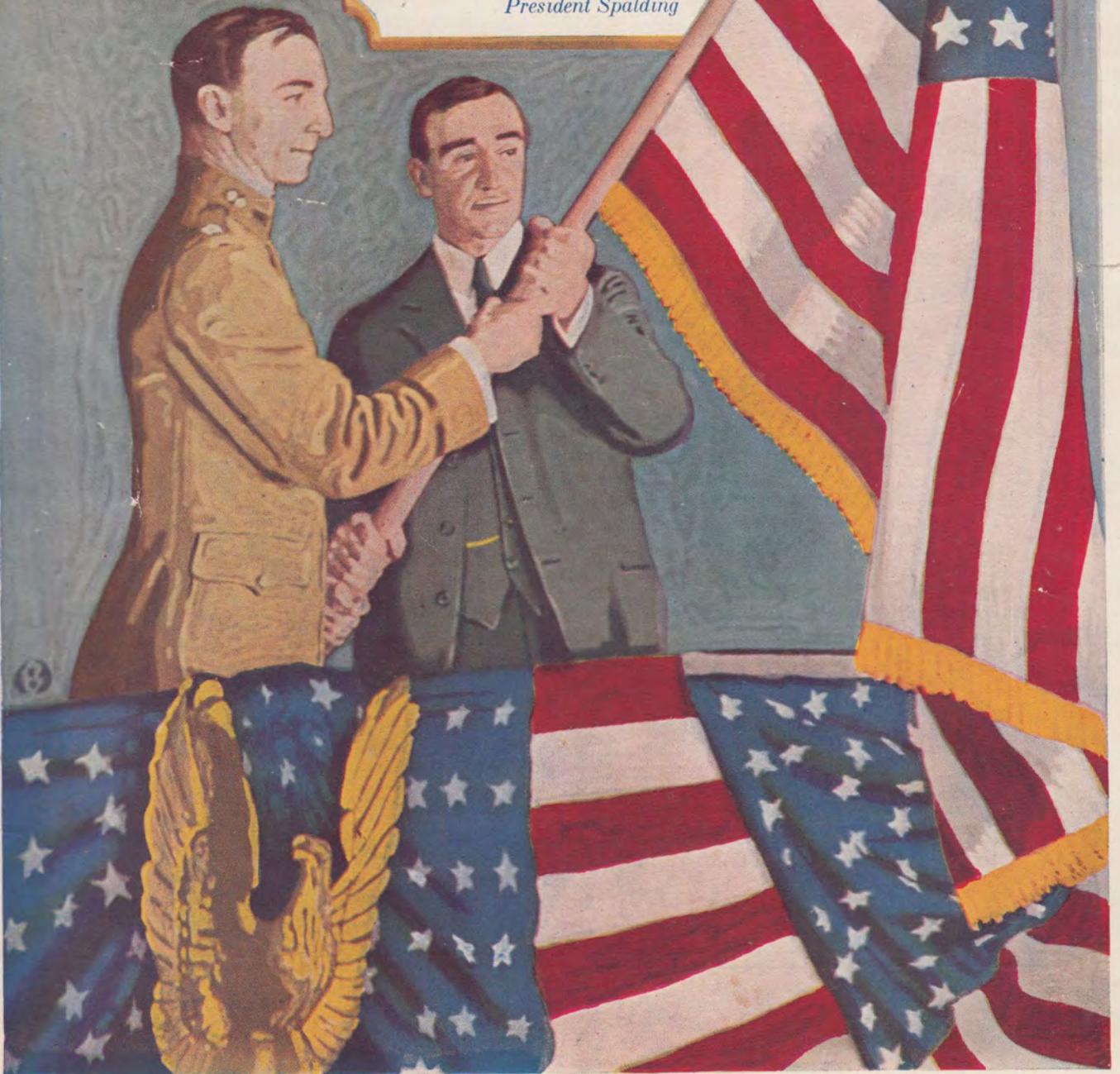


Telephone Topics

October
1917

"The Flag in its simple appeal, is much more eloquent than any words that I can utter; I present to you, Major Manson, the flag. May you and your men uphold and preserve it."

President Spalding



A Personal Message From Mr. Spalding

To Employees:

I want to preface the formal announcement which has been made in a circular letter dated October 1, 1917, regarding the second Liberty Loan, by a few words in my personal capacity as the leader of 15,000 employees. The formal announcement is signed by me in my official capacity, and offers the Company's services to employees who may wish to purchase some of the second issue of Liberty bonds and pay for them in weekly or monthly instalments. I desire to present, in this connection, a brief outline of the importance of this second issue of bonds to the successful prosecution of the war, as well as to our individual selves.

With the money received from the sale of these bonds, the government meets all the varied expenses of the war — feeds, clothes, arms and pays its soldiers and sailors. More than a million of these already have been enrolled and more will be called. The adequacy of their food, clothing and armament — in fact, the whole question of success or failure in this war — depends upon the government's ability to raise the necessary money; for that the government turns to us and offers us these Liberty bonds.

It has the right to expect that our response will be no grudging compliance, much less a careless neglect to respond, but rather an enthusiastic and spontaneous rally to the cause of liberty and humanity — a response measured only by our ability to contribute. This, as I reason it, is the logic of the situation.

I am not unmindful of your generous answer to the first Liberty bond appeal; indeed it gives me pleasure to recall the pride which I experienced as chairman of the utilities division of the Liberty Loan Committee in reporting that the employees of our Company had taken approximately \$700,000 of this first issue. I hope to be able to present as good a report for this second issue, because our duty did not end there if we can possibly do more. Can we? Let us search our hearts for the answer.

A fifty-dollar bond represents an investment of \$1 per week. Doubtless there are some, who, by reason of previous bond purchases or other conditions, can honestly say they are unable to do more now, but before we all weakly say we cannot, let us figure how far, if we really had to, we could curtail our enjoyment of cigars, tobacco, candy, amusements or personal adornment, and estimate to what extent this deprivation would contribute toward the dollar a week necessary for the purchase of a Liberty bond. We never realize how much we spend for non-essentials until we cast up these petty cash accounts.

I believe it is going to be unpopular, during the next year, to be "stylish," in the estimation of the tailor and the dressmaker, or to be addicted to the theater or movies while our men are in mobilization camps, in the trenches, or on the high seas. I like to see people neatly dressed, but this does not necessarily mean conformity to the latest fashion wrinkle. And I would rather look into the heart of the man or woman who, in order to purchase a Liberty bond, elected to forego some of these novelties or pleasures, than to look at the new hat, suit or shoes displayed as a Liberty bond substitute. I would rank him or her as a better American and a better fellow worker.

I have thus far emphasized only the patriotic side of the question; but there is also an economic side. You are not "giving" but "lending" when you subscribe for a Liberty bond. You are investing in the soundest security in the world — the credit of the United States of America — and you are assured a 4% return that is practically tax free. If you should need to convert your bond into cash, you could do so without difficulty or delay. I could counsel no sounder investment, regardless of the service this investment would represent to your country.

Understand, there is no compulsion about this. Your Company makes no profit by purchasing these bonds for you. It simply wishes to help make it easier or more convenient for you to do that which you may interpret as your desire and your duty. And I, on my part, presume to advise and even urge you, not so much as president of the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company, as one of yourselves, as the head of the family, so to speak. After giving consideration to what I have here written, therefore, I request that you read the formal announcement in the Liberty Loan circular and then find in your hearts the answer to the question "What can I do to help my country in this second Liberty Loan?"

PHILIP L. SPALDING.

TELEPHONE TOPICS

ISSUED MONTHLY BY THE NEW ENGLAND TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY AND DISTRIBUTED, WITHOUT CHARGE, TO ITS EMPLOYEES AND TO THE EMPLOYEES OF CONNECTING COMPANIES
PUBLICATION OFFICE, 50 OLIVER STREET, BOSTON

Companies D and E Night

THE East Newton street armory, the home of the Fighting Ninth Regiment, has on many occasions been the scene of brilliant military balls, state and city functions, or other similar festivities, but at none of those occasions has the spirit of good fellowship been more obvious than it was on the evening of September 10, when upwards of 4,000 people, employees of our Company and their friends, attended the entertainment and dance in aid of a company fund for Companies D and E of the 401st Telegraph Battalion, N. A. — our Signal Corps. In the enormous drill hall of the armory, men, women and children paid tribute to "our boys" by hand clapping and cheering that resounded from the big drillshed's iron rafters. As a result of the hard work by all the committees connected with the party, together with the splendid co-operation of the officials, and the interest and support given by employees in every department and section of the Company's territory, \$5,000 is now in the name of Company D Fund in a Boston bank and a similar sum is to the credit of Company E. President Spalding was greatly interested in the party and helped materially to make it the great success that it was. Miss May June, a supervisor in Back Bay, as secretary of the Entertainment Committee, extended the following invitation to Mr. Spalding to be present:

"In behalf of the committee in charge of the entertainment to be given for the benefit of "Our Telephone Boys," Company D of the Signal Corps, I have the pleasure of requesting your attendance at that event.

"It is the idea of the committee to present the boys with a flag. If you will so favor us, we ask you, our chief executive, to make the presentation to them of the flag they love so well.

"The entertainment is to be given at the East Armory, East Newton Street, Monday evening, September 10th, 1917. I hope it will be convenient for you to attend."

To which Mr. Spalding made the following reply:

"My dear Miss June: I want to thank you for the kind invitation extended through you on behalf of the Enter-

tainment Committee, to present the flag to Company D of the Signal Corps at the East Armory, Monday evening, September 10th.

"I shall be very glad to be present and to do all that I can to make the evening a success.

"Thanking you again, believe me,
Yours very truly."

Governor McCall, President Spalding, Major George K. Manson of the battalion and Colonel "Sam" Reber, chief signal officer of the Northeastern Department, all spoke in highest terms of our Company's part in this great war of righteousness, not alone in sending forth the Signal Corps for active service on the battle front, but also for the excellent manner in

which the employees have assisted the government by providing adequate telephone service.

The program of the evening began at 7.30 P.M. with a band concert by Stewart's Boston Band, one of the most famous in the United States and the stellar band at the World's Fair in St. Louis and the Panama Pacific Exposition at San Francisco. For more than an hour patriotic selections mingled with the popular selections of the day kept the steadily increasing crowd in good spirits. When Governor McCall, accompanied by Vice President Longley and Captain Dean B. Small, arrived, they were met at the door by the reception committee and escorted



THE WINNER OF THE COMPANY D AUTO
MISS HELEN RONAN

to the Medical Officers' room where the other guests of the evening were assembled. As the band played "Hail to the Chief," guests and escorts marched to the artistically decorated platform that had been erected in the center of the hall:

Upon the entrance of the Governor and the other guests of the evening the entire assemblage arose and tendered them an ovation that lasted fully a minute.

On many occasions Governor McCall has attended functions in the Armory but it is a question if the reception tendered him by the employees

of our Company has ever been surpassed or even equaled. As our "War Governor" he was most warmly welcomed by the officials and employees of our Company and their many guests who were present.

Following in order came the assistant marshals of the dance and the aids, after which came Company D of the Signal Corps in civilian dress. When the guests of the evening had assembled on the platform, Company D lined up at attention, as shown in this month's TOPICS. Through the courtesy of Vice-President Longley a score of boy scouts in uniform kept an aisle clear through the centre of the hall and to the platform. James R. Queeney, as chairman of the Entertainment Committee, introduced the speakers of the evening, and said in part in introducing Governor McCall:

Chairman Queeney's Introductory Remarks

"Ladies and Gentlemen, and Brothers in Arms: We meet here tonight to commemorate, to signalize, the creation of a fund for the benefit of Companies D and E of the Signal Corps of the army of the reserve. We all know what a terrible thing war is, but we must not fear its terrors, and we must, when confronted with it, make every preparation to make a successful prosecution of the war on our part. In this connection we see the great military and naval preparations being made throughout the land and among all the allied and belligerent nations: but following closely on that we see, too, the creation of these many benefit funds to take care of the various companies and various sections of the military establishment and provide them with means for entertainment and recreation, which we could not obtain, possibly, through the ordinary means which are available to them.

"What could be more natural than that when the United States plunged into this bloody conflict, it being the greatest producing and the greatest distributing telephone country in the world, it should see the necessity of creating a nucleus of what promises to be the greatest signal corps service among the allied nations? In this connection, due credit must be given to the heads of the Bell system of America and

the various subordinate companies, for the promptitude with which they came forward with offers of assistance to the government; and the remarkable machine which they have built up bears tribute to the remarkable energy and the remarkable devices of the American telephone system, as well as to its administrative abilities.

"It has seemed fitting that those left behind, who had not been called for this service, should do their parts towards contributing towards this fund which will do so much to aid the boys at the front.

"What should be more natural than that we should on this occasion call upon the chief magistrate of the commonwealth to come here tonight and address us? We have called upon him not alone as the chief executive officer of the commonwealth, but also because he can rightly claim the credit of being the author of two of the greatest schemes of helpfulness that have been undertaken in the war and that have been copied throughout the land. I refer to the Governor's recommendation regarding the creation of the Public Safety Committee of Massachusetts, which has for its prime function the co-ordinating of all industrial and agricultural pursuits, and even individual pursuits, the most helpful schemes of co-ordination which we have found for the successful prosecution of the war. Again, we might mention that to him is due the credit for the first great state appropriation for the reconstruction and preparation of the military arm of this old

commonwealth for the federal service.

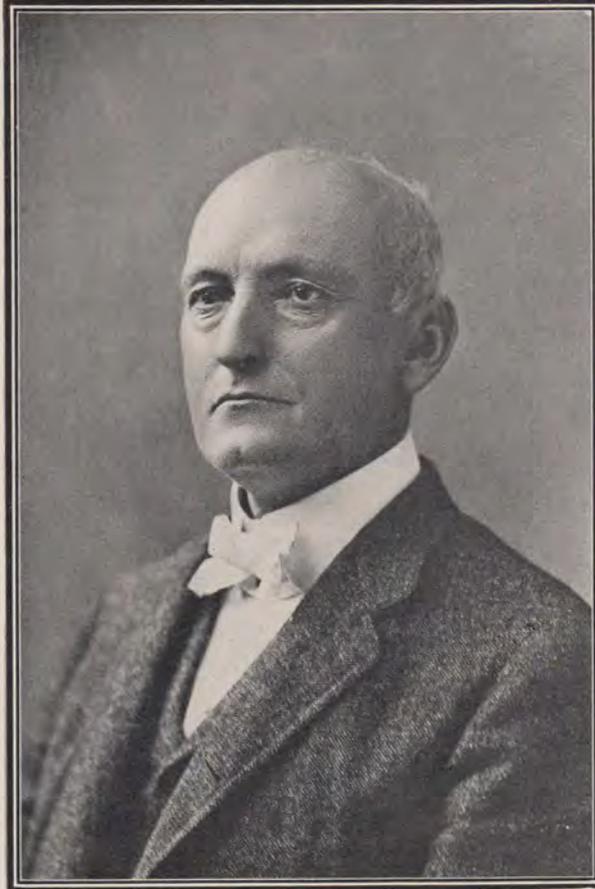
"Ladies and gentlemen, I take great pleasure in introducing his Excellency, the Governor of Massachusetts."

Round after round of applause greeted the Governor when he arose to speak, and Company D in true military style were equal to the occasion, standing at attention during his entire address.

The Governor's Address

"Mr. Spalding, ladies and gentlemen:

"I come here tonight as Governor of the commonwealth, just to say a few words in recognition of the patriotism of these young men of the telephone



HIS EXCELLENCY, GOVERNOR SAMUEL W. McCALL



COMPANY D, 401ST TELEGRAPH BATTALION, AT ATTENTION IN THE EAST ARMORY ON SEPTEMBER 10

On the platform were Gov. McCall, Col. Samuel Reber, Chief Signal Officer of the Northeastern Department, Major Chase, Capt. D. B. Small, President Spalding, Vice-President Longley, General Manager Driver, Vice-President Houston, Treasurer Balch, Chief Engineer Manson, General Auditor Moore, Secretary Siedhof, General Superintendent of Plant Dresser, General Commercial Superintendent Whitney, General Superintendent of Traffic Bowen, J. H. Sibley, Auditor of Freight and Supplies, and Chairman Queeney of the Entertainment Committee

company in enlisting and putting themselves at the service of the commonwealth. I think it is a most patriotic contribution that the great Bell telephone system is making, in putting something like five thousand of their trained men in the service of the country in this great crisis. There has never been a greater contribution made to the signal forces, to the signal arm, of any country, or never so great a one, as that which is made by the American Telephone Company and by its subordinate companies; and the thanks of all the people of the commonwealth and of the country are due to that company, from its great president, Mr. Theodore N. Vail, down through the different presidents, Mr. Spalding among them, to the men and women that make up this organization.

"Now, the telephone is the nervous system of the country, so to speak, and to take out five thousand of these trained men from that service would almost seem to involve the derangement of the nervous system of the United States. And yet I venture to say that the work of the telephone system is going on and that the people of this country are going to be as well served, after a little time, as they are today.

"Now, whether we want to be in this war or not, we are there. It is a fact that the United States has been drawn into that gigantic maelstrom and has become a party to the greatest war that has ever been fought upon this planet of ours. Whether we wanted to be there or not, now that we are there, there is but one duty before every one of us, before every man and woman and child in the country, and that is to stand by the country and by the flag. These young men are going to places and posts of danger — some of them to posts of great danger — but we feel sure that they go there with courage and with the determination to do well their part to help along our country in this crisis.

