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TELEGRAPHY.

Half a Century Since the First Message was Sent.

The fiftieth anniversary of the sending of the first telegraphic message occurred on the 24th of May last. The original message was transmitted from Washington to Baltimore by Professor Samuel F. B. Morse on the morning of May 24, 1844. It was a simple sentence, glorious in its earnestness and subtle in its praises of the master mind which brought the enterprise to a full fruition, "What hath God wrought."

It is also something of a coincidence that the old University building on Washington square in which Morse made the most of his experiments on the telegraph, should be torn down during the very week in which the fiftieth anniversary takes place. Yet such is the fact, for the work of demolition is already in progress and the old room on whose walls the then struggling inventor strung forty miles of wire will soon be no more. Morse's connection with the University arose from his position as professor of "the literature of the arts of design," which he obtained in 1835, for he was an artist of excellent repute, being, in fact, one of the founders of the National Academy of Design, and its president for over eighteen years.

This side of Professor Morse's character is not nearly as well known as it might be. His original intention was to follow art. He was a protege of Benjamin West, and his celebrated picture of "The Dying Hercules," is mentioned in the British art reports of 1813 as being one of the nine best paintings in a gallery of 1,000. Among the exhibitors were such men as Turner, Northcote, Lawrence and Wilkie. His picture of "The Judgment of Jupiter in the Case of Apollo, Marpessa and Idas," was also widely noted.

The original idea for the invention of the telegraph occurred to Morse while crossing the Atlantic. He was on his way home from an extended European tour, which he undertook in furtherance of his art career. The vessel was the packet ship Sully, commanded by Captain Pell, who is still a resident of Brooklyn, and it is related that her passengers were a particularly intellectual set of people. To while away the tedium of a long voyage they were indulging in discussions which were apt to take a scientific turn. Among them was Dr, Charles T. Jackson of Boston, who remarked one day on the facility with which an electric current could be made to traverse a circuit of wire. Professor Morse had made a special study of electricity when a student at Yale College, and entered heartily into a discussion regarding the possibilities of the science. During the discussion an idea struck h1m and he exclaimed, "If the presence of electricity can be made visible in any part of the circuit I see no reason why intelligence may not be transmitted instantaneously by electricity.'

It was really the birth of the whole modern system. Morse immediately left the cabin of the ship and went on deck to brood over his idea. Almost instantly to his mind occurred what he afterwards evolved into what is known as the in existence, he figured out a series of dots and dashes which were to stand for various preconcerted signs. His idea was to produce a spark by means of the current, and combining various lengths of the flash. make a system of numerals and an alphabet which could be used for intercourse. So feasible did the idea seem to him that he remarked to Captain Pell that he need not be surprised if he saw a magnetic telegraph in operam within a very short time. The captain rembers the remark yet and treasures it among his st traditions. vas in the early thirties. When Morse America he was so poor that he had to time to his art. For several years his dormant and then he obtained a in New York University. In this as at least enabled to obtain a bare ile he spent any overplus in making Then came his acquaintance with with Professor R. D. Gale, who ary aid and advice in furthering as the first real step in advance, arn that a number of invitations distinguished men of the city to meet him in the geological cabinet of the university on January 24, 1838. A large assemblage gathered and it was arranged for them to transmit messages to one another, which they did to intense delight. One of the messages, inviting the universe to turn around, caused a great deal of merriment. Morse also, about this time, lectured on the subject at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia and succeeded in exhibiting his invention to Martin Van Buren, then President of the United States. He tried to sink a cable under the East River from Governor's Island to Castle Garden, but the anchor of a near by vessel caught in it and came to grief. That was in 1842. Meanwhile, and as early as 1838, Professor Morse had endeavored to secure the co-operation of Congress in establishing an experimental telegraph line between Baltimore and Washington. Rebuff and failure met him at every turn 'until 1843, when John P. Kennedy of Maryland proposed to appropriate \$30,000 for a series of experiments to test the merils of the scheme. He was met, even at this stage, with sarcasm and ridicule and various members of the House seemed to vie with each other in satirical efforts at downing it. It was compared to Millerism and various isms which were held up as proper for the public to have a fling at during the day, and one congressman remarked that "it would require a scientific analysis to determine just how far the magnetism of mesmerism was analogous to that to be employed in telegraphs, e, however, the bill passed

passed just five minutes before the adjournment. The former artist was overjoyed, and in his de light promised the girl that she should indite the first telegraph message that was ever sent over the line

