserving of consideration. While it did not appear from the evidence given before the commission that much injury was occasioned from shocks on the Main local exchange, there was sufficient evidence to show that the possibility of such an occurrence must be more or less constantly present to the mind of an operator, while the evidence in regard to injuries received by operators engaged on the long distance lines was quite sufficient to demonstrate the inevitable risks which are run by young women in this work.

Injuries Received during Discharge of Duties.

The following operators gave evidence as to injuries received by them while in the discharge of their duties:—

Lily Rogers, examined on February 11, 1907, had been in the service since November, 1905. She stated that while on the long-distance two weeks last Friday—(making it January 25), she received a shock and had been under the doctor's care ever since.

- 'Q. How did you get it?
- 'A. I do not know.
- 'Q. What were you doing at the time?
- 'A. Answering a line—the King Edward line in the city.
- 'Q. For long-distance?
- 'A. Yes.....
- 'Q. Were you rendered unconscious?
- 'A. I think I was, yes..... When I first got the shock I remember having pains in my arms. I could not move my arms; they felt kind of drawn up—my fingers were drawn up..... They sent for the doctor, Dr. Silverthorn, and he went part of the way home with me in a carriage..... there was another operator with me.
- 'Q. And you have been out of the employ of the company ever since?
- 'A. Yes.
- 'Q. Unable to work?
- 'A. Unable to work.'

In cross-examination she gave the following evidence:—

- 'Q. I am told it was a fine day in Toronto, everything was all right?
- 'A. It was't from an outside line, it was from an inside line, not outside of Toronto. It was a line between the Toronto exchange and the King Edward.
- 'Q. You are not one of the strikers?
- 'A. I was away ill before it commenced.
- 'Q. You are not one of the strikers?
- 'A. No.....
- 'Q. You haven't made any complaint?
- 'A. No.

Laura MacBean, in the employ of the company from 5½ to 6 years, who had been on long-distance, stated that she had received three shocks.

- 'Q. What was the result of the first one?
- 'A. I was away from the office at the first one.
- 'Q. What did the company do for you for that?
- 'A. They paid everything financially, as far as doctors' bills and giving me my money.
- 'Q. They just paid you your wages and your doctor's bill?
- 'A. Yes.
- 'Q. Did not give you anything for the injury in addition?
- 'A. Oh, no.
- 'Q. Then the second time—what was the result of that?
- 'A. I was away again a month for that.....
- 'Q. No bonus for your injury?
- 'A. No.
- 'Q. The third time?
- 'A. Well, of course the last shock was't the same as the others, it was just on the small switchboard down stairs.
- 'Q. And wasn't so serious?
- 'A. Oh, no.
- 'Q. The first shock you were off a month—were you absolutely incapacitated?
- 'A. Well, with my nerves I was..... the first one you see was about four years ago if I remember right.
- 'Q. Did you have convulsions as the result of the shock?
- 'A. The second shock, yes.'

Hattie Davis gave the following evidence:—

- 'Q. Did anything happen to you on the long distance?
- 'A. Yes, I received a shock.....
- 'Q. You got two shocks—when was it you got the first?
- 'A. I think it was the week before exhibition (1906). I was off for two weeks.
- 'Q..... So that the company just paid you for the time and paid the doctor and you had to bear the other expenses yourself?
- 'A. I paid my medicine.
- 'Q. Were you given anything by way of bonus for damages or anything of that kind by the company?
- 'A. No, I had just my salary paid me.
- 'Q. How long after that was it you had another shock?
- 'A. I went back to work on the Monday, and on the following Sunday I was on from 2 to 10 and worked on the long-distance lines until 4 o'clock, and one of the supervisors asked me to go over to the recording desk, and the first line I answered at the recording desk was the main public line and I received another shock. That