"I am not going to make a long speech to men who are standing at attention, because I know how difficult it is and how quickly a person gets rigid in maintaining that attitude of 'attention.' However, I want to say to you that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts feels a pride in the work that you are doing. It will be behind you; the people of this commonwealth are

with you; they will have their eyes upon you and they will look out for the folks whom you leave at home.

"Now, you don't need any training in your special work, because you are already experts, but you do need some of the ordinary military training. This will delay your going abroad, but I think I express the wishes of everyone here when I say that when you leave us and when you go to the battle front in Europe, we all hope that you may come safely back again, and everyone in the commonwealth wishes you 'Godspeed.'"

At the conclusion of his address, on account of a previous engagement, Governor McCall, with Vice President Longley and Captain Small, left the platform and reviewed the Signal Corps, who stood at "salute."

The next feature of the evening was President Spalding's address, and in introducing Mr. Spalding, Chairman Queeney said in part:

"Today, in this nation, the fight which we are facing is not only for the subjugation of the enemy but also to promote within our country the Americanism which shall include every kind and every race. As we look about for the realization of that ideal, we find that it cannot be done so much through the press or through the ordinary sources of education as it can be consummated through the individual efforts of our patriotic citizens. Those citizens who represent the highest type of patriotism constitute the greatest monument on the

road to absolute unity of spirit in this, our great nation.

"Tonight we have with us one who has exemplified that idea to a very high degree. When the camp at Plattsburg was first opened, he was among the first to take up the propagation of the idea of an early training for the war. And so on right down to the present time, whether it concerns the conservation of food, whether acting as Chairman of the Utilities Section of the Public Safety Committee or whether in the tremendous success which attended his efforts in the floating of the Liberty Bond issue in Massachusetts, — in any or all of these efforts, the chief executive of the New England Telephone Company, the head of the telephone family which is so largely represented here tonight, Mr. Philip L. Spalding, has proven to us



COLONEL SAMUEL REBER
Chief Signal Officer Northeastern Department

all that he is that type of patriot, that he has that type of ideal patriotism, to which we can look for inspiration in this great and growing call of the necessity of our country. I take great pleasure in introducing Mr. Spalding, the president and the head of the telephone family."

President Spalding's Address

"I am not going to address you as 'ladies and gentlemen,'" said President Spalding, "I would much prefer to call you 'My fellow workers.' This gathering of the employees of the company tonight may well be considered as a formal dedication of our services for the good of our country, and it is made particularly significant by the presence of the Governor, who, in the midst of his many duties, took the trouble to come down here and speak to us all for a few moments, and I wish, on behalf of the company, to extend our thanks for what he has done.

"I am not going to say much about the war and its causes, but I would like to point out just one feature that possibly may have escaped your attention; that is, that in a conflict such as is now going on, it is not a fight between the armies of the different nations, but it is a fight between the nations themselves in arms, and this means that every individual in the nation must do his or her part. A great many people believe that—and there they stop! They say, 'What can I do? I am waiting for somebody to give me some order; I am waiting for the Government to tell me what to do.' These people seem to forget that in a democratic country, where freedom is the thing that we are fighting for, there is an obligation on the part of every individual to take care of his own responsibility. In a democracy, if it is to be successful, the fewer the laws the greater the freedom; consequently, personal support of the Government cannot come from orders from above, but must come from the individual conscience of the people working up from below, and therefore each person, each citizen of this commonwealth, each employee of the company, man or woman, is a law unto himself and has an individual responsibility upon himself to do his or her part.

"The employees of the Telephone Company have an unusual opportunity in that the telephone service which they are furnishing is absolutely essential to the safety of the country.

"This meeting tonight was primarily for the Signal Corps men, but I don't think it would be fair to the other employees of the company if I did not say a word in regard to what they have done. We have not only kept up our commercial service for the public, but we have done a great deal in the way of furnishing special service of all kinds for the Government, for all branches of the Government, for the army, the navy, the post office department, and so forth.

"In some ways the most inspiring job that we have done has been at Ayer, at Camp Devens, where a small country town, as it were, has suddenly been transformed into a busy city, and the telephone business and the requirements on the telephone company have been magnified tremendously. I was

out there last Tuesday, and I saw a switchboard installed in a two-story addition to our building, which had just been completed. Two weeks before that time the land where the building stands and in which that switchboard is now working and telephone calls are being handled by the operator—two weeks before that time there was a field of corn growing on that land. So you can see the speed with which we have had to do our work. This work at Ayer and the other Government work has been in the hands of a special War Committee of which Mr. Patterson of the engineering department is chairman. He is a very modest man who never makes himself conspicuous, and I doubt if many of you know him even by sight. He has done a fine piece of work ably assisted by the other members of the Committee, Mr. Hawley of the plant department, Mr. Pierce of the commercial department, Tighe of the accounting, and Whorf of the traffic, and when I tell you that the Company has met every call of the Government without delay, you will appreciate how proud we all ought to be of what our organization has done.

"Now, in regard to the Signal Corps. We formed this Signal Corps about a year ago, before the United States was in the war at all. From the experience of the armies fighting abroad it was recognized that this country would have to prepare itself to handle the difficult kind of signal work that was required, and the American Telephone and Telegraph Company took up with the War Department—or the War Department took up with the company—the question of the formation of a signal corps of the reserve. The plans were worked out and the scheme was started here in New England territory early this spring, and Mr. Manson was entrusted with the job of building up and forming that corps. He has done a fine piece of work. Volunteers were asked for, and about 1400 men applied for 209 positions, and over 90% of those examined passed successfully, so that we now have in existence the 401st Telegraph Battalion Signal Corps Reserve of the U. S. Army, composed of two companies, D and E, with headquarters detachment and a supply detachment, all made up from employees of the Company. In addition the Battalion will also have a sanitary corps which will be furnished by the medical branch of the Army.

"We had intended that this meeting tonight should be primarily for the Signal Corps, and it was to be honored in two ways: first, by the presentation to the men in the corps of a fund which the employees had been raising, a fund to give to those men the means by which the comforts and necessities which could not be otherwise supplied, would be made available for them. The raising of that fund on the part of you employees was a fine thing to do. It was a satisfaction to each one of you to give, and it will be an inspiration to each one of those who receive. It will be not only an inspiration, but the finest kind of reminder of the kind friends there are at home.

"It was also planned tonight to have a formal presentation to the companies of a stand of colors, but war is a very difficult and a very uncertain proposition, and we find that on account of the

uncertainties and difficulties incident to a state of war in which we find ourselves, we could not get a complete stand of colors in time for this occasion. Also, the Signal Corps men that we expected to have here tonight, all in uniform, have not yet been called out, and the companies have not been formally made up. However, we are here tonight to symbolize the event, and perhaps in some ways the presentation in the simpler way of a simple flag, which will be emblematic of the real flag and guidons which we will give to the companies later, will be more impressive in this simple way than it will be with the formal presentation later.

"I want to say, first, Mr. Manson, how much we appreciate all of the work you and your organization have done in forming the two fine companies. We are presenting to you this flag on behalf of the company and its employees. You are the representatives of the company; you are going abroad; you are going to fight. The reputation of the company and the reputation of the country is in your hands, and we know it is in safe keeping.

"I do not think it is appropriate for me to indulge in any patriotic oratory. The flag, in its simple appeal, is much more eloquent than any words that I can utter. I present to you, Major Manson, the flag. May you and your men uphold and preserve it."

At the conclusion of President Spalding's address, which was greeted with great applause, he presented Major George K. Manson, chief engineer of our Company, a beautiful silk American flag and staff.

At this point in the evening's entertainment, while the band played the Star Spangled Banner, Chairman Queeney unfurled a large American flag, which was loaned for the occasion through the courtesy of the Filene Company, and which was suspended from the ceiling of the armory. This feature was one of the most impressive of the entire evening.

Major Manson, in accepting the flag on behalf of the Battalion, said:

"Mr. Spalding, I consider it a very great privilege and an honor to speak for the Telegraph Battalion this evening, on the occasion of the presentation of these colors that the telephone company has donated to our battalion. Knowing, as I do, the men who will support them, I know, Mr. Spalding, that these colors will always be upheld in a manner that will reflect nothing but credit on your organization, on the battalion and on the cause which we all aim to serve. On behalf of the battalion I thank you most sincerely.

"I want to take advantage of this opportunity to thank the many friends of the battalion for their generous contribution to the company funds. The manner in which the campaign has been carried on to raise these funds, and the expanse of the contribution, speak volumes for the esteem in which our men are held by their fellow workers and their friends. It is a splendid gift, and it will be a constant source of comfort to the men in the camp and in the field, and a constant reminder of the many good friends back home.

"Now, members of the battalion, I know exactly what you would like to hear me say. I could cover it in two words: 'Where' and 'When,' and more particularly, 'When.' I am sorry that I cannot give you much

information along those lines, except that Colonel Reber has just prompted me on that point, and I can say, 'October first' in answer to the 'When.' That is the date that you can look forward to now. On and after that date you will have the opportunity to show what you have learned about signal work.

"I know how faithfully you have worked ever since your enlistment to learn something about the technical features of signal work and something about the military end of it. As a result of that work you ought to be able to mobilize with a flying start and make an increasingly good impression all the way through your intensive training at camp. Your officers, those who will lead you in the field, are now getting their training in the Signal Training Camp at Monmouth Park, New Jersey. They are working there from early in the morning until late at night, and all reports are that they are making good and 'coming strong.' You will find them, I am sure, capable leaders, whether it be for a fight or a frolic or an ordinary day's work.

"I think you will like the work. I think you will find much in it that is new and interesting, although a good deal of it will be along the lines that you are familiar with. There will be some experiences that probably will not be pleasant, and perhaps sometimes you will wish that you were somewhere else; but if those times do occur, if there is the slightest tendency to falter at such times as those, remember that there are over a thousand men left back home, all of whom seek and wish to go, but who were left 'on the job.' I believe you will so conduct yourselves that on no occasion can any of those men say, 'I could have done better had I been permitted to go.'

"Mr. Spalding has referred to my connection with the organization of this battalion. I wish I could picture to you the help that Mr. Spalding himself has been. This has been no one man's proposition. The enthusiasm, the interest, that he and Mr. Driver have displayed from the very inception of this proposition all the way through, and which the officers of the company and the heads of departments have displayed, has been a great inspiration. And then, when the officers of the battalion started to count the applications for enlistment, they found that they rolled up to a total of twenty per cent of the total male employees of the company, which is a much larger per cent of the total eligible male employees. With encouragement like that, we would be lame indeed if we could not have brought this thing through to a success.

"But the real test is yet to come. The brunt of this is for you to bear. It remains for you to demonstrate whether or not our selection of two hundred or more of you out of over thirteen hundred has been wise selection. I believe you will come through with flying colors. And remember that these colors that the Company has donated to you must never come down except with the sunset gun."

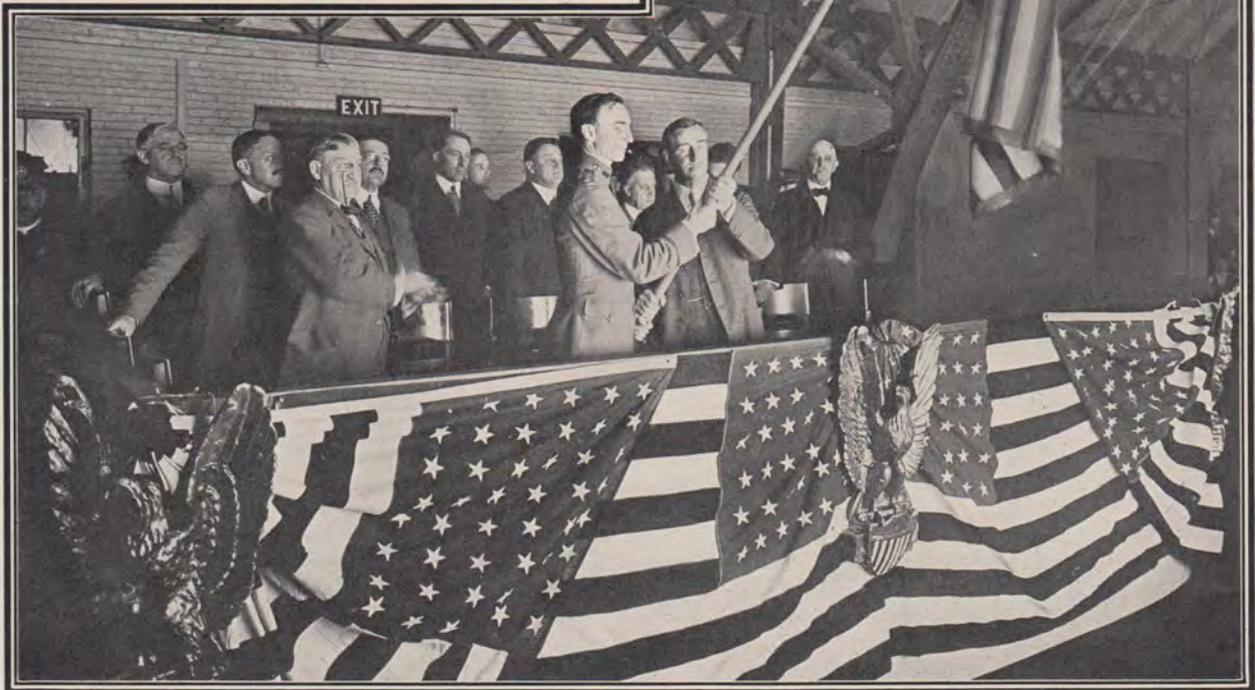
Colonel Samuel Reber, chief signal officer of the Northeastern Department, was the next speaker of the evening, and his brusque, military manner made a decided hit with the members of the Signal Corps. In addressing them, he said:

"Men of the 401st Telegraph Battalion: I am going

to address my remarks to you and say very little. You are probably surprised when I address you this way, but this is your new designation in the National Army. You are the first telegraph battalion in the National Army, and you will be called to the colors on or about October first, and your first station will be Camp Devens, Ayer, Massachusetts.

"The president of the company, under whose auspices you have been formed, and your battalion commander, have addressed you as to your origin and your duties. I will simply tell you what the motto of the Signal Corps of the army is, and I expect you to live up to that. It is, 'Semper paratus' — 'Always ready.' There is also another motto which I expect you and all the members of the Signal Corps of the new National Army to write, and that is this: 'If it is possible, it has been done now. If it is impossible, it will be done tomorrow.' That is what we expect of you."

chairman of the General Committee, then announced that the winners of the automobiles would be announced. Everyone was waiting impatiently to see who the lucky winners were, and when Chairman Backus announced that the winning numbers were 26988, held by Miss Agnes O'Brien, 1318 Branch



PRESIDENT SPALDING PRESENTING MAJOR MANSON THE FLAG FOR THE 401ST TELEGRAPH BATTALION—OUR SIGNAL CORPS

Following Colonel Reber's talk the following letter, addressed to Fred W. Whitney, treasurer of the Fund Committee, was read:

"At a director's meeting of the Telephone & Telegraph Society of New England, held at Boston, Mass., on September 10, 1917, it was voted that the remaining funds in the treasury of the General Society be divided equally between Company D and Company E, Fifth Battalion Signal Corps, U. S. A. R. In accordance with such vote it gives me great pleasure to forward to you as Treasurer of the Fund Committee for Company D, a check for one hundred dollars, which I trust will add to the comfort of our boys while in the service of this great republic.

(Signed) Charles E. Ames,
President.

A similar letter, addressed to John H. Sibley, chairman of the Fund Committee, donating \$100 from an anonymous friend, was also read. George W. Backus,

avenue, Providence, and 2077, held by Miss Helen Ronan of 80 Mayfield street, Dorchester, the crowd exhibited that spirit so universally shown by telephone employees and cheered the lucky ones to an echo. Dancing until midnight concluded an evening that will long be remembered by all who attended.

The committees in charge of the affair to whom great credit is due for its success, consisted of:

General Committee

George F. Backus, *Chairman*
Gordon S. Wallace, *Secretary*
Fred W. Whitney, *Treasurer*
John H. Sibley
George F. Mahoney
John J. McDonough

Joseph D. McLaughlin
Mary A. Mahoney

Finance Committee

George F. Mahoney, *Chairman*
John A. Kelley, *Secretary*
John H. Sibley
John E. Fitzgerald
Joseph Cummings
Fred W. Whitney
Joseph E. Fitzgerald
Mae E. Matthews
Mary A. Mahoney

Entertainment Committee

James R. Queeney, *Chairman*
Joseph D. McLaughlin
Albert H. Nichols
Thomas J. Roche
Charles E. Ames
Marie W. Bliss
Ella McCarthy
May June
Fred E. Cox
Lillian Dooley
Lydia Baier

Reception Committee

A. W. Tuttle, *Chairman*
William Bishop
Howard Allen
H. C. Grush
William J. Hadley
R. F. Tracey
Edward F. Graham
Frank W. Ramsey
Nina C. Gordon
Julia S. O'Connor
Eleanor M. Nelson

Publicity Committee

T. J. Feeney, *Chairman*
A. J. Markowitz
A. J. MacNeil
Gordon S. Wallace

Silver Shower Given Supervisor Leary

THE silver shower tendered Miss Katherine Leary, a supervisor in the Beach exchange, in the retiring room of the exchange on September 12 was a source of a deal of pleasure, not only for Miss Leary but for her hundred and twenty friends who attended. Miss Leary left the employ of our Company on September 15 to be married.

The affair was entirely a surprise to the young lady and when she was escorted from the operating room, by the reception committee, the orchestra played "Here Comes the Bride."