A little more than a year afterward Morse fulfilled his promise. A small room in the east front of the Capitol was fitted up, and in Baltimore the Mount Claire depot was used. No. 16 cotton covered wire was used in relays weighing 150 pounds each. Morse manipulated the Washington terminus, while Alfred Vail was at the Baltimore

When all was ready Miss Ellsworth gave Morse the message which her mother had suggested, "What hath God wrought?" Morse then transmitted it to Baltimore according to the code, and it went on everlasting record as the first message ever transmitted by a recording telegraph. Miss Ellsworth, who afterward became Mrs. Roswell Smith, always retained the message on which Professor Morse placed his indorsement.

The line was not opened for business until April 1, 1845. The receipts for the first day of what is now the largest and best paying industry in the world, amounted to just one cent. The only customer that appeared was an office seeker, who had nothing but a \$20 bill and one cent. He wanted to send a message to Baltimore free of charge. This was against the rules, so he was told he could have one cent's worth of telegraphy. Accordingly Washington asked Baltimore, "Four," which in the code meant, "What time is it?" and Baltimore replied back, "One," which meant "One o'clock."

On April 5. 12 1-2 cents were taken in. April 6 was Sunday and the line was not in operation. On the 7th, 60 cents were received. On the 8th, \$1.32. On the 9th, \$1.04. Not a very auspicious start on the half century of life which the telegraph has just completed.

But though the telegraph has clearly proved its great utility it was not recognized by the government in proportion to its merit. Morse offered to sell it outright to the government for \$100,000, but he received no encouragement and had to depend on private enterprise for its advancement. The announcement in Washington of the nomination of Clay and Frelinghuysen as Presidential candidates by the Whig Convention at Baltimore was a demonstration which brought it a great deal of prominence. It was during the war, however, that its very great utility was shown.

In company with the railroad it may be said to have been the most potent factor in the saving of the Union. It was truly the electric nerve which held the Northern States together. and by its use were accomplished deeds which but for it would have been impossible. The glorious record of the military telegraphs is one of the choicest traditions of the war.

Now the second half of the century of this wonderful invention is about to begin, It finds us so used to the new mode of things that it is difficult to contemplate life as it used to exist. Its invention marks an epoch in the world's growth, the passing from a dark to an enlightened age. The Morse code. In his artist notebook, which Is still introduction of the duplex, the quadruplex and all

TO REDUCE HIS SALARY.

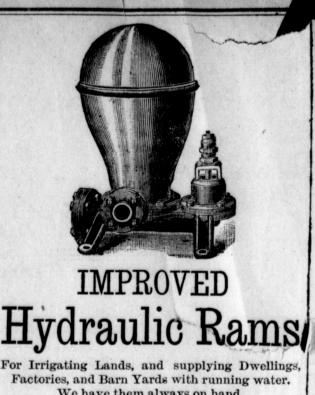
Explanation of Mr. Mulock's Bill to Cut Down the Governor General's Pay.

The discussion on the tariff is occupying so much time in Parliament that the papers have little else to report of our legislators. It is evident that the time must come when a reduction of expenditure will be made on all sides. Mr. Mulock, member for North York, Ont., has a bill before the house, having for its object a reduction in the Governor General's salary from £10,000, or nearly \$50,000 per annum, to £5,000, or nearly \$25,000, the change to be made on the expiration of the term of the present incumbent in office. Mr. Mulock's explanation of his bill is worth reading. He said:-

"In answer to the request of some hon. gentleman that I should explain this Bill, I beg to state that the salary of the Governor General is referred to in section 105 of the British North America Act in the following words:-

Unless altered by the Parliament of Canada, the salary of the Governor General shall be £10,000 sterling, money of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, payable out of the consoli-dated revenue fund of Canada, and the same shall form a third charge thereon.

