

ST. JOHN STAR SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1904

MARCONI AND THE CABLES

By P. T. McGrath in the Canadian Magazine.

When Marconi started the world, in December, 1901, with his amazing achievement of receiving the electric signal from Polden, England, at St. John's, Newfoundland, the utter and speedy overthrow of the cable companies was predicted on all sides in the first flush of the new marvel. But the and a host of other investigators having arisen to dispute Marconi's supremacy, the inevitable reaction has occurred, and now the opinion prevails that however successful wireless telegraphy may speedily prove itself to be, the displacement of the cables need not be expected for many years.

The most impressive fact, in connection with this subject, is that the cable companies exhibit a complete disregard for the threatened competition. Since Marconi spanned the ocean by transmitting electric impulses over 1,000 miles, cable-laying has been witnessed in all the greater seas. The British have marked the Pacific by a cable-stretching from Vancouver, via Fanning, Pile and Norfolk Islands, to Australia. The Americans have laid across the same ocean a second filament of 8,254 miles, connecting San Francisco and Manila, by way of Honolulu, Midway and Guam. The Germans have put down another line in the Atlantic from Emden to the Azores and then to New York. And the Eastern Cable Company, a British combination, which embraces the largest cable concern in the world and is bitterly opposed to the "state-owned" Pacific enterprise, has laid the first section of a new 15,000 mile cable this year to Australia, via Portugal, West Africa, Cape Town and the Indian Ocean, a total of 16,000 miles of new cable, or one-sixth of the world's entire mileage, placed in position since Marconi's great experiment.

In addition, the conference of chambers of commerce of the British Empire, held at Montreal in 1902, unanimously adopted resolutions calling for a state-owned telegraph connecting British possessions in the Pacific, and world, acquiring private cables where desirable and laying new ones where necessary, beginning with the cable which should handle traffic at half the present rates.

These facts attest that the cable experts are undismayed by the efforts of the "wireless" competitors. The world today is so accustomed to the general existence and silent efficiency of the telegraph-cable and land-line that its magnitude is not appreciated. The Atlantic is now spanned by four cables with an aggregate length of 40,000 miles. Elsewhere in the world are 1,129 others, short and long, with a total mileage of 150,000, making a grand aggregate of 190,000 miles, all but 20,000 of which are owned by commercial concerns, the remainder by different governments. The investment of capital in cables is estimated at \$120,000,000, and to repair and maintain them requires forty specially equipped ocean steamships. The land lines of Europe total 425,000 miles, with 1,635,000 miles of telegraph wire strung thereon, while the United States has a total of 223,000 miles of line, carrying 1,212,000 miles of wire, the value of this equipment on both continents being about \$10,000,000 more.

These agencies serve every land and time today—penetrate every hillside and land touch every seaboard. Countless telegrams are transmitted over the land lines daily, telegraph offices dot every country. The cable business is enormous. The fourteen Atlantic cables carry 15,000 messages daily, or 7,000,000 yearly, the charges on which amount to about \$10,000,000. The traffic record of the cables to the Far East—Asia, Africa and Australia—is 5,800 messages a day, or \$10,000,000 annually, the charges being higher owing to the

greater distance traversed. The figures of the business done by the Pacific cables are not yet obtainable, the British having only been opened on New Year's Day and the American on the Fourth of July.

This is the mighty agency which the "telegraph," as the wireless system is being termed, has to combat. The telegraph is already established, it serves all countries efficiently, and it has been perfecting its appliances for fifty years. Whereas the message from Queen Victoria to President Buchanan, the first transmitted across the Atlantic cable, took sixty-seven minutes to send, though it was only ninety words, a cable now in twenty words a minute. Indeed, all the traffic over the Atlantic cables could be handled within an hour at one cent a word, and the general use of wireless telegraph instead of the mails for a very large proportion of the personal correspondence that now passes between America and Europe would be developments certain era long.

This prediction, if verified, will compel the cable companies to reduce their rates or else embark upon a bitter financial struggle with the wireless concerns. The cables, with the capital they have and the world-wide influence they possess, would be substantially fortified for such a conflict, their ramifications, with their land lines, extending to every part of the globe. On the other hand, maintain that the comparative insignificance of the cables, as compared with the wireless, is not to be overlooked. The cables, placed in a position to undertake remunerative work at figures their competitors could not approach. Thus, an Atlantic cable costs \$2,000,000, while Marconi's stations in Cornwall and Cape Breton serve the same purpose at a cost of only \$150,000.

The cable companies, however, argue that years must elapse before the radiograph reaches that stage of perfection where it can successfully compete in this business. The "wireless" cable that Marconi is now only where they were fifty years ago, improving his equipment by slow and laborious advances. No scientific discovery, no technical invention, was ever evolved in a perfect state; it is only by years of patient research and lavish expenditure of time and money that perfection is attained. But on the other hand, wireless telegraphy has made such wonderful advances in a few years, and so many gifted investigators are adding to our store of knowledge of electrical phenomena daily, that we may be at the threshold of still more wonderful discoveries. The probability is that the perfecting of the wireless system will not be nearly so prolonged as the cable authorities predict, nor yet as speedy as the wireless enthusiasts hope, but that its gradual evolution and development will enable it to enter into a variety of commercial enterprises, especially on the sea, without dislodging established methods of "round-the-world" communication.