Miss Anna Brady, senior operator in Beach, presented Miss Leary a chest of silver on behalf of the gathering. The prospective bride endeavored to make a speech of thanks but was overcome with

emotion. Her face spoke volumes, however, and as she sat down three rousing cheers were given her.

Mr. H. H. Hayman, wire chief, presented an unusually good program, every number of which well merited the applause given. The program follows:

Overture, Messrs. Wm. B. Victorino (Violin), and
Percy B. North (Piano)
Feature Dance . . . Miss Doris Ferguson
Song . . . Miss May Doherty
Reading . . . Mr. Geo. E. Sargent
Song . . . Miss Katherine Bradley,
(accompanied by Miss Katherine Sterling)
Monologue . . . Mr. Angus McNeil
Song . . . Mr. Charles Devine
Song . . . Mr. Joseph Barry
Monologue . . . Mr. Charles Donahoe
Song . . . Mr. John Riley

After the entertainment a collation was served and for the rest of the evening dancing was enjoyed.

Boston Subscriber Aids Army Officer

STICK-TO-IT-IVENESS is one of the many good qualities of our operators and the other day TELEPHONE TOPICS heard of a subscriber who displayed the same spirit recently. The Hamilton Manufacturing Co. of Boston received in their mail a letter addressed Charles Amory, Boston, Mass., with no other address and bearing the official designation of the War Department. The Mr. Amory who is employed by the Hamilton Co. knew that the letter was not for him and asked the chief clerk, James A. Ladell to locate Charles Amory whom he thought was the son of a well known Boston lawyer. Mr. Ladell was right on the job calling the lawyer's office in Boston first, where he was told Mr. Amory was at Manchester, N. H. On the first call to Manchester, N. H., the line was busy and Mr. Ladell appealed to the operator to make the call emergency on account of it being of an imperative nature. The connection was established on the second attempt and Mr. Amory was delighted to know that his transfer to Fort Myers, Va., was granted as the letter stated. It seems that Mr. Amory is an officer in the Army and asked for transfer from Plattsburg to Fort Myers in the meantime coming home on a furlough. Not hearing any thing from the Government he was packing up to go back to Plattsburg when Mr. Ladell reached him by telephone and gave him the good news.

Russian War Song in America

Trampleovitch, trampleovitch, trampleoviski; the
boysovitchky are comerowesk
Cherevek upblowowitch comradowski they willtsch
comelkp;
And beneathkptch the starowskovonski flagovitch we
shall breathova the airondonsk againski,
Ofovitch the freeluderosk in our own beloved
Karageorgeovitchiolonskiddoleoviskivitch!

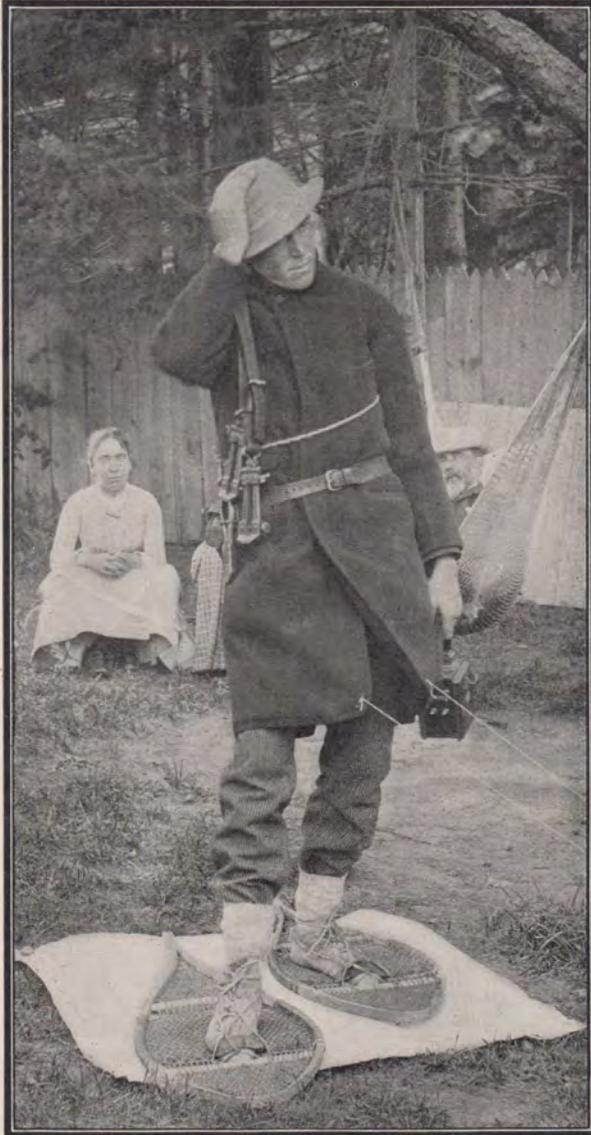
—Burlington Hawkeye, 1877.

Do you remember the tune?

“The Spirit of Service”

TWENTY-EIGHT years ago Angus A. Macdonald, then a lineman and trouble hunter in our Company, posed for the drawing of the advertisement “The Spirit of Service” now used by all the

hunters” were stationed in Boston and covered what is now the entire Metropolitan division repairing broken lines. On his return to the office he reported everything O.K. on test to the manager. Appreciating



ANGUS A. MACDONALD POSING FOR THE SPIRIT OF SERVICE ADVERTISEMENT NOW USED BY ALL THE BELL COMPANIES

The photograph from which this cut was made was taken more than twenty-eight years ago



“THE SPIRIT OF SERVICE”

Reproduced from the drawing by Frank T. Merrill

Bell Companies in the country. In March, 1888, a severe blizzard swept through Boston, doing great damage to telephone lines. Mr. Macdonald was sent out by A. Jarrett Lewis, then manager of the Boston office, which was located at 53 Devonshire street, to repair trouble. Mr. Macdonald traveled all over Boston and suburbs because in those days “trouble

the effectiveness that such an advertisement would have, Mr. Lewis obtained the necessary authority to have a drawing made. Frank T. Merrill was engaged as the artist and Mr. Macdonald posed for the picture. Note the strings tied on Mr. Macdonald’s coat to show the effect of the storm blowing and the white cloth on the ground to denote snow.

Military and Naval Officers' Insignia

The other day, General Manager Driver noticed a soldier on the street and was curious to know what branch of the service he was in, as shown by the insignia on the soldier's coatsleeve. The thought occurred to Mr. Driver that no doubt many of our employees would also like to know how to tell the branch of service a soldier or sailor represented and in what capacity he served the nation. As a result he suggested to TELEPHONE TOPICS that we have an article based on the above. Here is the result of his suggestion.

THE service uniform of the United States army of today is composed of a service hat, coat and breeches of olive drab cloth, leggings of either leather or canvas, of such a shade of brown as will harmonize with the clothing. The uniforms of the officers and men are very similar.

The navy forces, except the Marines, which are practically a separate command, always appear in either blue or white uniform. Of course, the officers have either "dress," "full dress," "evening dress," "evening full dress" and "service" uniforms in both colors. No matter whether the men and officers are in blue or white uniforms, they may easily be distinguished by the markings they wear. For the officers of the Navy stripes and gold lace on the sleeve of the uniform, the lower edge of the lace being two inches from and parallel to the edge of the sleeve, are used to designate the rank as follows:

Admiral of the Navy—Two stripes of two-inch lace, with a stripe of one-inch width between. The stripes are one-quarter inch apart.

Admiral—One stripe of two-inch lace with three stripes of half-inch lace above it.

Vice-Admiral—One stripe of two-inch lace with two stripes of half-inch lace above it.

Rear Admiral—One stripe of two-inch lace with one stripe of half-inch above it.

Commodore—One stripe of two-inch lace.

Captain—Four stripes of half-inch lace.

Commander—Three stripes of half-inch lace.

Lieutenant Commander—Two stripes of half-inch lace with a stripe of quarter-inch lace between.

Lieutenant—Two stripes of half-inch lace.

Lieutenant, junior grade—One stripe of one-half inch lace, with one stripe of quarter-inch lace above it.

Ensign—One stripe of one-half inch lace.

Line officers have a five-point star embroidered in gold just above the upper stripe of lace. Staff officers wear the same stripes but no stars.

All officers in the United States Army wear the bronze letters "U. S." on the collar of their coats and also have the device of the crossarms of the branch of service in which they serve, while the enlisted men in the army have a disc about one inch in diameter bearing the weapons and letter and number of the unit. The men also have the letters "U. S." on another disc at the other end of the collar for the regular army, "U. S. N. A." for the members of the recently formed National Army and "U. S. R." for the men of the United States Reserve.

To further distinguish the army officer and his rank, he wears at the end of each strap, which extends from the sleeve seam to the collar on each shoulder, the peculiar insignia of his rank, such as one bar for first lieutenant; two bars for captain; maple leaf in gold for major; maple leaf in silver for lieutenant colonel; a spread eagle for colonel; a star for brigadier general and two stars for major general. As a second lieutenant has no mark or insignia of rank on his shoulder straps, he is

dependent on an officer's hat cord which is of black and gold. Enlisted men wear a wool cord of the color peculiar to the branch of service—blue for infantry, red for artillery, orange, blue and white for signal corps, purple, white and blue for medical and hospital service, red and white for the engineers, buff color for the quartermasters' corps, yellow for cavalry, and black and red for the ordnance corps.

The corps to which an officer belongs in the navy is indicated by bands of colored cloth around the sleeves between the bands of lace. Medical officers wear dark maroon velvet; pay officers white cloth; professors of



Insignia of Rank on Sleeve.

SLEEVE MARKS FOR OFFICERS IN UNITED STATES NAVY

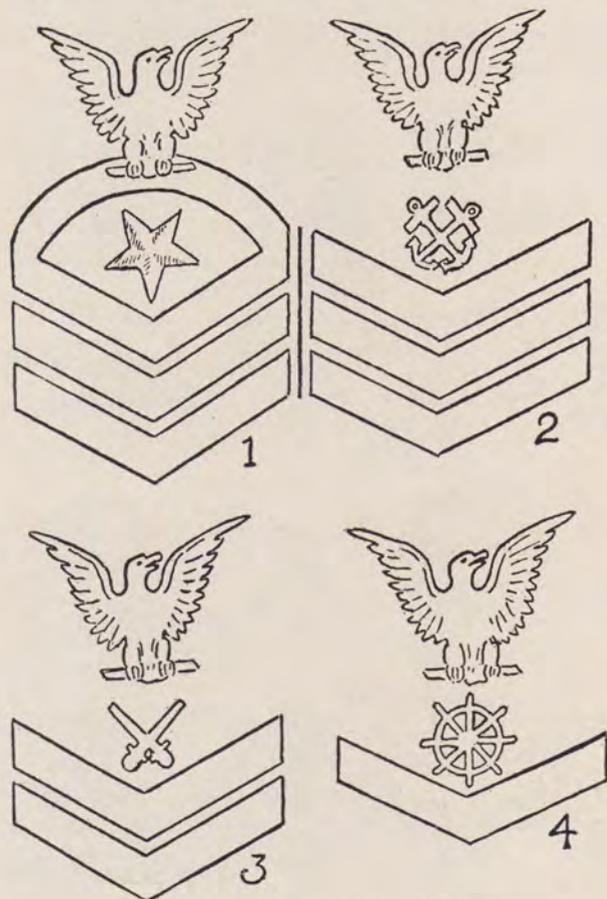
mathematics olive green cloth; medical reserve officers crimson cloth; dental officers orange cloth. Chaplains have stripes of lustrous black braid of the same size and number and disposition as for line officers of similar ranks. Chief boatswains, chief gunners and chief machinists wear the same stripe as ensign, except that the gold lace is woven with dark blue silk thread for widths of one-half inch at intervals of two

Rear Admiral — Two silver stars and a silver foul anchor.

Commodore — One silver star and a silver foul anchor.

Captain — A silver spread eagle and a silver foul anchor at the rear of the eagle.

Commander — A silver oak leaf and a silver foul anchor in the rear of the leaf.



RATING BADGES IN THE NAVY

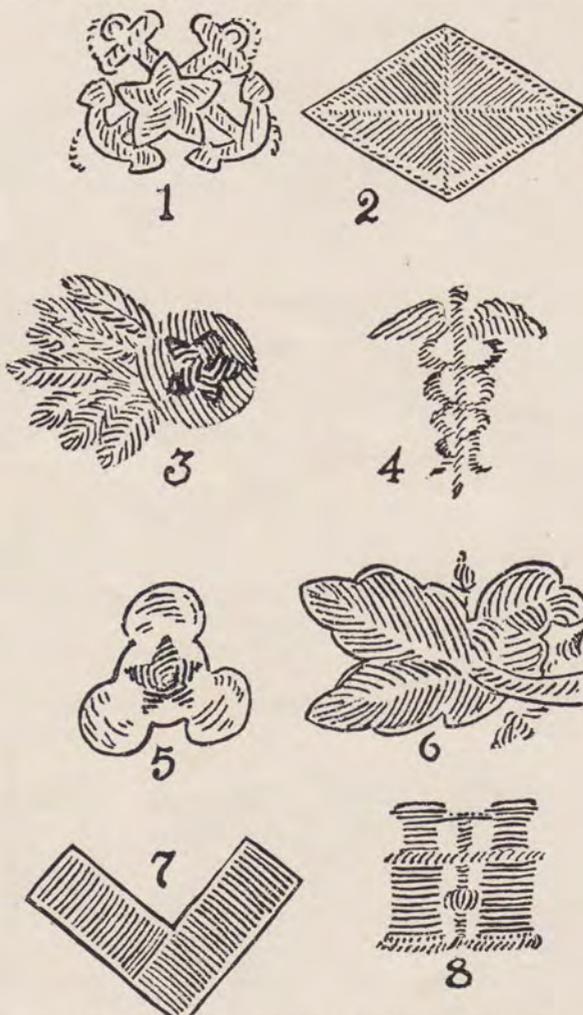
- 1 — Chief Master-at-Arms.
- 2 — Boatswain's Mate, first-class.
- 3 — Gunner's Mate, second-class.
- 4 — Quartermaster, third-class.

inches. Chief carpenters, chief sail makers, chief pay clerks and chief pharmacists wear the same sleeve designation as chief boatswains, but without the stars. Boatswains, gunners, machinists and mates wear the stars prescribed for other line officers, but no stripe. Carpenters, sail makers, pay clerks and pharmacists wear no sleeve marks. The collar of an officer in the navy, indicating the rank and line, bears the following devices:

Admiral of the Navy — Four silver stars, the two end stars surcharged with gold foul anchors.

Admiral — The same, omitting the anchor near the front edge of the collar.

Vice-Admiral — The same as for admiral, but with only three stars, and substituting a silver foul anchor without a star for the gold anchor surcharged with a star.



COLLAR DEVICES ON SERVICE COATS OF THE NAVY

- 1 — Chief Boatswain.
- 2 — Chief Sailmaker.
- 3 — Chief Gunner.
- 4 — Chief Pharmacist.
- 5 — Chief Machinist.
- 6 — Chief Pay Clerk.
- 7 — Chief Carpenter.
- 8 — Mate.

Lieutenant Commander — A gold oak leaf and a silver foul anchor at the rear of the leaf.

Lieutenant — Two silver bars and a silver foul anchor at their rear.

Lieutenant, junior grade — One silver bar and a silver foul anchor in the rear of the bar.

Ensign — A silver foul anchor.

Midshipman — A gold anchor with a vertical stock.

The corps devices for warrant officers are as follows:

Chief boatswains — Two foul anchors crossed, embroidered in silver, surcharged at point of crossing with a gold five-point star.

Chief gunner — A flaming spherical shell, embroidered in silver, surcharged at the centre with a gold star.

Chief machinist — A three-bladed propeller, embroidered in silver, surcharged with a gold star.

Chief carpenter — Silver carpenter's square.

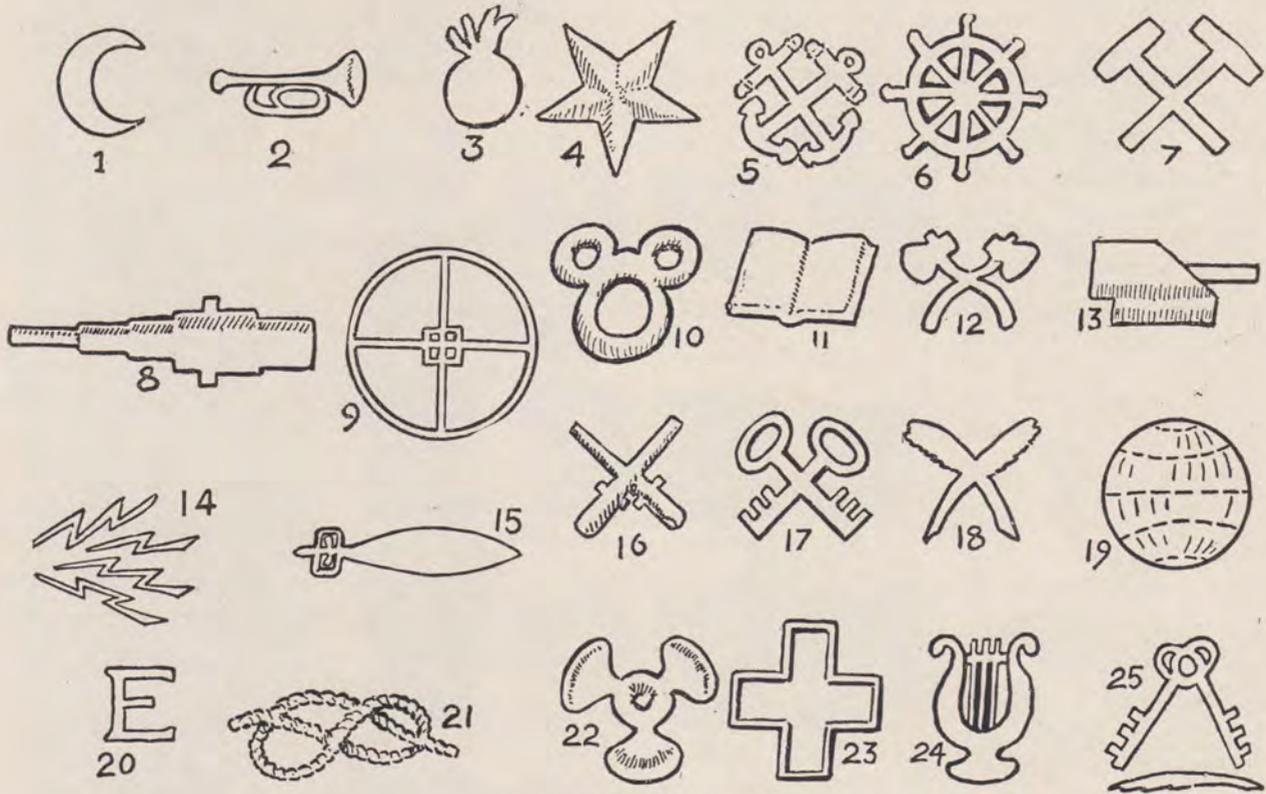
Chief pay clerk — Gold sprig of three oak leaves and three acorns.