It will thus appear from this clause that the sum of £10,000 a year attached to this office was not in the spirit of this Act a fixed and unalterable sum, but simply a sum named at the commencement of confederation and apparently intended to be revised from time to time, inasmuch as it is only declared to be the salary until the amount is altered by the Parliament of Canada. Last session I moved for a return, I have a copy of it in my hand now, showing some-and I hope all-of the expenses in connection with this office from the date of confederation down to the 30th of June, 1892. Perhaps it is only necessary for me to give the total of these figures to show that the time has arrived-in fact, I venture to say has long since passed-for Parliament to address its attention to this question, in order to see whether an unnecessary expenditure of public money was not being made upon this office. And, sir, I venture to say, that he is the best friend of the office in question who points out abuses in order to their removal. Such at all events is the spirit in which I take the liberty of introducing this Bill to the House. In justification of the course which I have pursued, let me say, that from the official return now in my hand, it appears that there has been expended the following sums out of the public money of Canada upon this office during the period I have alluded to, namely, from confederation to the 30th of June, 1892, in payment of the Governor Generals' salaries the sum of \$1,216,666.05, being the amount assigned to it under the Confederation Act; in payment of Governor Generals' travelling expenses, the sum of \$145,903.45; in payment of salaries to the Governor Generals' secretaries' office, the sum of \$270,350.14; in payment of contingencies, Governor Generals' Secretaries' office, the sum of \$217,-426.60; in payment of rent (I presume of a dence before the acquisition of Rideau Hall), \$7,-854; purchase of domain (being, I presume, the purchase of Rideau Hall), \$82,000; additions, alterations, repairs, and maintenance in respect of Rideau Hall, \$547,143.45; in payment for furniture, \$118,853.01; gardens and grounds (I suppose that is for wages of servants and expenses of that kind on the grounds), \$94,349.86; fuel and light, \$151,371.10. That, I believe, includes the annual grant of \$8,000 a year to the Governor General for fuel and light, which seems to me practically a gratuity and addition to his salary for which I fail to find any justification. The sums make altogether an amount of \$2,851,917.66, or an annual expenditure of \$114,076.70, being about \$65,000 a year in excess of the £10,000 sterling attached to the office at the time of its creation in 1867. No Government is specially blameworthy or entitled to special credit in respect of the administration in that respect; but I venture to say that the expenses have grown to an unreasonable amount. In this view I invited the attention of the House a year ago to a motion which I submitted in supply, in the hope that the Government would see fit to revise the whole system before the new Governor General accepted office. It would have been a most opportune time, I think, for Parliament to have dealt with this question, when one Governor General was going out and before his successor was appointed. Now, we are in this position: a new Governor General has been appointed, and it might fairly be said that with the practice of twenty-five years before him it would be unfair to have such a change as I propose take effect during the incumbency of the present Governor General. I feel the force of that objection; and, therefore. my Bill contemplates a substantial reduction all



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British and American Life Insurance Companies Distanced.-Remarkable Change in Eighteen Years.