As petroleum, gas and electricity are now in general use as illuminants and engines, disturbing an equal balance of enterprise, so there would appear to be as good a prospect for the telegraph and the radiograph to work in harmony.

BIBLE "A SCRAP BOOK"

BOSTON, Feb. 17.—The Bible was licensed to a scrap book by Professor Richard G. Moulton, of the University of Chicago, in the course of a lecture on "The Bible as Literature" here today.

Professor Moulton said: "The old version of the Bible presents the book in the monotonous arrangement of numbers, chapters and verses, not distinguished by literary forms and often running counter to them. It effaces all forms of literary structure and it presents the appearance not so much of a sacred book of revelation as

of a divine scrap book. The Bible is the worst printed book in the world. It is well printed, as regards type, paper and binding, but in its literary form it has been destroyed.

"The version of the future will have to do with producing the true literary form."

"Faps, what do you call your own edition? The world calls an editor's office the Sanctum Sanctorum; but I don't. 'Then I guess,' and the boy was thoughtful for a moment, 'that mamma's office is a spankum, isn't it?'"—Washington Star.

DAZED-TIED-LIFELESS

Every woman has times when she feels dazed, tied out, almost lifeless, when her work, which she usually contemplates with pleasure, seems almost past her strength. Are you one of these? Do you realize that it is ninety times out of a hundred caused from just common, but dangerous constipation?

Mother Nature says, "I have given you a mouth and a stomach to receive food and send it strengthening parts through your system. I have given you bowels to discard the useless parts of that food and keep your system clean. I will do the best I can out of whatever food you give me. But unless the bowels are kept regular, I cannot prevent the poisoning of your whole system."

Laxa-Cara Tablets will do for you just what Nature asks. They will correct your bowels; will put them on the road to regularity and insure a permanent cure and insure you permanently against constipation.

If you are taking any laxative now, you ought to. If you are taking something already and feel pretty well suited with it, you won't feel that way if you try Laxa-Cara Tablets once.

35 cents per box at your druggist, or by mail postpaid on receipt of price.

FRANK WHEATON

FOLLY VILLAGE, N. S.

SOLE AGENT FOR CANADA

BEST WAY TO REVIVE A FIGHTER

Cold Water Thrown on the Spine Helps When a Pugilist is Felled.

Reviving a pugilist in a battle is just as much of an art as the proper training of a champion. Naturally, let it be the supreme duty of a second, but very few of them know how to do it properly. The other night when Jack O'Brien fought Tommy Ryan at Philadelphia, Kid McCoy, who was one of O'Brien's handlers, introduced a wrinkle which saved the day for his man. Usually whenever a fighter is knocked down from a punch and is in distress his second throws water on him to revive him. Under the rules this is not permissible and is sometimes punished by disqualification. But the referees are not so strict in the matter as they should be and many infractions in this way have been overlooked.

O'Brien went to the floor from a left hook which Ryan delivered after the latter had been knocked out by O'Brien, and took the count. O'Brien was seemingly in a bad way and it looked as if he would not be able to get to his feet before the ten seconds were up. McCoy instinctively grabbed a sponge which he had in the corner and, dipping it in a bucket of cold water, he threw it with all his force at O'Brien. The sponge caught the fallen pugilist in the small of the back and the blow caused the water to spray all over him. The cold water had an immediate effect and quickly revived O'Brien, who was able to last the round out. When he returned to his corner his seconds labored heroically and brought him around for the final round.

Of course, McCoy in doing this came within a case of losing the bout for O'Brien, for when a sponge is thrown in the ring it is usually done as a token of defeat. But the referee could not see, as O'Brien was on his feet before he had time to question McCoy's procedure and the Quaker pugilist was ready to continue the same trick aided by when he met Joe Choynick at the Broadway A. C., New York, in the Horton fight.

Choynick had knocked McCoy down and everybody thought the battle was over and some of the spectators were saying that years must elapse before the radiograph reaches that stage of perfection where it can successfully compete in this business. The "wireless" cable that Marconi is now only where they were fifty years ago, improving his equipment by slow and laborious advances. No scientific discovery, no technical invention, was ever evolved in a perfect state; it is only by years of patient research and lavish expenditure of time and money that perfection is attained.

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MISTAKEN POLITENESS.

A street car, howling merrily along towards the cemetery the other afternoon when a white-haired old man who had been sitting quietly in his seat, suddenly rose and, with a look of intense earnestness, turned to the young woman who was standing up, started as if to rise and give her the seat.

"Never mind, sir; just keep your seat," the old man looked dazed for a block or two, then attempted to gain his feet, but he was so dizzy that he fell back into his seat, and, looking at the young woman, politely remarking as he held him down:

"Keep your seat, please! I've stood up so long now that I don't mind it. Well," said the old man, in a falsetto tone, "I want to get off! You've made me go half a mile past my street now."