Chief sailmaker — Silver diamond.

Chief pharmacist — Silver caduceus.

excepting that the band is of lustrous black mohair. For all other officers the visor is plain.

The field and line officers in the army wear the following insignia on the shoulder strap or the collar of their uniform: colonel, a silver spread eagle three-fourths inches high and two inches between the tips of the wings; lieutenant colonel, a silver leaf one inch high and wide; major, the same size and pattern of leaf, but of gold instead of silver; captain, two silver bars one inch long and a quarter of an inch apart; first lieu-



SPECIALTY MARKS, U. S. NAVY

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 — Ship's Cooks and Bakers. | 8 — Gun Captain. | 14 — Radio Operator. | 21 — Ex-Apprentice. |
| 2 — Bugler. | 9 — Gun-Pointer. | 15 — Torpedoman. | 22 — Machinists' Mate, Boilermaker, |
| 3 — Seaman Gunner. | 10 — Sailmaker's Mates. | 16 — Gunners' Mates. | Water Tender, Coppersmith, Oiler |
| 4 — Master-at-Arms. | 11 — Printer. | 17 — Storekeeper. | 23 — Hospital Corps. |
| 5 — Boatswain's Mates, Coxswains. | 12 — Carpenters' Mates, Plumber | 18 — Yeoman. | 24 — Bandmaster, Musician. |
| 6 — Quartermasters. | and Fitters, Painters. | 19 — Electrician. | 25 — Commissary Stewards. |
| 7 — Blacksmiths, Ship's-Fitters. | 13 — Turret Captain. | 20 — Navy "E." | |

Mate — Binoculars, silver if of more than twenty years' service; gold, if of less than twenty years' service.

The admiral of the navy and all other flag officers have as cap visor ornaments sprays of oak leaves with acorns embroidered in gold on blue cloth. Staff officers of corresponding rank have visor ornaments of gold bands one-half inch wide embroidered on blue cloth. Captains and commanders have sprays of oak leaves and acorns embroidered in gold along the front edge of the visor. Staff officers of the rank of captain and commander, excepting chaplains, wear a gold band half an inch wide embroidered on blue cloth. For chaplains in the navy the same ornament applies as that for other staff officers of equal rank,

tenant, one silver bar; the second lieutenant has no bar; the chaplain has beside the insignia of line rank, usually that of a captain, a Latin cross of silver one and three-eighths inches high.

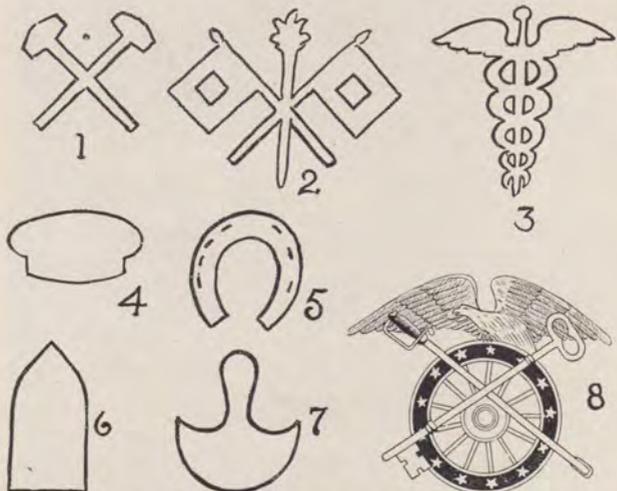
The non-commissioned officers have various devices that show their particular office in the service, such as color sergeant, five pointed star in the included angle of the chevron; sergeant, commissary service, a crescent below his chevron; chief trumpeter, an arc below the three chevrons with the form of a bugle enclosed; the drum major has three chevrons with crossed batons in the included angle. Our men who are called into the Signal Corps will wear the device of that branch of service, which is crossed signal flags with a burning torch between. The master

signal electrician will wear a wreath with forked lightning at top, enclosing crossed flags. Several other duty men are indicated by appropriate devices.

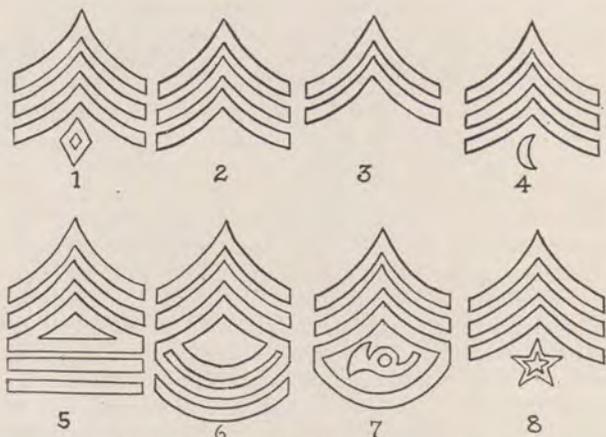
below; a horse-shoer, a horseshoe, point up; a mechanic and artificer, two crossed hammers; a mechanic farrier, a horse's head; a mechanic saddler, a saddler's skiving knife. These devices are the most common and are generally found in all branches of the army.



1 2 3 4 5
OFFICERS' METAL FORMS OF INSIGNIA OF RANK
 1 — First Lieutenant. 3 — Major (gold); Lieutenant Colonel (silver).
 2 — Captain. 4 — Colonel.
 5 — Brigadier General.



SLEEVE DEVICES OF THE ARMY ENLISTED MEN
 1 — Mechanic and Artificer. 5 — Horseshoer.
 2 — Signal Company, First Class Private. 6 — Second-class Gunner.
 3 — Cook. 7 — Saddler.
 4 — Hospital Company, First Class Private. 8 — Quartermasters' Corps.



CHEVRONS OF NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS IN THE ARMY
 1 — First Sergeant. 5 — Regimental Supply Sergeant.
 2 — Sergeant. 6 — Regimental Sergeant Major.
 3 — Corporal. 7 — Chief Trumpeter.
 4 — Commissary Sergeant. 8 — Color Sergeant.

The quartermaster's corps have the new device on the sleeve of the enlisted men or non-commissioned officers, which is that of a wheel with crossed sword and key through it. The cook wears a cook's cap on his sleeves; first-class gunner, a projectile, point up, with a bar

Visited Beautiful Aroostook

During the last week in September, President Spalding and General Manager Driver visited a number of the exchanges in Maine. Starting from Houlton under the direction of General Manager Black of the Aroostook Telephone and Telegraph Company, the exchanges at Mars Hill, Presque Isle, Fort Fairfield, Limestone, Van Buren, Fort Kent, Ashland, Island Falls, Patten, Sherman, Millinocket, and Oldtown were visited. Owing to pressure of business, they were obliged to return to Boston from Bangor, although they had intended visiting the exchanges at Belfast, Damariscotta, Bath, Brunswick and Portland.

The fact that the President and General Manager took the time necessary to visit these exchanges, so far removed from their offices in Boston, at a time when business conditions require their special attention, was clearly appreciated by the employees at the numerous exchanges where they unexpectedly dropped in upon the local employees to visit and talk with them while they were "on the job." Numerous suggestions were made at the different exchanges for minor modifications that were generally recognized as of assistance in carrying out our slogan of "Service First."

FOR THOSE WHO STAY AT HOME

YOUR country is at war. Not all of us can fight in the trenches; but there is another way of aiding. A second big Liberty Loan Bond issue is under way. Fight for it. Make it your business to buy a bond. Do you realize what even a \$50 bond will do? It will equip one soldier for the front, and \$500 will keep him for a year. Get on the job — YOUR job. Buy a Liberty Bond.



PRESIDENT SPALDING DISCUSSING A CAMP DEVENS PROBLEM WITH MEMBERS OF THE WAR SERVICE COMMITTEE

Left to right:— John F. Tighe; J. G. Patterson, Chairman of the War Service Committee; President Spalding; Edward W. Whorf



THE INSTALLATION CREW THAT EQUIPPED THE CAMP DEVENS EXCHANGE IN 21 DAYS

Back row:— R. E. Doherty; Joseph P. Hadley
Front Row:— J. J. Flanagan; W. P. Brennan; George L. Kelley, foreman; B. F. McGaffigan, John E. Murphy; J. F. Haire

Ayer and the Telephone

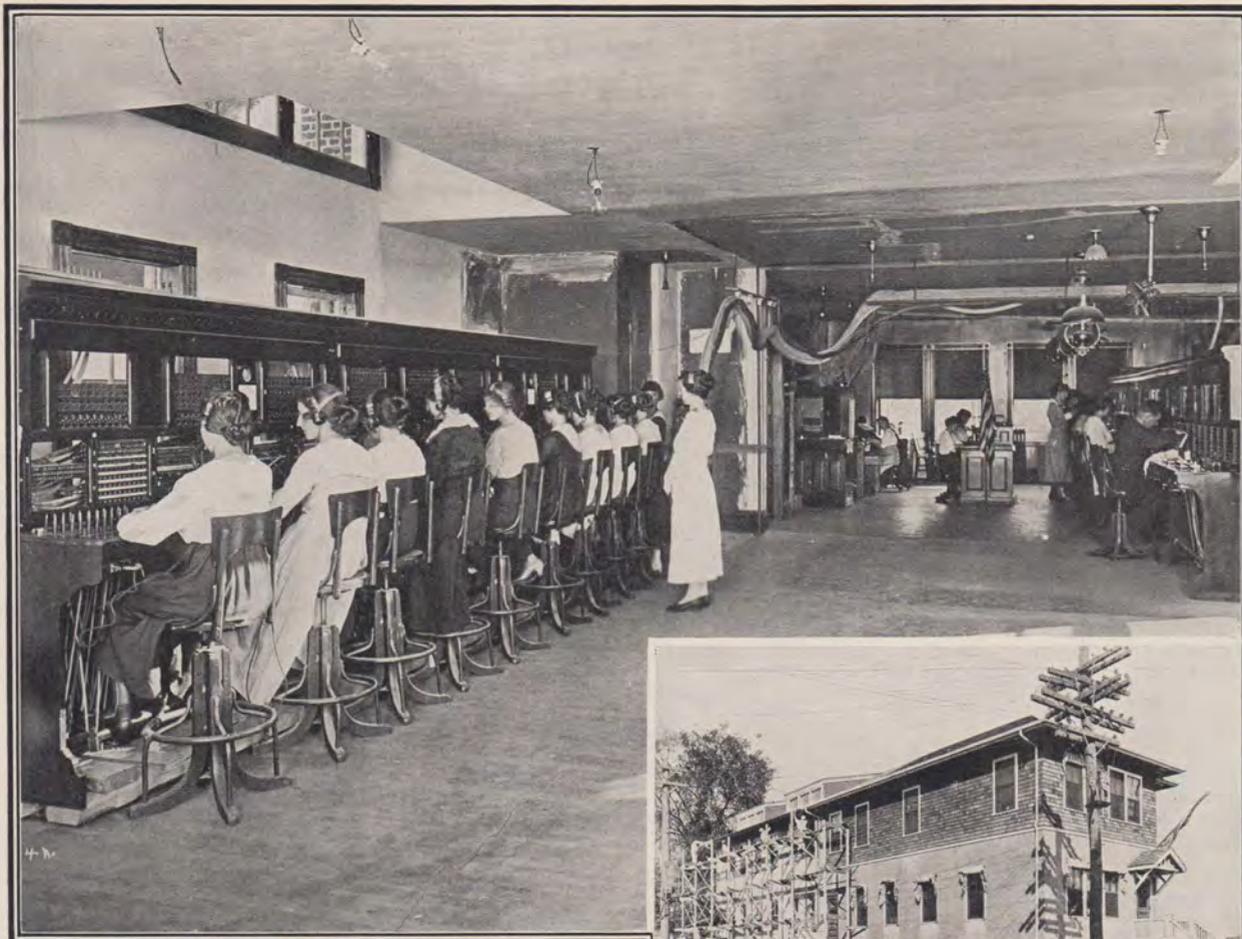
AYER used to be a quiet little Massachusetts country town. Down at the Junction, where the Worcester, Nashua & Portland road intersected the Fitchburg road, there were signs of life at train time, but during other periods of the day life was without excitement. Now, however, with Ayer containing Camp Devens, its population has been increased by about 40,000. It is quiet no longer; on the contrary is extremely vivacious. Look out from a car window at any time and the big square, back of the railroad station, shows an animated sea of heads, most of them covered by military hats or caps, and a picturesque jam of farm wagons and automobiles.

Speaking of automobiles, the busiest little thing on four wheels is the flivver manipulated by Manager Jackson. Jackson's headquarters are at Clinton, and, when the original distribution of territory was assigned, Ayer was tacked on for the reason that it was "touchin' on and appertainin' to," and also because, in the estimation of the layer-out, the manager's duty would be done if he made a couple of trips a year to Ayer. Now Jackson spends about all his waking time here.

Say what you will about the "tin Lizzies," Jackson says he takes his hat off to them. Maybe that's why he seems to be in a spirit of perpetual adoration, for while riding in the flivver he seldom wears a hat. His little runabout has given him loyal and efficient service and he appreciates it. Without it, or without running up a bill for taxi hire that would have "staggered humanity," in the person of the district manager, he never could have covered the job assigned to him in connection with this camp.

There have been three distinct parties to deal with in connection with camp installations. The first people to arrive on the scene were the representatives of the Fred T. Ley Company of Springfield, the contractors charged with the responsibility of doing all the construction work at the camp, and doing it so as to have it completed September 1. The Ley people performed their part of the contract in a notably efficient manner, and are frank to give the telephone a large share of credit for this result. They had as many as 7,000 workmen employed on the ground at one time, and the task of mobilizing such an army, of assigning squads and companies to the special duties required of them, and of seeing that they were provided with stock and materials, would have been impossible of accomplishment except for the telephone system. They leased lines that gave them direct connections to their offices in Springfield, Worcester and Boston. This placed the camp headquarters in immediate communication with its various bases for men, material and supplies. Then each of the working headquarters, over a territory of 25 square miles, was connected by telephone so that the Ley Company alone had upwards of a half hundred telephones assigned to it.

Almost coincident with the arrival of the Ley Company was the appearance of Capt. Canfield, construction quartermaster, representing the United States government. He established his headquarters in what was formerly the old dancing pavilion. Of course, he had to have service. At the outset he couldn't tell how much he was going to want any more than could the Leys. It was up to Jackson, therefore, to study the big blue prints of the Ayer camp and to



AYER CENTRAL OFFICE — INTERIOR
New Additional Switchboard in Foreground

anticipate the wants of these two advance forces in order to give them what they would want when they wanted it.

Of course, he couldn't have accomplished what he did without the assistance of his wire chief associate, and both of them would have been badly handicapped but for the constant attention given the Camp Devens proposition by the War Service Committee. This camp is the finest kind of justification for the establishment of such an organization as the War Service Committee. President Spalding foresaw that the extraordinary demand for service by the government was going to involve a lot of special study and consideration of different problems and he appointed the War Service Committee, consisting of one man from each of the different functions of the company, to give these problems his special attention, so far as his specific department was concerned. This committee has rendered invaluable service, not only to the government in bringing about prompt installations, but also to their associates in the various functions of the Company in simplifying routines for handling the diversified requirements for service incident to such a big and wholly new problem.

