

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 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.

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 protegee 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.

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.

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 Morse code.

It was in the early thirties. When Morse came to America he was so poor that he had to sell his time to his art. For several years his art was dormant and then he obtained a position in New York University.

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.

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.

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

The finest horse in the world, as the saying is, was bred by George Bourne, a young man, Young Nellie, by the name of the dam, Young Nellie, by the name of the sire, was purchased by the late Duke of Devonshire, for a large sum.

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passed just five minutes before the adjournment. The former artist was overjoyed, and in his delight 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

In 1860, sixteen years after the first news message was sent, only one operator was required at Chicago to send out telegraphic reports from the convention which nominated Lincoln.

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.

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.

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.

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 Democratic pledges shall be fulfilled.

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

The early habits of the colt will cling to it through 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.

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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.

"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 consolidated 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.

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.

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:

Table with 3 columns: Year, Canadian, British, American. Rows for 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883.

Therefore, in this respect, our Canadian companies now lead the British companies by 500% and the American companies by about 100%.

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.

The would be insurer having therefore made up his mind to insure in a Home 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.

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.

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IMPROVED Hydraulic Rams. For Irrigating Lands, and supplying Dwellings, Factories, and Barn Yards with running water. We have them always on hand.

Also, a Full Stock of the following: Black and Galvanized Wrought Iron Pipe. Lead Pipe (Made especially for Aqueducts). Fredericton Hard Brick.

Purdy and Green Lime. Tobique Land Plaster and Super-Phosphate. Brandram's White Lead. Elephant White Lead (the Purest and Best).

Elephant Ready Mixed Paints, (Most Reliable Paint in the market.) Refrigerators. All kinds of Pumps. Mill Supplies. Iron, Coal and Carriage Stock. (Get our prices before buying elsewhere.)

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That is the gift of gifts. You have given me gift of ten times the cost, but if I had to lose, all but one I would keep this Bissell Carpet Sweeper. Our Christmas Bissells are made in 12 of the richest woods grown. First come, first choice.

We are headquarters for them as well as

Wringers, (Six different kinds.) Ice Cream Freezers, Lawn Mowers, Wire Cloth, Window Screens, Screen Doors, Lamps, Etc.

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