The Soldier of Japan.

Its Fighting Spirit Perfect and Its Endless Endurance.

To those who allow themselves to be impressed by mere avoidances, the spectacle of little Japan carrying her flag at the feet of the gigantic Russia is a humbling lesson. In the Russo-Japanese war, the Japanese soldier, infinitely humorous, but, unless memory fails me, many prophets tried to predict before the event were firmly persuaded in 1894 that there could be but one ending to the China-Japan war—and that the complete humiliation of Japan. I have a distinct recollection that she had interviewed at Vancouver an intelligent British officer who had been detailed to accompany the Japanese army and he seemed greatly amused when I suggested that Japan might possibly defeat her bulky opponent. He used the stock argument; China could overwhelm Japan by sheer weight of numbers; the Chinese physique was far superior to that of the Japanese, and he had no fear of death; China's resources were immeasurably greater. He was actually a fool. A few far-seeing men there were, on the spot, who realized from the first that the Japanese army and navy—small as the latter then was—compared favorably with the best Occidental models, commanded by officers trained in the best Occidental schools and animated by a spirit not imported, but indigenous to the soil—the yamato damascene soul of Japan, which is invariably in evidence when there is fighting to be done.

The military unit, it is true, has been drilled to the highest degree of mechanical accuracy, so that his response to the word of command is almost instantaneous and, on the other hand, he retains in addition to that burning patriotism already referred to, a resourcefulness and intelligence that stamp him to any mind, as the superior of the Russian soldier. He is a resourceful and intelligent platoon in critical moments, as witness the absolute naturalness with which the Japanese troops during the Manchurian campaign, would extract a fan from their garters and fan themselves. Kipling avers that:

"The Japanese soldier is a rule may apply to the heterogeneous communities of the Orient, but it cannot be extended to Japan, where the two arms of the service is composed of men the majority of whom are of the same race, the same blood, and the same emperor, to which Europe can furnish no adequate parallel, and which, in the hands of the Japanese, is still cherished amid the vortex of iconoclastic modernism."

I have no hesitation, then, in affirming that the Japanese soldier is a rule may apply to the heterogeneous communities of the Orient, but it cannot be extended to Japan, where the two arms of the service is composed of men the majority of whom are of the same race, the same blood, and the same emperor, to which Europe can furnish no adequate parallel, and which, in the hands of the Japanese, is still cherished amid the vortex of iconoclastic modernism."

Now that a district school has been established at the Red Stone, the greatest difficulty of her life in teaching these little Indians the ways of civilization, they have been given the opportunity of preventing a man from being knocked out, but molesting a man's temples with cold water as he leaves his chair will pay a long way toward helping him to withstand any sudden shock or jar. Constant jabbing or swings will cause a man to be rendered him liable to a knockout. But as long as his temples are moistened his nerves are strengthened, and he may be able to resist the shock.

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SENT TO BURY A LIVE WOMAN.

Two Undertakers Call While Mrs. Cosbie is Away and Startle Family.

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—Mrs. Cosbie of No. 81 East 14th street, had the disagreeable experience on Monday evening of having two undertakers call at her house for the purpose of preparing her body for burial while she was in excellent health, as were her five children and her husband.

After the visit of the second undertaker, Mrs. Cosbie appealed to the police of the Alexander avenue station and asked for protection from any other undertakers that might call. It came to pass, however, that the undertakers say they were acting in good faith and that the request to visit the Cosbie home came from a well dressed woman, about forty years old, who had seemed to be greatly distressed over Mrs. Cosbie's death.

During the afternoon and evening Mrs. Cosbie was shopping down town. Her mother, seventy-eight years of age, and several of the children were with her to sit down to dinner when an undertaker called, saying he was from John Hyman's place, in Willis avenue.

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THE NEWS OF A WAR.

How the Associated Press Service is Handled in the Far East—Difficulty with Wires Under Russian Control is Very Great—A Wonderful System.

(New York Times.) The gathering of war news—the kind the American public wants, complete and at the same time confined to facts—requires a small army of trained correspondents, up-to-date methods and the highest order of organization. If the system is to be equal to the test and the result satisfactory.

No one war correspondent, however persistent, efficient or brilliant, nor any two or three, could undertake to furnish their paper, no matter at what expense, with complete news of a struggle such as the one that has just commenced between Russia and Japan in the Far East. Every source of news must be closely watched, and at every strategic point there must be a man who can observe each move on the chess board and explain to the world what it means.

For that reason, as experience in the past has shown and as has again been demonstrated at the very opening of this campaign in the Far East, the most efficient work in an emergency of this kind is done by the large news agency which has both the men and the machinery at the scene, and only needs to start the wheels going.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS STAFF. The Associated Press, the greatest news gathering in the world, at the outbreak of hostilities between Russia and Japan, had not less than nine trained war correspondents at or near the scene of conflict. Of these, the most important were at Tokyo, Manila, Peking and the resident correspondents at Seoul, Nagasaki, Chefoo, Shanghai and Hong Kong were already on the ground and had more or less familiarly with the diplomatic negotiations that preceded the struggle.

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