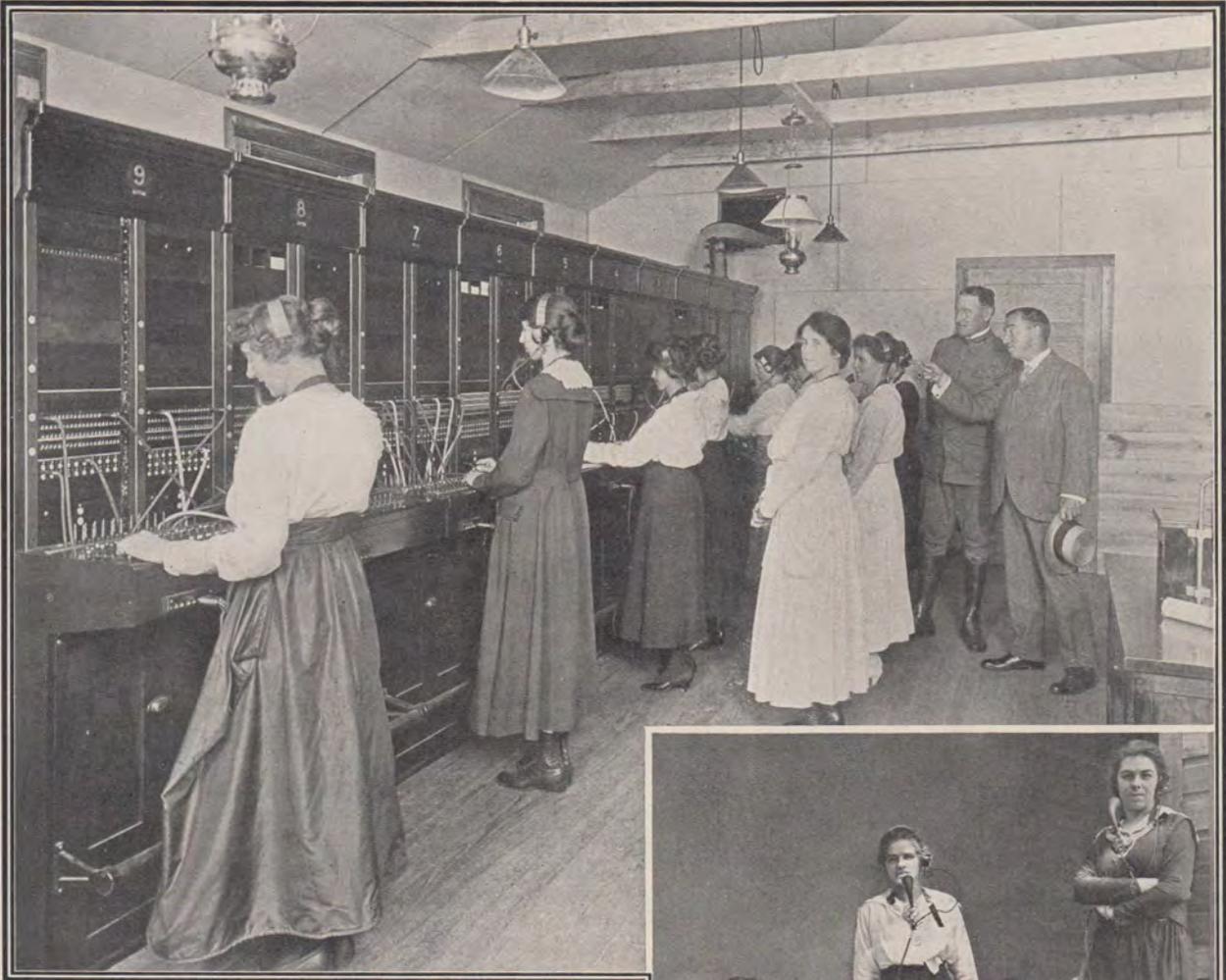
By the time Mr. Jackson had the construction firm



EXTERIOR AYER CENTRAL OFFICE SHOWING ADDITION TO THE BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Two weeks before the site of the new addition to the office was a field of sweet corn

and the quartermaster's department in good running order, as far as telephone service was concerned, along comes the vanguard of the mobilization army. That means more telephones, located all over this 25-square-mile area. Everyone knew that these New England boys, a great majority of them coming from a radius of fifty miles, would want to talk occasionally to the folks at home, and that the folks would certainly want to communicate with the boys in khaki from time to time. So telephone lines were strung to the division headquarters, to the Y. M. C. A. recreation rooms, and to such other places where the men would be apt to congregate, until the stations at Camp Devens now number 558. Ninety trunks have been installed between the camp and the town, and the toll circuits between Boston and Ayer have been increased from five to twenty-four.



CAMP DEVENS EXCHANGE

President Spalding explaining to Colonel Reber, Chief Signal Officer of the Northeastern Dept., details of the board

Lest it be assumed that Manager Jackson had a monopoly of the worry, anxiety and effort incident to Camp Devens, let us take a look at the situation as it forced itself upon the attention of J. P. Harvell, district traffic chief. Mr. Harvell lives, moves and has his being in Fitchburg. Under ordinary conditions it wouldn't be necessary for him to visit Ayer more than once in a blue moon, because he had a very efficient chief operator there and felt confident of her ability to run things. When it was determined that Ayer was to be the site of Camp Devens, Harvell proceeded to scratch gravel with great promptitude. It wasn't necessary for him to be a prophet or the son of a prophet in order to realize that Ayer would have to be completely revolutionized and rebuilt in order to be able to give adequate telephone service. The more he studied the matter, the more he became impressed with the gravity of the problem that was his special share of the job. He saw that with any such addition to the population of the town it would be necessary to bring in 60 or 70 new operators.

The first question — where and how to get them —



OPERATORS AT CAMP DEVENS SWITCHBOARD

Standing, left to right:— Lillian Smith, chief operator; Emily Dunton, May Purves, supervisor.

Seated, left to right:— Margaret McDonald, May Wells, Lillian Leonard, supervisor, and Mabel Oborn.

proved to be a very simple one. The matter was put up to the girls in different exchanges and they simply

volunteered without hesitation to go to Ayer. The question of what to do with them when they arrived at Ayer was a much more troublesome one. There was no hotel or boarding house adequate to care for them, so the company, after considering various possibilities, leased the fine Moseley mansion on the Groton Road, about a half mile from the central office. This was a big modern house, complete in its appointments, set back on the hill, about 200 feet from the street, and with spacious grounds. The place had been unoccupied for a year or two and needed some little care, but after the grass had been cut and the walks trimmed and the flower gardens weeded, it took on a wholly new aspect.

But even the big house wasn't half big enough to hold the army of operators that came to town, so the company had to build a bungalow, adjoining the big house, to be used as sleeping quarters for the overflow. When Mr. Harvell had installed Miss Mabel Simonds of Fitchburg as "house mother" and had watched her in action for a short time, he dismissed from his mind the question of feeding, housing and caring for his girls. That was Miss Simonds' job, and it became early apparent that she knew how to do it. It isn't an easy matter to be mother to 50 or 60 young women. Such an aggregation represents many types of temperament. What one likes to eat, another is sure to abhor. Miss Simonds quickly established herself in the respect and affection of the girls, however. They are given good substantial food and clean and comfortable places in which to sleep, and they are given this without any expense to themselves. Some of the operators who have come to Ayer are girls who have no homes of their own and who, therefore, had to pay the cost of their living at boarding houses. To such girls the opportunity of working at Ayer, where there is no charge for board or lodging, represents a very distinct financial advantage. To all of them, in fact, this phase of the job takes on the aspect of a holiday. The big house, which, by the way, has been christened "Netatco Hall," the name being combined from the initial letters of the name "New England Telephone and Telegraph Company," commands a magnificent view of distant hills and valleys, Mount Wachusett rears its head only a short distance away, and on clear days it is said that Mount Monadnock is visible. One might well wish to be ordered to stay at Netatco Hall for a month or two of this fine autumn weather.

Don't imagine that giving telephone service at Ayer is any picnic, however. It is serious work, and work complicated by unusual difficulties. The girls who constitute the operating force at the Camp

Devens switchboard have quarters that differ very slightly from those of the "rookies" in the big mobilization camps. The central office building was constructed by the government. It is one story high, of bungalow type, and its walls consist of one thickness of matched boards. Inside, across the joists, beaver board has been nailed up. This gives the interior a more finished look and also contributes to the warmth of the building. The heating apparatus consists of one big, pot-bellied iron stove. On one side of the operating room is a terminal room, and on the other is the rest room for the operators.

The girls do not mind roughing it a little, however. They have entered upon the work in a spirit of true patriotism, and they are prepared to go through with it without grumbling. The chairs for the operating room had not arrived the morning the switchboard was cut into service, so the girls stood up until noon time. This Camp Devens switchboard is about two miles from the center of Ayer, and the operators are carried back and forth in automobiles.

A passing word of praise ought to be bestowed upon



MANAGER JACKSON AT AYER WITH HIS FRIEND "HENRY" READY FOR AN INSPECTION TOUR OF CAMP DEVENS

the installation crew that was delegated to set up the Camp Devens switchboard. It was not until the early part of August that the size of this switchboard was definitely determined; in fact, it was just 21 days before September 1 when the order to go ahead was given, but Mr. A. W. Tuttle promised that the work would be completed by September 1. Supervising Foreman W. P. Clarke picked out a live bunch of workers and sent them to Ayer under Foreman George L. Kelley. The men slept in the little exchange building on camp cots and ate in the commissary. They worked many nights in order to complete the job. Incidentally in 21 days they installed nine sections of one position switchboard with equipment for 400 subscribers' lines, 20 toll lines and 160 trunk lines. They also installed the chief operator's desk, four toll recording positions, storage batteries, mercury arc rectifier and a Delco gasoline engine and auxiliary charging equipment.

War-time conditions have also prevailed at the Ayer central office. The photograph showing the building and its additions illustrates three stages of Ayer telephone history. The shingled upper part of the front of the building was once the whole Ayer central office — a structure of the bungalow type. In order to provide further facilities and accommodations the bungalow was boosted up into the air and a new first story was added. This building represented the Ayer central office last summer.

As President Spalding and his War Service Commit-



NETATCO HALL AND BUNGALOW, THE HOME
OF OUR OPERATORS STATIONED AT CAMP
DEVENS AND AYER EXCHANGES

From the spacious lawn and piazza there is an unobstructed view of Nashua River Valley. Lower left: The "House Mother" loves the Beautiful Back Yard Flower Garden of Netatco Hall. Lower right: District Traffic Chief Harvell showing President Spalding and Engineer Whorf a section of the new bungalow for our operators

tee began to get a comprehensive picture of what would be necessary in order to give service to this big Ayer camp, they decided that the Ayer central office would have to be enlarged. The only way the building could be enlarged was to extend it in the rear. There an adjoining resident had a fine little backyard garden — his string beans in blossom and his sweet corn almost ready to pick. When the needs of the country, as far as telephone service was concerned, were pictured to him, however, he promptly sold his back yard to the company. The corn and beans were hastily shovelled away, the contractors got busy

on the extension and in a week they had doubled the size of the Ayer central office. Meanwhile our equipment forces were on the job, switchboard had been commandeered from various parts of New England and assembled at Ayer, and in two weeks from the time corn was growing in that Ayer backyard garden operators were at work giving service in the second story of a building erected on that garden site. This was "going some" in the annals of telephone construction.

It was tough on the nerves of the operating force, however, to have a gang of masons, carpenters and

other mechanics hammering, banging and thumping at their elbows while trying to answer calls and make connections. Luckily for them, at that stage of the game there were only a very few soldiers at the camp, and most of the calls would be for the army engineers or for the Fred T. Ley Company. With the advent of the drafted army, however, other operating troubles developed.

Let us picture "Rookie" John Smith arriving at the camp from his home, one of the first of the new draft army to be called by his government. Until he arrived at the camp he was plain John Smith. Next day he was Private John Smith of This Company and That Regiment. The operating force did not know this, however, nor did John Smith's mother, the first night of his arrival. She was a little lonesome, a little anxious, a little depressed and she thought a talk to her boy would do her and him good. So she called for John Smith at Camp Devens. Talk about hunting for the proverbial needle in the haystack.

This is what the operators at Ayer and also at the Camp Devens board have had to do in hundreds and thousands of cases similar to the one just pictured. Moreover, from 5.45 in the morning until 4.30 in the afternoon the recruits are busy at their various tasks, and the commanding officers do not want to have this routine interrupted unless for some vitally important

reason. They, therefore, suggested that telephone calls, except such as might be considered emergency calls, be not forwarded to enlisted men until after 4.30 P.M. From that hour until 10 P.M. there was no objection to the men making

or receiving telephone calls at any of the pay stations assigned for such calls, especially in the Y. M. C. A. camps, where special facilities for this purpose have been established.

As this is written, some of the rough edges are being smoothed out and the job of keeping this city and its 50,000 inhabitants in touch with all the rest of the country is being done in a manner that is reasonably satisfactory. If all the John Smiths among the enlisted men will promptly notify the folks at home of the company and regiment to which they have been assigned, and if the folks at home will do their talking between the hours of 4.30 and 10 P.M., in accordance with the wishes of the army authorities, it will be no difficult task to keep all these mothers, wives and sweethearts in touch with sons, husbands and loved

ones. If this cannot be done, it is going to be a difficult proposition for the Ayer operating force. We need not borrow trouble on this score, however. The American people are kindly and considerate when they realize the difficulties that have to be met, and we may rest assured that these difficulties are not going to scare the men and women assigned to keep Ayer on the telephone map.



THE "HOUSE MOTHER" AT NETATCO HALL,
MISS MABEL SIMONDS

Hyde Park Operators on the Job

A FOUR alarm fire in the business section of Hyde Park on Sunday evening, September 16th, increased the traffic tremendously, but a volunteer force added to the regular force rendered service up to the usual standard.

Theresa Savage, senior operator; Margaret A. Dooley, day supervisor; Mary Wilkinson, clerk; operators Mary Breenan, Mary Dooley, Pauline Packard and Hilda Bandlow of the day force were the volunteers whose services were accepted. Miss Bandlow worked all day but reported back for any night duty which might be required of her as she like the rest of the girls is a true exponent of Service First. Theresa Attridge, Julia Attridge and Elizabeth Farrey, day

operators in Hyde Park, also called on the telephone volunteering their services, as did Eleanor Manning, an operator of the Dedham office, who happened to be visiting in Hyde Park at the time.

Don't Write "A. E. F." on Mail for Troops

THE Adjutant General's Office warns those sending letters and packages to American soldiers abroad not to use the letters "A. E. F." for American expeditionary forces, but to write out those words, since the same letters also stand for Australian expeditionary forces.

ARE YOU SAVING YOUR MONEY TO INVEST
IN THE SECOND ISSUE OF THE
LIBERTY LOAN?

Death of Dr. Moses Greeley Parker

DR. MOSES GREELEY PARKER, a member of the Board of Directors of the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company since its formation in 1883, and also a member of its Executive Committee, died at his home in Lowell, Monday evening, October 1, in his seventy-fourth year. His intimate connection with this Company was actively maintained up to within a few days of his death, by which the Company loses an adviser with rare foresight and judgment.

The doctor was a physician with a large practice in 1879, when the Lowell district telephone exchange was established. His vision was quick to comprehend its possibilities and he was the first man to walk into the exchange and buy a block of stock. In after years he used to tell this story with great enjoyment, because he made it a condition of the purchase that the fact of his investment should remain a secret, and for more than two years afterward the secret was kept. The reason for this reticence was the doctor's feeling that his standing as a physician might be injured if it became known that he was investing his earnings in telephone stocks. He not only invested in the stock of the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company, but also in that of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company; in fact, at the time of his death, he was one of the largest holders of the stock of the latter Company.

This interest in the telephone business and confidence in its future were based on certain intimate relations and scientific knowledge. When Professor Bell gave one of his early lectures on the telephone in Lowell, Dr. Parker was an interested auditor, and the acquaintance begun at that time developed as the years rolled on. He had become deeply interested in general science even as a young man. Born in Dracut, Mass., October 12, 1842, he was educated at the Howe

School in Billerica and Phillips Academy, Andover. He then studied medicine and received the degree of "M. D." from the Harvard Medical School, after which he served as an assistant surgeon with the 57th Massachusetts Regiment in the Civil War. He later spent two years in medical research work in Vienna and Paris, returning to Lowell to settle down to

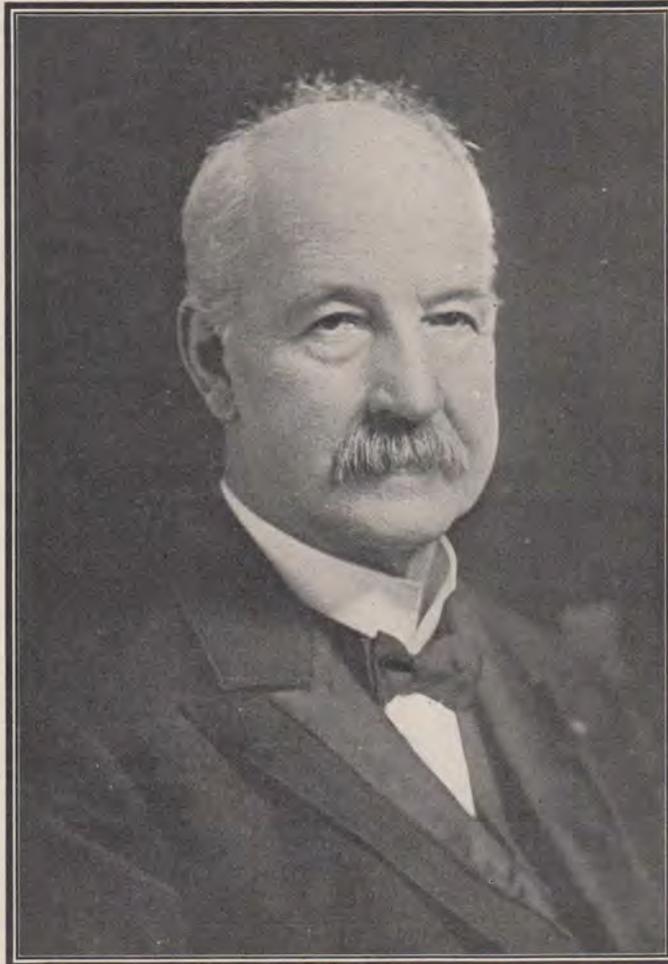
the general practice of medicine, but continuing collateral scientific studies, especially those relating to electricity.