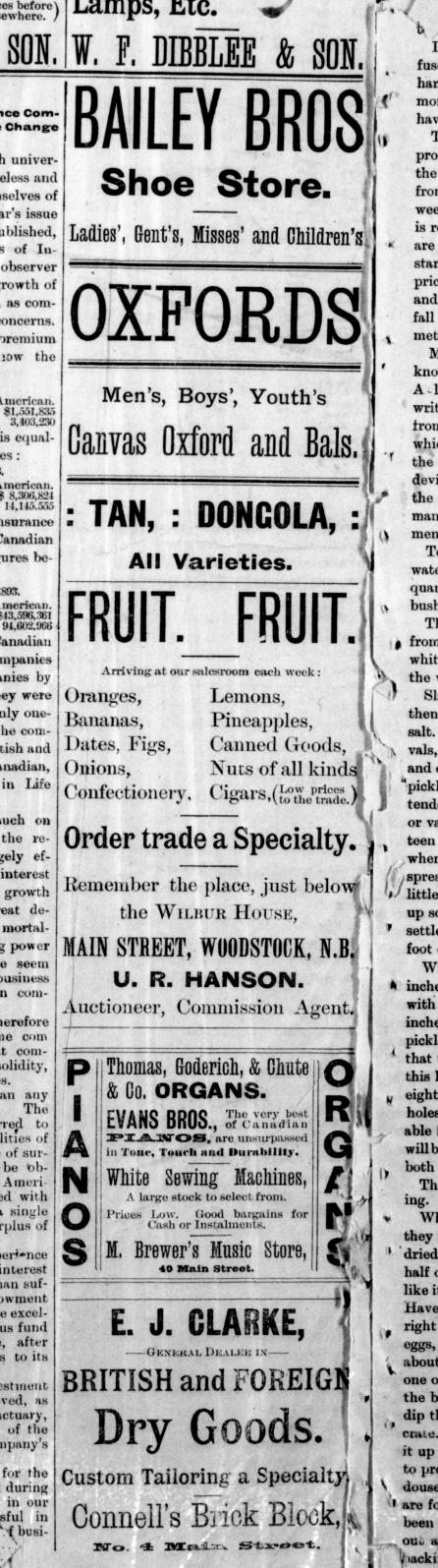
CANADA TO THE FRONT.

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Life Insurance has become of such universal popularity that only the most careless and non-provident hesitate to avail themselves of it in one way or another. In this year's issue of the Insurance blue book, just published, entitled an "Abstract of Statements of Insurance Companies in Canada," the observer cannot fail to note the immense growth of the business of Canadian companies, as compared with British and American concerns. Take for illustration the increase of premium income. The following figures show the result:

PREMIUM INCOME 1875 & 1893.



In the course of ti the house and y

the senate, where it lay of business more important people's representatives. It ng of the session 119 bill Morse, in spite of his coy utterly cast down an ding to leave Early ney Annie G

the other additional "plexes" has widened its range till it claims as its domain every part of the traversible world.

In 1860, sixteen years after the first news mes sage was sent, only one operator was required at Chicago to send out telegraphic reports from the convention which nominated Lincoln. The convention of 1892, on the other hand, required the services of 125 operators in the convention hall. There are 2,000,000 miles of telegraph wire in the world today, besides 150,000 miles of submarine cables.

Up on Washington square the dropping of the gargoyles from the front of the University building is like a portent-the doing away with all traditions surrounding the early struggles of the telegraph. Perhaps it is the birth of a new era. The original instruments with which were transmitted and received the first message are now the property of the Western Union Telegraph Company. They are kept in the building or Broadway.-New York Press.

An American Opinion.

It is the duty of all Democrats in the Senate and the House to stand firm for substantial revenue reform. The surrender of the Senate must not be acquiesced in by the Democratic party. Every effort must be made to improve the wretched measure that is falsely called a tariff-reform bill. If a bold front is shown such improvement can be effected. The real Democrat in Congress must give to the "Conservatives" an opportunity to return to the party and to give up some of the de-mands they have made, thus far successfully, in behalf of the trusts. The men who have turned their backs upon their party's pledges should have ample opportunity to repent but they should be told in unmistakable terms that they must repent or seek other party alliances.

The President has still an opportunity to disappoint his enemies and his critics. He can bring to bear upon the "Conservative" Senators that firm and courageous temper that carried the Silver Repeal bill against a hostile minority so large that it could have absolutely prevented a vote. He ought to do his best to save his party from its threatened disgrace. He may give it a winning issue, or he may drive it back to the point where it stood twenty years ago, leaving it to recognize and reform its lines after unburdening itself of the men who have plunged it into the slough of despond. He may save the ground that it gained or he may make it necessary to win the battle again.