One of his interesting discoveries in this connection was the rotary motion of lightning. After hearing Professor Bell's lecture, Dr. Parker built a telephone line from his house to his office, a distance of about one-half a mile, and successfully operated it. His scientific bent, and especially his experiments in electrical matters, satisfied him as to the basic value of Professor Bell's invention, and his sound business vision supported his confidence in the future of the telephone.

He kept closely in touch with the development of the new exchange and suggested various methods of increasing the business and perfecting the method of handling it. One of these suggestions was that subscribers

be called by number rather than by name, as was the universal practice in that day. The doctor realized the mental burden of the operators, who had to memorize the names of the various subscribers and the location of their lines on the switchboard, and suggested that the work of handling calls, especially as an exchange grew in size, could be simplified if the switchboard jacks were numbered and subscribers were called by these numbers.

Dr. Parker was a member of the American Medical Association, and other medical bodies, and in 1913 was a United States delegate to the International Medical Congress at London. He was especially interested in the work of the patriotic societies, the



DR. MOSES GREELEY PARKER

Sons of the American Revolution claiming much of his attention. He was also a member of the Loyal Legion, the Bostonian Society, the Bunker Hill Monument Association, the Massachusetts Society of Colonial Wars and the Order of Colonial Governors. He was president of the Parker Historical and Genealogical Association, and affiliated with various Masonic bodies.

He is survived by a sister, Mrs. Mary Morrison, who made her home with the doctor in Lowell, and by a nephew, T. E. Parker, division commercial superintendent of the Eastern Massachusetts Division of our Company.

Ansell on Food Committee

E. H. ANSELL, luncheon manager for our Company has been honored by an appointment on the committee of the United States Food Administration of which Frank C. Hall, proprietor of the Hotel Somerset, Boston, is chairman for New England with reference to hotels and restaurants. Mr. Hall desired Mr. Ansell's help because of the latter's knowledge of the lunch rooms conducted by various industrial concerns, and it will be his job to organize these lunch rooms into a unit for effective action along conservation lines. He will make a tour of these industrial lunch rooms at once, including all of the lunch rooms operated by our Company. The plan of action for hotels and restaurants calls for two "no meat days," Tuesday and Friday of each week, and two "no white bread days," Wednesday and Thursday of each week.

Storm Plays Havoc with Plant Department

AFTER several days of warm and depressingly muggy weather, two terrific thunder showers swept over the Hingham Unit in the south suburban district on Friday evening, August 17 and Tuesday afternoon, August 21, leaving in their wake an unprecedented amount of cable, line and station trouble.

The Friday storm swept southerly from Boston after 5 P.M., reaching its intensity in Hingham, Weymouth, Cohasset and Hull about 8 o'clock, crippling the service of a small number of subscribers, considering the severity of the lightning, because of the successful operation of substation and central office protection.

The Tuesday storm massed itself in the southwest, centering over South Weymouth where the lightning struck three churches, damaged several factories and about twenty residences. The clouds split at Hingham and Cohasset and hovered over these towns for fully one hour causing much damage to aerial and substation plant. In the recollection of the oldest cable and line workman it was the most disastrous and freakish electrical storm that ever has visited the south shore section.

In Hingham Centre, terminals were blown to pieces at the tips, and in Weymouth several drop wires were entirely destroyed.

The total number of lines affected in Weymouth exchange where the storm was most severe, was estimated at 500.



COMMITTEE ON PRICES OF FOOD ADMINISTRATION NOW IN CONFERENCE AT WASHINGTON

Left to right:— James W. Sullivan; George W. Nasmith, secretary of Committee; Henry J. Waters; William N. Dpak; R. Goodwyn Rhett; Dr. Henry A. Garfield, Chairman; Professor Frank W. Taussig; Theo. N. Vail; Eugene E. Funk; J. W. Shorthill; L. J. Tabor; and Dr. Edwin F. Ladd

Our Lectures Proving a Success

THE lecture season under the direction of W. C. Bamburgh of the publicity department is now getting under way and all indications point to success.

Mr. Bamburgh says: "We are going to try to reach every kind of an audience and get the permeating influence of good will and pleasant public relations by telling as many people as possible our business and the work of many branches of our employees. I believe that the employee is benefited by the increased understanding of the public, and, as good service requires the co-operation of the public, good will and pleasant relations can be produced best by mutual understanding.

"The principal effects that we want to create are, first, correct impressions of our intentions and our efforts, simple understanding of our organization and the work of various parts of it, the necessity for close co-operation and the thought and organized education, instruction and direction of our employees. If these points can be accentuated, correctly interpreted to others, and correctly understood because of the simple presentation of the facts, we will be heartily satisfied with the results.

"The illustrated lectures are the best means of telling the public about the efforts we have to make in establishing and maintaining telephone service, and the things which they must also do so that our efforts may not be wasted. A better understanding of our problems by telephone users results in better and pleasanter relations in our every-day life, and it is to further these relations that we are making arrangements for these lectures."

Last month in the Western Division and also in the State of Maine division Mr. Bamburgh gave a series of lectures for the employees.

In describing the work and the preparations which are necessary to equip any manager in the New England territory to make such an address before a women's club, or a high school class, or a men's club, or board of trade, or as an entertainment at a fraternal meeting, he cited some amusing experiences of the lecture platform.

"One thing about the opportunity and the manner of telling the people about the service must be carefully defined, you must not think that there is any advertising in these lectures, for we are not advertising telephone service nor toll service, nor any kind of equipment at all. The story which we are telling in our lectures is full of simple and understandable descriptions of the telephone plant and the equipment of the central offices, and the wonderful intricate construction of underground cables and overhead circuits.

"All of you realize how little people know about the work you are each doing individually, and when you realize how just a little description of the details of your own personal work or the work of some other employees will interest the listener in the telephone

work, you will appreciate how easy it is to clear away misunderstandings and how important it is that this educational work be carried on.

"Are you ever doubtful whether our business is interesting? Begin to talk about it, and see how soon you are enthused, and how eager you are to have the stranger understand you. Are you doubtful about any criticism of service someone has made to you? Begin to try to satisfy the mind of that critic and see how earnest you are in your explanation of the facts and the assertion of the truth. And, if there is a technical point — or, for that matter, anything at all about our business that you do not yourselves know — observe how soon you are on the way to find someone in the company who will be able to tell you all that you need to know about it.

"I believe that every subscriber should be induced in some way to learn the ordinary rudiments of the service, just to ensure the prevalence of the voice with the smile in it in all telephone conversations. You girls know how well the subscribers are satisfied with the service when they understand your various moves in the routine of a call, either local or toll, and I think that we telephone people, who are the most critical of our own company's service, are the ablest users of it, because we are cognizant of each move in the setting up of a connection.

"You believe with me, I know, that the telephone employee is the best natured individual there is in almost any business, for there are no persons catering to the wants of the people who are on such a human mission and who must at all times remember the humanity of the service and the human results of the service, as does every one of us in the telephone business. That may be patting ourselves on the back, but, when a user of the service first realizes the standardization of our work in every branch and sees the necessity for that standardization, he must know that the most intensive thought is put into the executive direction of our employees, and that every thing we do has its foundation upon the desire to perform the most efficient work at all times."

Manager McLaughlin of Haverhill received an inquiry from a brother commercial man, recently, asking whether the work of lecturing was a congenial one and likely to produce the satisfaction which Mr. Bamburgh had indicated. The editor of TELEPHONE TOPICS confesses that he does not know to whom the letter is addressed but it shows clearly what one of our men thinks of the proposition.

Dear——

I am strong for the lecture proposition as outlined by Mr. Bamburgh. In fact, I have been for several years. Last season I gave sixteen right here in this area, and have yet to find an unappreciative audience.

Let me tell you of my first experience, as I think it typical. The Haverhill Chamber of Commerce asked me to address its members on the subject "The Telephone" at a time when our service was not of the best, at a time when criticism was rife in Haverhill. It was put up to me in such a way that I couldn't refuse. It being my maiden

speech' on the subject I prepared it with great care — then came the fateful night. I read the text very carefully, made several side remarks, and did everything I could to get the audience in good humor, which I thought would soften the avalanche of questions and complaints I anticipated. After completing the text and had the lights put on, I rather tremblingly asked the audience for comments, questions, troubles, etc.

Not a soul said a word! The thing that I feared wasn't going to happen. All of a sudden bravery possessed me and I singled out several people and actually *made* them tell me of their troubles. The evening ended very pleasantly, the audience had a better idea of telephone service and a personal good feeling was extended to me. Since that first appearance I have welcomed opportunities to address various bodies.

I have spoken with several of the boys about this lecture business with this result. All who haven't given it are rather opposed to it. All who have, are enthusiastic in its support.

I look upon this proposition as a distinct opportunity which certainly should not be passed. It is really more than an opportunity. It's a privilege. Looking at it in a selfish light — It broadens the Manager, it gives him confidence and it makes him "known" by the people he serves. It is good for the subscriber because it shows him the works of a big business so that he may more fully understand and appreciate it. It is good for the Company because it spreads itself wide open so that the public may see that it is good; that it is a Corporation with a soul; that it is Service.

I am keen for myself, for my subscribers and for my Company, and I tell you with all sincerity that I am keen for the lecture proposition because it brings all three closer together.

By all means get into the game, old man, even though you "sweat blood" on your first attempt.

Yours,

Wm. J. McLaughlin.

P.S. Do with this letter as you see fit. If you have any pals whom you think this should help, pass it along.

Incidentally Herman Rietzel, commercial representative at Jamaica Plain was one of the first men to introduce the idea of having lectures for the benefit of the public. Back in 1901 Mr. Rietzel suggested this form of publicity to then General Commercial Supt. Keller. As a result of Mr. Rietzel's suggestion, Mr. William Merrill and Mr. Harvey Fairbanks, both of whom have since left the employ of our Company, were appointed as lecturers. Mr. Rietzel in talking with a TOPIC's representative about our lecture program said:

"I well remember one evening in 1902 we dined at Frank Locke's dining room after discussing the lecture idea all afternoon and later proceeded to the Elk's Hall on Hayward Place. Here we were greeted by another delegation of about seventy-five persons, among whom were Mr. F. P. Fish, Mr. I. O. Wright and many others. A lecture on the telephone was given by Mr. William Merrill and apparently met with the approval of those assembled. Mr. Keller introduced me to Mr. F. P. Fish, who was then President of the American Telephone & Telegraph Company. Mr. Fish complimented me upon my suggestion and predicted that ten or twelve years later a talk of this kind would be no uncommon occurrence. How well his prediction has come true may be judged by the fact that today we are delivering these talks in almost every city and town in the country and are each day growing more popular. Personally I have

given three of these talks and judging from the remarks of persons in the audience, have brought about a better understanding in regard to the operation of the telephone system than any other means that have been employed up to the present time."

A Wide-Awake Supervisor

SUPERVISOR Mary I. Cameron of the Bellevue operating force is a wide awake young lady who knows how to act in an emergency.

On July 7, James H. O'Connor, a Bellevue subscriber, was painfully injured and his sister did not know just where to call in order to obtain an ambulance, so she called the telephone operator to help her out.

The minute Miss Cameron took the call in hand she knew that prompt action was necessary and immediately called the number of a physician. Finding that the doctor was out at the time and could possibly be located at a drug store, she called the druggist, who stated that although the physician was not there he thought he could locate him. The physician was located, an ambulance was summoned, and Mr. O'Connor taken to the hospital.

In expressing his appreciation of Miss Cameron's good work, Mr. O'Connor wrote General Manager Driver the following letter:

I wish to call your attention to a service rendered me last July, the 7th, about 8.30 P.M.

I was seriously injured, my right leg was smashed and while I lay groaning in pain my sister rushed upstairs to call an ambulance. She was much confused, naturally, and told the Bellevue operator just what happened to me, all the time looking up hospital numbers.

Your alert operator sizing up the situation telephoned a local druggist who in the space of ten minutes secured an automobile and doctor, and was at our door ready to take me to a hospital.

I was struck with the quickness of it all even then, and whenever I think of that night I also think of your prompt and efficient service.

I wish you would convey my sincere gratitude to the operator who handled the call.

I expect to be on my feet again next winter and trust I may be able to render myself a service — a walking service.

To Employee Stockholders

THE trustees under the plan to aid employees to become stockholders of the American Telephone & Telegraph Company report it is a difficult matter for them to adjust dividends payable to employees when stock is taken up by payment of the balance due between the date of record of a dividend and date of payment of that dividend. Employees wishing to take up their stock are requested to forward applications for taking up of shares to the Treasurer's Boston office, not later than the 15th of the month when they desire to take up shares in the current month, and that all applications received in this office after that date will not take effect until the first of the following month.

ARE YOU SAVING YOUR MONEY TO INVEST
IN THE SECOND ISSUE OF THE
LIBERTY LOAN?

Changes, Promotions and New Ratings

Commercial Department

State of Maine Division

Rex W. Dodge resigned from the Company on October 1 after ten years of service, to associate himself with the executive department of the varied business interests controlled or directed by Hugh J. Chisholm, a well known capitalist of Portland and New York.

Mr. Chisholm is interested in water power development and in paper manufacturing. Mr. Dodge is a native of Maine who started out to be a school teacher, changed his mind and took up telephone work, rose to be division superintendent of traffic and then division commercial superintendent and now takes what he hopes will be an even broader trail in business. He carries with him the hearty good wishes of a large circle of friends.

As we were going to press he asked if he might have the space to say a few words of farewell. They follow.

Wishing to say "good-bye" to his associates, many of whom he might not see for some time, he sent the following to TELEPHONE TOPICS, feeling that in this way he could reach all:

TO MY FELLOW EMPLOYEES:—I sincerely regret severing my connection with the Company and the many pleasant associations I have made during the years of my service. Had it been possible, I should have liked to have been able to have said "good-bye" personally to each one with whom I have come in contact.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for the many courtesies you have shown me; to wish you continued success and prosperity; and to express the hope that our paths may cross and recross in the coming years?

Sincerely yours,

REX W. DODGE.

Charles W. Dufresne, formerly District Manager at Fitchburg, has been appointed Division Commercial Superintendent in place of Mr. Dodge.

Division Commercial Superintendent Dufresne was born in 1875 in Derby, Vt. His early life was spent in Laconia, N. H., where he received his education in the public schools. In 1898 he became chief clerk at Hotel North, Augusta, Me. In 1901 he entered the employ of our company as a contract agent in Augusta and did much pioneer work in the development of telephone service in Maine and surrounding territory. In 1903 he took charge of similar work in Aroostook County, Me. In 1905 Mr. Dufresne took charge of the work of telephone development for the State of Maine, having under his direction some forty contract agents. In 1908 he was appointed district manager for Fitchburg, Mass. One of the most important jobs that he has had to take care of was the supervision of arrangements for telephone service at Camp Devens, Ayer. Mr. Dufresne has been prominently connected with the social and business organizations of Fitchburg, being vice president of the Chamber of Commerce, and, during the past few months, he has also acted as secretary. He is a member of the Fay Club and the Columbian Club of Fitchburg. Mr. Dufresne's previous experience in Maine



CHARLES W. DUFRESNE

makes him particularly well-fitted to take up the supervision of the work of the commercial department, and he is eminently well qualified to serve the mutual interests of the public and our Company in this state.

Western Division

A well deserved promotion was given to Manager William J. McLaughlin of Haverhill, when, on the transfer of District Manager Dufresne to Portland, Me., he was appointed district manager for the Fitchburg district. Mr. McLaughlin's telephone experience covers active service in the plant, traffic and commercial departments. He entered the employ of our company in 1898 as night operator at Wellesley. In 1902 he was transferred to the plant department, and for more than a year went through the various branches of plant work, being connected with the Metropolitan Division. From 1903 to 1908 he was manager at Cohasset, Braintree and Weymouth exchanges. During the latter part of 1908 he was appointed district contract agent at Malden, and in 1909 was transferred to district contract agent at Jamaica Plain. When the change in the functional organization was made and the district commercial offices abolished, Mr. McLaughlin was appointed manager at Haverhill, Mass., where he remained until 1913 when he was appointed manager at New Bed-



WILLIAM J. McLAUGHLIN

ford. His work in Haverhill was such a success that when a vacancy occurred in 1914 he was transferred from New Bedford to Haverhill, remaining in that position until his present appointment. District Manager McLaughlin is the type of man that inspires the confidence of the public, and combined with his wide knowledge of the telephone business, is especially fitted for a position as district manager.

Eastern Massachusetts Division

Manager John Neilson at Nantucket has resigned as manager of the above exchange and has accepted a position with the plant department. Manager Frank L. Eddy of Martha's Vineyard will also be manager for Nantucket as well as wire chief for the plant department. Manager Eddy's headquarters will be at Martha's Vineyard and he will be represented at Nantucket by a commercial clerk and also inside and outside plant men.

George A. Stevens transferred from manager at Falmouth, Mass., to manager at Leominster, Mass.

Fred J. Bennett has been transferred from manager at Leominster to manager at Haverhill.

Duncan A. Stewart has been promoted from contract agent at Lynn to manager at Falmouth, Mass.

Francis J. Harrington transferred from manager at Concord, N. H., to manager at Milford, Mass.

Edwin W. Porter transferred from manager at Milford, Mass., to manager at Concord, N. H.

Treasurer's Office

Roy E. Crosby promoted from clerk to chief clerk.

Traffic Department *Metropolitan Division*

Miss Mary I. Cooley, chief operator of the Newton South exchange was married on September 12th, to Mr. Thomas Duddy. Her wedding was attended by all chief operators of the Newton West district.

Mrs. Duddy has been in the telephone service for nearly ten years, her employment dating back to January, 1908. She was local operator for five years, and in 1913 was appointed a supervisor at Waltham in charge of the evening service. In June, 1916, she was appointed chief operator of the Newton South office. "She has been particularly successful," said District Traffic Manager Gordon in speaking of Mrs. Duddy, "in keeping down complaints."

Miss Anna E. Kiley has been appointed chief operator of the Newton South office. Miss Kiley entered the service in June, 1908, as a local operator. In 1910 she was appointed clerk of the Newton North office and her traffic manager states she was a most competent clerk. In September, 1916, she was appointed district observer, in which position she has been successful, and well liked.

Mary E. Lynch from senior operator to supervisor, Boston Toll.

Adelaide F. Finlay, from senior operator to supervisor, Revere.

Eastern Massachusetts Division

Kathryn M. Morrison, chief operator, Brockton exchange, has been transferred to the District office as District Instructor.

Gertrude V. Mackin, day assistant chief operator, has been appointed chief operator, Brockton exchange. Miss Mackin entered the employ of the Company August 25, 1907. She passed through all the intermediary grades of local operator, toll operator, senior operator, local supervisor and toll supervisor with flying colors and was appointed assistant chief operator October 23, 1916. This position she held until put in charge of the office, September 2, 1917, as chief operator.



MISS GERTRUDE V. MACKIN

Nellie M. Smith, toll supervisor, has been appointed day assistant chief operator, Brockton exchange.

Plant Department *Metropolitan Division*

The following received ratings before the Metropolitan Division Examining Board during August:

George Waldmyer, William A. Miller, *Head Splicers*; Thomas M. Dallahan, Charles S. Pangborn, Charles O. Haines, "*C*" *Installers*; Lewis K. Brisbin, "*C*" *C. O. Installer*; C. F. L. Squire, "*A*" *P. B. X. Installer*; Joseph A. Mulvaney, *First Class Lineman*.

Interesting Notes from the Field

Cake of Soap vs. Open Condenser

ON August 30th, at 11 P.M., during an electrical storm, the Edison Electric Light Co. Emergency Superintendent Hancock reported to night central office repairman, L. R. Hynes of Brighton exchange, that his telephone bell did not ring.

Repairman Hynes tested the line and found the subscriber was talking from his own telephone and that the line tested O.K. but bell did not ring. The repairman knew the importance of this line and figured that with an electrical storm in progress this would be a much called line and that it would have to be put into service.

He visited the subscriber's premises and after testing carefully discovered the condenser in bell circuit was open. Not having any apparatus with him to substitute for this defective condenser, he asked the subscriber to get him a cake of soap and substituted the soap which, although it burned the light in the office, gave a closed bell circuit and allowed the Superintendent to receive incoming calls.

Mr. Hynes, before leaving the premises, wet the soap so as to insure perfect contact for the rest of the night and Mr. Hancock thanked the repairman, and although being familiar with electrical matters, he was very much astonished to see what a cake of soap accomplished.

A Unique Plan in Economy

Manager E. R. Spear, of the Belfast-Rockland Area is experimenting with the unique plan of not rendering bills to his patrons in his Searsport Exchange unless toll service has been used. The Searsport Exchange has 113 subscribers. On August 1st, 1917, bills were rendered to those subscribers only who had toll service. The result was watched with interest. At the close of business on August 31st, only 8 accounts remained unpaid.

Letters were prepared by Manager Spear and sent with July statements to each subscriber explaining what he desired to do. This plan has met with the hearty approval of all concerned and the only comment which he has received was from a farmer line subscriber who explained at the office when he came to pay his bill that it was a great stunt as he saved much time in hunting through various pockets in several suits of clothes for his bill.

Manager Spear will not recommend this for general use at this time, but he thinks its introduction very desirable in many of our smaller exchanges, particularly at this time when it is imperative that we practice rigid economy.

Service First at Bellevue

The thunder storm in Boston and vicinity on August 17th was the severest storm in years and did considerable damage to our plant, but regardless of the intensity of the storm, coupled with

terrific lightning, the Misses Edna Green, Cecelia McGarry and Cecelia White of the Bellevue operating force reported at the exchange in order that our slogan of Service First or our amended slogan of Government Service First might be upheld. These three young ladies were off duty at the time, and although an electrical storm naturally brings terror to the very heart of the average woman, they quickly sensed that their services might be badly needed and promptly volunteered at the central office. Several of the operators had become prostrated from the effects of the storm and the service of these employees who volunteered their services, was greatly appreciated as well as the spirit they manifested.

Rockland Operators Appreciated

Here is another instance where our operators rendered service that brought commendation from the Government officials. Section Commander C. F. Shaw of the First Naval District wrote Mabel M. Spear, chief operator at Rockland, Maine as follows:

"The Section Commander wishes to extend his thanks and his appreciation of the excellent service rendered by the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company on Government calls on lines from this office and other offices connected with Section Headquarters.

"Since the establishment of Section Headquarters, no trouble except that due to unavoidable conditions, such as thunderstorms, etc., has been experienced and I think that this should be drawn to your attention and become a matter of record."

Emergency Call versus Eats

On September 20, 1917, a subscriber calling for a Greek Restaurant, corner of Washington and Kneeland streets, was given the report that the telephone was non-published and number could not be given out. Subscriber asked if we could not make an exception and give him the number, but was informed that this was permissible only on emergency cases. Subscriber said that it was an emergency call and when questioned as to the nature of the call said that he was hungry and wanted the restaurant to prepare some food for him. Information then informed subscriber that if it were a case of life or death or sickness it would be considered emergency, to which he replied, "Well, if I don't eat I'll die."

Lawrence Traffic Force Appreciated

Lawrence operators have the happy faculty of rendering excellent service to the subscribers. As an appreciation of the service rendered him by our operators during the illness and at the death of his mother, John Breen, Jr., a Lawrence subscriber, gave the use of his summer home at Island Pond to the operating force during the month of September. Through Mr. Breen's kindness several of the operators enjoyed their vacations at Island Pond.

Rifle Club Notes



Having learned that the Government had taken over the outdoor range at Wakefield no doubt kept a great many members from going to the range thinking there would be no chance for practice.

The facilities and conditions for practice are now even better than before and a number of

needed improvements have been made.

The Navy Rifle Range Management have extended a very cordial invitation to all National Rifle Association Clubs and members to use the targets on their range on Saturday afternoons and Sundays without charge. In addition to giving free use of the targets they will, on Saturday afternoons, furnish all necessary markers, range officers and instructors desired. These same conditions hold good on Sundays except that the members will have to do their own marking.

Major William C. Harlee who is Director of Small Arms Practice for the United States Navy has invited the Rifle Clubs of New England to hold a tournament on the range this fall. A program is being prepared which will soon be issued. Major Harlee is so much interested that he has consented to come on from Washington to serve as Executive Officer. The dates

set for the tournament are Oct. 6, 7, 13, and 14th.

As it is the desire of the President of the Telephone Rifle Club to have members entered in this tournament, those interested should get in all the practice they can and those who have not qualified should endeavor to do so as soon as possible. The matches will be held at 200, 300, 500 and 600 yards and will include both slow and rapid fire.

There being no facilities to keep rifles at the range now, the Club having no room, it was necessary to make temporary arrangements for the rest of the season so members could obtain them. The President, Mr. Mosses, will have at his office, 50 Oliver St., Room 1001, a few rifles which the members can draw by applying to him and retain for their use until requested to return them.

It will be necessary to show your membership card to obtain privileges at the range and to draw a rifle.

With the close of the outdoor season attention will be turned to the indoor practice. Notice has been received of the opening of the Bay State School of Musketry, Sept. 17th, and that the management intends to arrange a series of competitions which will make it a most interesting season.

The club will soon start the indoor qualifications and matches, the dates to be announced later.

The Enemy — Carelessness

SECRETARY Williams of the Employees' Benefit Fund Committee told a TOPICS representative recently that *carelessness* was the cause of a number of the accidents to employees that are reported to the Committee.

"Here are a few typical incidents," said Mr. Williams, "that I recall that could have been averted if the employee concerned had only been careful.

"An employee while chopping ice in a galvanized iron pail struck his hand against the side of the pail, causing a slight wound. No attention was given the injury by the employee at the time it occurred. A few days later he was obliged to consult a physician owing to the hand and arm becoming septic. The employee was obliged to remain from duty for a number of days, and a bill was sent to the Company by the attending physician of this employee for services amounting to \$45. Care on the part of this employee to obtain proper first aid treatment at the time of the injury might have avoided absence from duty and medical expense to the Company.

"An operator stood upon a chair in the retiring room to reach a book which was on top of a book case. Instead of stepping off the chair carefully, she jumped and turned her ankle and fell upon the floor. A physician had to be summoned and the employee conveyed home, and she will be unable to work for two weeks. Exercise of due care by this employee would have avoided all this.

"An employee of the construction department while working with a crowbar found that his hand became blistered. He called it to the attention of his supervisor who treated the matter lightly, and did not give proper first aid. A few days later the employee was obliged to consult a physician as the hand had become septic. He was obliged to remain from work for a number of days. Exercise of due care by this supervisor might have avoided the medical expense incurred, and the loss of the employee's services to the Company.

"About ninety per cent of accidents reported by supervisors as occurring to employees are the result of carelessness on the part of the injured employees. Cuts or bruises should have proper first aid treatment. An employee going up or downstairs should not run or fool with another employee while on the stairway. This is a time for the exercise of due care. This is also true of employees having occasion to walk across floors which have been just washed. An employee should not run or hurry, but should use care in crossing a floor at such a time.

"A lineman while working on a pole should at all times exercise great care. A moment of carelessness may be the cause of a fatal injury. If every employee will stop to consider that ninety per cent, as stated above, of accidents to employees arising out of and in the course of their employment is due to carelessness, it will be apparent to all how much the exercise of due care at all times is necessary."

Farewell Parties all through the Territory

Receptions and gifts to our men called to the colors given by employees of our Company

Plant Men's Farewell Party At Lowell

JOSEPH WILSON JORDAN and James Callery, who are soon to join the ranks of Uncle Sam's active fighting forces, were given a genuine surprise on Saturday night, September 9, when their fellow workers of the cable department gathered at the home of the former, 11 Porter street, Lowell, and presented them wrist watches. It was originally planned to include James Campbell, another member of the department who has taken up arms in defence of the flag, but in view of the fact that he is at present stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and unable to be present, the next best thing was done, and a watch, accompanied by a message of sincere congratulations and best wishes, was forwarded him.

To say that the occasion was a real surprise is putting it mildly. Arrangements for the affair were accomplished without either knowing in the slightest way what was to happen. Cableman Jordan was invited to a neighbor's house in the early evening and when the crowd was safely inside he was called back. His sudden discovery of the large number of visitors startled him somewhat, but when Cable Foreman John P. Cunningham stepped forward, and with a flow of oratory that would do justice to Chauncey Depew, presented him the watch, he was simply staggered. The best and most convincing evidence of his deep appreciation of the gift was the fact that he simply couldn't find words to express himself.

Then came the presentation to Cableman Callery. The latter was led to believe all along that the occasion was for Cableman Jordan, and one can imagine his surprise and consternation when Mr. Cunningham called him to the centre of the gathering and in a few chosen words of congratulation presented him a watch. Dumbfounded hardly expresses the condition in which the recipient found himself when the gift was placed in his hands, with the assurance that with it went the very best wishes of all.

The occasion, besides being a real surprise to the recipients, was filled with many happy and enjoyable features for all, not the least being the informal program of music given by the talented ones of the party. Some of the near-Carusos and almost-McCormacks of the department demonstrated their vocal ability. All in all, it was a "wonderful night" for every one concerned. Refreshments were served by Mrs. Joseph Jordan, Mrs. Michael F. Maloney, Mrs. Cornelius Collins and Mrs. F. A. Wilson.

Lowell Men at Ayer

Walter J. Sargent and Philip L. Murphy, both employees of our Company in the Lowell district are now doing their bit with the National Army in Ayer. Both of the young men were presented wrist watches on the eve of their departure to Ayer where they will prepare to give the Kaiser an awful jolt.

Coin Box Manager Presented Watch

Coin Box Manager James C. Fair, now First Lieutenant Fair of the Aviation Corps of the Army will recall his many friends in the coin box department of our Company every time he has occasion to look for the time of day or night, or to enjoy a shave.

For some time past the employees of the coin box department have held monthly meetings to improve their knowledge of the telephone business.

On September 19 in the evening, one of the meetings was held with Mr. Fair presiding. But to his surprise the meeting did not consist of a discussion of telephony. Shortly after all the employees of the department and several former employees now working in other departments had gathered together, Robert Friery, one of the collectors, presented Mr. Fair on behalf of the employees of the coin box department a wrist watch.

Mr. Fair was greatly surprised and was even more so when Charles Eldrige, another of the coin box men, presented him a silver shaving outfit as an additional gift from the employees.

Lt. Fair is now stationed at the officers' training school at San Antonio, Texas.

Gifts to South Suburban Employees

The South Suburban commercial department employees made it as pleasant as possible for two of their fellow employees who are now in the service of the nation. Joseph W. Cox, an order board agent, is now enlisted in the Navy while Edward J. Desmond is doing his part with the National Army at Ayer. Wrist watches were presented each of the men on the day they left the department. Both men were highly appreciative of their gifts and after being in the service for a week or more Mr. Cox wrote the following letter to the employees:

U. S. S. Tonopah,
Charlestown Navy Yard,
Sept. 16, 1917.

To the Employees of the South Suburban Commercial Dept:

Words have not yet been coined in the English language that can appropriately describe my sincere appreciation of your gift. Suffice to say I sincerely thank you, one and all, for your kindness in remembering me as you did. When in the still watches of the night, or during the day a glance at my wrist watch will remind me of my friends in whose company as an employee of the N. E. T. & T. Co. I spent many pleasant hours and to whom I hope to return after doing my bit to "Make the world safe for Democracy."

Safety Razor for Pittsfield Agent

John C. Burwell, the contract agent in the Pittsfield, Mass., exchange who recently enlisted in the Ambulance Corps, was presented a safety razor by the Telephone Social Club upon his leaving Pittsfield recently.

Farewell Party to Cambridge Men

More than 300 people including employees and friends of employees filled the large room in the basement of the Cambridge exchange on the evening of September 27th when a farewell party was given to eight men in the Cambridge Unit who are either in army or awaiting orders to go to the various cantonment camps. Through the energetic efforts of Wire Chief Bates of Cambridge and the members of the general committee the room was completely transformed into a blaze of national colors with the special reservation for invited guests all banked with potted plants and ferns. An orchestra rendered music for dancing and a most excellent program of vocal instrumental and specialty numbers was given.

Among the invited guests and speakers of the evening were: Hon. Wendell D. Rockwood, Mayor of Cambridge, Walter C. Wardwell, President of the Cambridge Board of Trade, Senator James W. Bean, Division Plant Supt. Wright, Supt. of Installation and Maintenance Starkey, North Suburban Manager Northrup, Private Branch Exchange Manager Hersey, and Lieutenant Howard A. Fall, U. S. A.

Owing to business engagements both President Spalding and General Manager Driver were unable to be present and letters expressing their regret were read by Chairman Bates.

One of the unique features of the evening's entertainment was the presentation of the gifts of safety razor outfits to the men by Miss Isabelle Day of the local operating force, who read an original poem mentioning something humorous about each of the men.

Great credit is due the members of the committee which consisted of the Misses M. E. Bailey, chief operator, M. M. Murphy, assistant chief operator, Helen V. O'Brien, Bessie Doyle, Isabelle Day, and the Messrs. H. W. Bates, wire chief, James E. Gordon, C. I. Flanders, Joseph H. Cunha, George H. Haskell, George A. Gore, Joseph Dente, and Thomas F. Hession, for the excellent manner in which the party was conducted.

The young men who received the gifts at the occasion were Lieutenant Howard Fall, Sergeant Wm. R. O'Connor, Sergeant John E. Daley, Jr., Private L. J. McHardy, the last two being members of Company D of our Signal Corps.

On account of the following being unable to be present their gifts were forwarded to them by mail: Corporal George F. Mahoney, Atlantic City, N. J., Lieutenant Robert A. Clyde, "Somewhere in France," Private Frank R. Gaw, "Somewhere in France," and Private John F. Shaughnessey, Marine Corps, South Carolina.

Beach Plant Men Presented Gifts

William E. Blake, 1st class private and Percy B. North, Corporal of Company D of our Signal Corps were tendered a surprise party in the operator's retiring room of the Beach exchange on the evening of September 19.

Both men are employees in the exchange, Mr. Blake being a central office repairman and Mr. North, wire chief's clerk. More than 150 employees attended including a large portion of the day operating force.

Harry C. Hayman, Beach wire chief, was Master of Ceremonies and in presenting each of the boys on behalf of the Beach employees a wrist watch and a safety razor outfit made pertinent remarks on their going to serve the nation.

An excellent concert was arranged by the committee in charge and consisted of orchestra selections, vocal solos by Miss Helen Kiley, Miss Anne Conley and Messrs. Charles Devine, Joseph Barry, John Riley and John Cunningham; monologues by George E. Sargent and George L. Fleming, and xylophone solos by John E. Sayce.

Refreshments and dancing concluded the evening's entertainment.

Watch for Commercial Representative

James F. Bryan, corporal of Company D of our Signal Corps and in peace time a commercial representative in the Central District, was presented a wrist watch by his co-workers on September 28th. Mr. Bryan is president of the Telephone Workers Credit Union and was one of the first to respond to President Spalding's call for men for our Signal Corps.