The final outcome rests largely with the President. If he is strong the country may have a good tariff bill. There are plenty of courageous and sincere Democrats in Congress to stand by him in any demand that he may make that Demo cratic pleges shall be fulfilled .- New York World.

The tariff bill now before the Senate would be ridiculous if it were not detestable and contemptible

t dangerous. T men who supif it w rty la e lead

the term of office of the present incumbent. That is the direction in which my Bill moves."

along the line, to take effect on the expiration of

Of Interest to Horsemen.

Keep both eyes wide open looking for spurious pedigrees. There is a large crop of them this spr-

The early habits of the colt will cling to it throught life, hence the importance of teaching it from the beginning to travel at a brisk walk.

Pet and handle colts sufficiently to make them gentle and easily breakable, but never play with them. If you do, you will make tricky horses of them.

At the recent London show Danegelt's son headed the first three stallion classes, and his grandsons came to the front in other classes. It is questionable if there has ever been such an occurrence in the history of shows of the breed. Danegelt's own brother. Knangelt was sold eighteen months ago to the Italian Government for a large sum.

The finest

ney stallion the world, as d hackney sire of the day. and some chestnut, a foal ; dam, Young Nellie, by is bred by George Bourwas purchased Il Essex, for a

etaining him

have gone to

Canadian. British. American. 1875.....\$ 707,256 \$ 623,296 1893.....5,156,008 1,041,228 The amount of Insurance effected is equally suggestive, as given by these figures : INSURANCE EFFECTED 1875 & 1893. Canadian. British. American

\$ 5,077,601 \$1,689,833 \$ 8,306,824 27,930,196 2,967,855 14,145,555 1875.....\$ 5,077,601 1893 It is, however, in the amount of insurance actually in force in 1893 that our Canadian companies are so far ahead. The figures below speak for themselves:

TOTAL INSURANCE IN FORCE 1875 & 1893.

Canadian. British. American. 1875......\$ 21,957,296 \$19,455,607 \$43,596,361 1893......167,483,872 33,572,609 94,602,966 Therefore, in this respect, our Canadian companies now lead the British companies by 500% and the American companies by about 100%, whereas 18 years ago they were Oranges, about equal with the British and only onehalf as strong as the American. In the competition for business there are 18 British and American companies and only 12 Canadian, clearly demonstrating the fact that in Life Insurance we are well to the front.

Where insurance is now done so much on the investment principle, and where the results of the various plans are so largely effected by the mortality, and the interest earning power of the companies, the growth of Canadian business may be, in a great degree, attributed to the lower rate of mortality, and to the greater interest earning power of the companies. It would therefore seem to be in the interest of insurers, on business principles alone, to patronize Canadian companies.

The would be insurer having therefore made up his mind to insure in a Home com pany, will naturally seek to select that company which bears the true test of solidity, viz.: the net surplus over all liabilities.

The North American Life better than any other home company stands this test. The government abstract already referred to shows that the ratio of assets to liabilities of this company is 121, and percentage of surplus to liabilities 21. It will also be observed that not only does the North American rank first when relatively compared with all other companies, but that with a single exception, it has the largest net surplus of assets over all liabilities.

This company had the unusual experience last year in life insurance of its cash interest receipts for the year being more than sufficient to meet all death and endowment claims under its policies. It made the excellent addition to its reserve and surplus fund of over 58 per cent. of its income, after having met all expenses and payments to its policy holders.

The allocation of surplus to investment policies maturity in 1894 was approved, as made by the company's consulting actuary, and such surplus is again in excess of the estimated results contained in the company's authorized book of tables.

Mr. Hugh S. Wright is the agent for the North American in this locality, and during the few years he has been working in our f busimidst has been emi ecuring for his com