Back Bay Party

The Back Bay force held a pleasant party for three of their co-workers in the Back Bay exchange on the evening of September 28th, and presented Lucius A. Blinn, Joseph D. McLaughlin and Lloyd Henderson, all members of Company D of our Signal Corps, wrist watches and smoking material. The retiring room of the exchange was artistically decorated for the occasion and the speaker of the evening was Everett A. Baker, Back Bay wire chief. During the evening an excellent entertainment of vocal, instrumental and dancing numbers was given. Charles D. Marshall, senior testman of the exchange, was master of ceremonies and introduced the young men as they came forward to receive their gifts. Among those who contributed a part in the program were Miss Marion Duffy, Miss Irene Tighe, Miss Beatrice Ryan, all of the Back Bay operating force and Charles Devine of the equipment force. Refreshments and dancing concluded the evening.

President Vail on Book Council

President Theodore N. Vail of the American Telephone & Telegraph Co. has accepted appointment to the Library War Council, which will assist the War Service Committee of the American Library Association in the campaign to raise \$1,000,000 to supply libraries and books for the training camps, cantonments, troop ships, base hospitals and navy yards.

ARE YOU SAVING YOUR MONEY TO INVEST
IN THE SECOND ISSUE OF THE
LIBERTY LOAN?

New Offices for Commercial and Plant Forces

PRESIDENT Spalding and General Manager Driver, accompanied by General Superintendent of Plant Dresser and General Commercial Superintendent Whitney, inspected the new offices of the Metropolitan division commercial and plant forces at 245 State street, Boston, the other day. Both Mr. Spalding and Mr. Driver were pleased with the location and the arrangement of the office forces, which on the seventh floor consist of the north and south suburban districts, central district and the division commercial cashier's office, and complimented the various employees on the appearance of their respective districts. The commercial and plant forces are located in the recently constructed Brewer building, which is bordered by Atlantic avenue, State and Central streets, with 16,000 square feet of floor space on each floor, considerably more than their former quarters in the Milk street building, for their use.

The north suburban district, in charge of District Manager Northrup, occupies the section of the room facing Atlantic avenue and State street, with the south suburban forces under the direction of District Manager Richards adjoining them and occupying space on the Atlantic avenue and Central street sides of the building.

The central district employees, under District Manager Lanthier, have the remaining space adjoining

the south suburban district on the Central street side. In the rear of the room on the State street side, Collection Manager Weinheimer and the cashier's force are located.

Division Commercial Superintendent Conway and the three district managers have their private offices adjoining the north suburban district facing State street.

On the sixth floor Division Superintendent of Plant Wright and his force are located, the Central street side of the building being occupied by the division office and the private offices for the various department heads. The equipment department under Superintendent of Equipment Tuttle and the supply department in charge of Supervisor of Supplies Reid occupy the Atlantic avenue side of the sixth floor. Division Engineer Hall's force and the Right of Way Department in charge of Superintendent of Rights of Way Emery occupy the remaining space on the State street side of the building.

The lighting and ventilating systems are of the latest type and combined with an unobstructed view of Boston Harbor make the office ideal for the employees.

The moving of these large departments was completed without any serious interruption of business and reflects credit on the able manner in which Division Commercial Superintendent Conway and Division Superintendent of Plant Wright directed the work.

"No White Bread" Days

WHAT are you doing to promote two "No White Bread" days per week, as recommended by the Food Administrators of all the New England States. You are not asked to go without bread on these days — you are asked simply to abstain from the use of white bread on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

This abstention is not urged on the ground that substitutes such as corn meal flour, rye flour, oatmeal flour or barley flour will be cheaper; it is put forth simply as a patriotic duty, so that our soldiers and our allies may have the necessary wheat. We have the mills with which to grind these substitutes; they have not. We know how to prepare bread from these substitutes; they do not. We are not asked to make any substantial sacrifice, therefore; nevertheless the universal adoption of this idea would mean millions of bushels of wheat for export.

Seven years ago a famous European student of history prophesied that the next great war of the future would not be won by fighting but by famine. We are to-day fighting that war, and famine is indeed threatening to be its arbiter.

The men of England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Italy and Belgium — our allies — are fighting; they are not on the farms. The production of food by these countries has therefore been greatly reduced. Even before the war it was much less than the amount consumed. The difference came more largely from other countries than from America. Now, this difference is greater than ever, and, at the same time,

supplies can no longer come from most of the other countries. They must now come from America. Therefore, our allies depend on us for food as they have never depended before, and they ask us for it with a right which they have never had before. For to-day they are doing the fighting, the suffering and dying—in our war.

We *must* send them the food they have to have. We *will* send it. But we can only do it by a wise and loyal economy of food on the part of every one of us. We must stimulate our food production, organize our food handling, eliminate all the waste possible, substitute as largely as possible other foods for wheat, beef, pork, dairy products, and sugar, and reduce consumption where it is excessive.

Pittsfield Force Do Good Work

THE Berkshire Ambulance Corps is now in Ayer. The Pittsfield Board of Trade, under whose auspices a send-off was to be conducted, were notified that the corps would leave town sooner than was expected.

Manager Mellen, who is a member of the board, volunteered his services and his operators in calling the members of the board together by telephone.

Miss Solon, chief operator, and Miss Sullivan, assistant chief operator at Pittsfield, rendered great assistance in calling the members.

As a result of the efforts of Manager Mellen and the local operating force the boys were given a send-off befitting the occasion.

Service at Camps McGuinness and Darling

ONCE again the Framingham exchange has been "Under Fire." About the middle of June, the 5th and 9th Regiments of the Massachusetts National Guard established camps at Framingham, the former at Camp Darling and the latter at Camp McGuinness, on the site of the old muster field.

In order to handle the numerous telephone calls from the camps, 10 special line stations were installed in the officers' quarters and 24 paystations in tents at the rear of the company streets and in the Y.M.C.A. Headquarters. These paystations were primarily for the use of the enlisted men. They were installed three or four in a tent and each tent cared for a certain number of Companies.

Up to August 23rd, the traffic was handled efficiently by the regular Framingham operating force. At this time the new 101st Regiment was formed, combining the 5th and 9th Regiments, and this combination of the two regiments transferred about 1500 men from Camp Darling to Camp McGuinness.

On Thursday, August 23rd, the newspapers came out with the story that Sunday, August 26th, was to be "Goodbye" Sunday and that the National Guard was going to vacate the Camps soon after. The toll traffic in the Framingham office from this date made an astonishing increase. For the week ending August 26th, the outward traffic increased 70% and for the week ending September 1st, 100%. On the largest day, the Framingham office handled an increase of 300% over normal.

On August 27th, a six position recording board was installed and beginning August 24th extra operators were sent to Framingham from Lowell, Lawrence, Haverhill, Andover, Salem, Brockton, Taunton, and Concord. Additional circuits to Boston were also installed about this time. Special attention was given to calls for soldiers at the camps. The operators realized that a great many of these calls were from the soldiers' families and made every effort to complete as many calls as possible. It was very difficult to locate the soldiers at camp. Some were on leave, some were doing guard duty, others were drilling, and others were out on long hikes. However, with the splendid co-operation of the officers in assigning orderlies to each telephone tent we were able to find all soldiers that it was possible to locate.

Miss Mae Doherty, Framingham chief operator, with her supervisors and operators, ably assisted by the operators sent from other exchanges, handled the traffic in a splendid manner. They were untiring in their efforts and were always willing and cheerful when the traffic was heaviest, and the difficulties of completing calls were the greatest. The greatest credit is due them for the splendid spirit shown and the splendid service rendered under very trying conditions.

A very common call received in Framingham was for Captain McGuinness. At first reports were given that there was no such person but later it was discovered that Camp McGuinness was wanted.

From August 23rd on, Traffic Chief Wilson and Service Supervisor Leavitt were on the job continuously, one or the other of them being on night and day. Mr. Houghton of the Division office, assisted by Mr. Thomas Cochran of Natick, who had just returned from the Reserve Officers' Training Camp at Cambridge, were in charge of the telephones at the field and it was due to their ceaseless efforts in keeping the orderlies on the job that we were able to complete so many calls to the soldiers.

Capt. Lee, formerly connected with the accounting department in Boston, but now Captain of Co. I of the new 101st regiment and located at Camp McGuinness gave the telephone employees great assistance in getting things started. Through his good work, orderlies were assigned and a shelter provided for the special operator at the camp.

Here's Your Chance, Mr. Plant Man

I WOULD suggest, young man, that you take advantage of the splendid course in 'Principles of Telephone Operation' offered for a nominal fee by the Franklin Union on Berkeley street, Boston," said General Supt. of Plant Dresser to a young plant man recently. Acting on Mr. Dresser's suggestion the young man investigated the great opportunity offered for the ambitious, and is now enrolled as a student devoting two evenings a week to improving his knowledge of telephony.

It is to meet this need that money left by Benjamin Franklin, supplemented by a gift from Andrew Carnegie, is being used by Franklin Union on Berkeley street, Boston. Instruction at low cost is offered to men who want to learn the principles on which their business is based. Evening and day courses are given in many lines of which the most interesting to telephone men are likely to be telephony, industrial electricity, electrical and mechanical drafting, and automobile engines.

The course in "Principles of Telephone Operation" is planned to give an understanding of the laws of electricity and how they are applied to various types of substations, lines, and switchboards, both in central offices and in private branch exchanges.

Explanatory talks are given on the electrical circuits and the knowledge is made more real by giving the men a chance to handle actual telephone apparatus for the more important circuits, and to make tests in a well equipped laboratory. The first year course covers substations, private branch exchanges and telephone lines in general, and comes Monday and Thursday evenings for 25 weeks. The second year course deals mainly with relay central offices and comes Wednesday and Friday evenings for 24 weeks. The registration took place September 17 and 19 but it is not too late now to enroll as a member. Any one interested may obtain circular and information by writing the Union or telephoning Beach 5257.

Telephone Workers' Credit Union

"THE Telephone Workers Credit Union is proving to be a success," said Treasurer Friedman of the Credit Union recently. "The Board of Directors recently declared 6% interest on deposits. The annual election of Directors will be held in November."

For the information of members of the Credit Union and also to encourage employees to join, the following statement of the business done by the Credit Union during the months of April, May, June, July, August and up to September 12th is published.

	RECEIPTS							Total
	April	May	June	July	August	Sept. 12		
Shares	\$864.55	\$1,307.65	\$716.85	\$753.60	\$764.35	\$377.75		\$4,784.75
Deposits	7.00	2.50		.50	1,059.37	80.50		1,149.87
Repaid on Loans	15.50	155.93	185.54	227.69	356.42	261.58		1,202.66
Interest Received	1.61	11.31	17.89	22.66	42.31	21.71		117.49
Fines		.01	.05	.56	3.09	1.24		4.95
Membership Fees	68.15	57.40	9.20	10.80	11.90	9.30		166.75
Miscellaneous						.25		.25
Totals	\$956.81	\$1,534.80	\$929.53	\$1,015.81	\$2,237.44	\$752.33		
					Grand Total			\$7,426.72
	DISBURSEMENTS							Total
	April	May	June	July	August	Sept. 12		
Shares Withdrawn				\$43.50	\$52.25	\$32.25		\$128.00
Deposits Withdrawn					17.03			17.03
Loans Made	\$650.00	\$1,443.00	791.00	1,087.75	1,754.75	855.00		6,581.50
Interest Paid					.12			.12
Expenses								
Clerical & Sundries	33.12	27.50	10.00	27.00	87.38	33.40		218.40
Supplies & Equipment	112.43				16.12	49.95		178.50
Refund on Membership Fee					.50			.50
Totals	\$795.55	\$1,470.50	\$801.00	\$1,158.25	\$1,928.15	\$970.60		
					Grand Total			\$7,124.05
					Cash on hand Sept. 12			302.67
								\$7,426.72

Also a Certified Statement of Assets and Liabilities as of September 12, 1917.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, SEPTEMBER 12, 1917

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Loans Outstanding	\$5,378.84	Shares	\$4,656.75
Interest Paid		Deposits	1,132.84
Dividends Paid	.12	Interest Received	117.49
Expense Account		Fines	4.95
Clerical Hire & Sundries	218.15		
Supplies & Equipment	178.50	Guaranty Fund	166.25
Cash on Hand Sept. 12th	302.67		
Total	\$6,078.28	Total	\$6,078.28
		Signed, S. C. Friedman, <i>Treasurer</i> F. E. Cox, <i>Clerk of the Corporation.</i>	

Aurora Borealis in Maine

BETWEEN August 8th and 15th the telephone and telegraph system in the State of Maine suffered a great deal from electrical disturbance associated with an aurora borealis. The greatest difficulty was found with the Morse circuits used for the Associated Press and broker wires, as these circuits are grounded. The telephone circuits were not affected as much but very many calls were seriously interfered with.

"In the case of the Morse circuits, complete interruptions to service up to several seconds would take place without warning, resulting in the loss of several words at a time," said Manager Fisher at Bangor.

"In the case of telephone conversations, the transmission would seem to die away as if the talking party had stepped away from the telephone. We had one instance where circuit was changed three times on one conversation in an effort to complete the necessary business. There was no particular noise noticed, but only the sudden dying away of all sound."

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

All manuscripts which are submitted for publication in Telephone Topics must be signed by the writer, together with his address.

Manuscripts may be written on any paper; a standard form is in stock, No. 275, which can be obtained on requisition.

Typewritten manuscripts should be written in double or triple spacing, with an inch margin on both sides.

All words should be spelled in full; and all persons' first names should be given in full.

PHOTOGRAPHS

On the back of photographs submitted for publication should be written the subject of the picture, where and when it was taken; and, in the case of group pictures, the correct full names of each person, reading from left to right.

The person sending the photograph should write his own name and address on each copy submitted.

Photographs should not be rolled for mailing.

TO ALL EMPLOYEES IN THE SERVICE OF UNCLE SAM

We will arrange to send you "Telephone Topics" each month if you will furnish us with your address; if you change your address, let us know. We will also be glad to print in "Topics" such information about yourself, where you are, and what you are doing, as you can consistently send us. Send along your pictures. Remember we are all with you in spirit.

Send all communications to

"TELEPHONE TOPICS"

50 Oliver Street

Boston, Mass.

Gray Pay Stations



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Entirely
Automatic

—
Send for Catalog

—
Gray Telephone Pay Station Co.
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Actions Speak Louder Than Words

*Percy B. North, Corporal Company D
401st Telegraph Battalion*

How easy to talk of the glories of war,
What you'd do if you once had a chance,
Perhaps what you've done in the days gone before,
What you'd do if you once got to France,
How easy to stand while the flag is unfurled,
Singing "The Star Spangled Banner,"
With a thrill in your voice as you tell all the world,
In the regular orthodox manner,
How easy it is for good old U. S. A.
To beat all the foes in existence,
If the Army and Navy once gets underway,
They wouldn't dare offer resistance.
But when you look back over history's page,
And notice how freedom was won,
No matter the nation, no matter the age
'Twas always the sword and the gun
That gained for the cause when arguments lost,
Then courage alone stood the test,
Then men fought with honor (who reckoned the cost?)
And proved by their acts, which the best.
Now's come a time, the greatest of all,
'Twill require a valor supreme,
Your duty is plain, you must answer the call,
Stand you not idle, nor dream.
"All the world is a stage, each one has his part,"
And you are your brother's keeper,
He who died on the cross e'en the blood of His heart
Gave that you should be the reaper;

And who are you that value your worth?

Stop and consider, my friend,

When brotherhood calls, for the right of your birth,
You shall give and fight to the end.

Something to Paste in Your Hat

Wear it around until the sentiments burn it!
Let them become a part of your mental equipment.

Believe in them, respect them, obey them.

What are they?

The rules adopted by the Petrograd military organizations of woman volunteers — the fighting battalions.

They apply equally well to industrial battalions — to the service soldiers in our organization.

Volunteer with your Russian sisters to "make good" on the observance of the following rules which have been promulgated:

1. Good discipline.
2. Firmness and steadfastness of spirit and purpose.
3. Precision, accuracy, persistency and rapidity in the execution of orders.
4. Absolute honesty and serious attitude toward the work.
5. Cheerfulness, politeness, kindness, sympathy, and punctuality.
6. Consideration for the opinion of others, the fullest mutual confidence and nobility of purpose.
7. Quarrels and personal feuds are inadmissible as degrading of one's human worth.

Herbert Hoover Appeals for Reduction in Consumption of Sugar to Meet French Government's Request for 100,000 Tons

Mr. Herbert C. Hoover, Food Administrator, has issued the following:

"We have received a request from the French Government that we allow them to export from the United States 100,000 tons of sugar during the next month, and probably more at a later period.

"Our own situation is that we have just sufficient sugar to maintain our normal consumption until the first of January, when the new West Indian crop becomes available to all.

"Our consumption is at the rate of 90 pounds per person per year — a little under 4 ounces per day per person.

"The French people are on a ration of sugar equal to only 21 pounds per annum per person — or at the rate of less than 1 single ounce per day per person — a little more than the weight of a silver dollar each day.

"The English and Italian rations are also not over 1 ounce per day.

"The French people will be entirely without sugar for over two months if we refuse to part with enough from our stocks to keep them supplied with even this small allowance, as it is not available from any other quarter.

"Sugar even to a greater amount than the French ration is a human necessity. If our people will reduce by one-third their purchases and consumption of candy and of sugar for other uses than preserving fruit, which we do not wish to interfere with, we can save the French situation.

"In the interest of the French people, and of the loyalty we owe them to divide our food in the maintenance of our common cause, I ask the American people to do this. It is unthinkable that we refuse their request.

(Signed) "Herbert Hoover."