

TEN WORD TELEGRAMS.

HOW PEOPLE STUDY TO SAVE THE COST OF ANOTHER WORD.

It is a habit rather than a matter of economy—some of the devices used—the cost of messages now as compared with that in the earlier years.

Although the price of telegraphic messages has been greatly reduced in the last thirty years, the ten-word custom is still strong upon the American people says a New York paper. An officer of the Western Union Telegraph Company made two or three laborious computations as to the average length of messages other than those addressed to newspapers, and found that it was a fraction under fourteen words. A like computation made several years earlier showed almost exactly the same average. There has been no very recent computation on the subject, but there is no reason to believe that the average length of telegraphic messages has increased since the average was found to be between thirteen and fourteen words. Users of the telegraph still resort to all sorts of devices to keep within the ten words that entitle the messages to the lowest tariff rate.

"Smorning" still stands for "this morning" and "seveining" for "this evening," while there are twenty other abbreviations employed by way of economy. The small connecting words, the articles "a" and "the" and all such superfluous decorations in English are still omitted from the ordinary literature of telegraphy. But the commonest and least reasonable form of this economy is that which leads the sender of a message to leave his thought half expressed, often to the mystification and distress to the recipient. Nine persons out of ten treat the ten-word limit as sacred; and whether rich or poor sacrifice considerations of clearness, convenience, and certainty to the saving of a few cents.

There was sufficient for economy thirty years ago, when the 15-cent rate applied to only the shorter distances and the rate for each additional word was far above the present additional word rate. The highest rate for ten words to Western Union offices within the United States and the British provinces is now \$1, and the highest additional rate is seven cents per word. In 1866 it cost \$14.05 to send a ten-word message from North Sydney, Nova Scotia, to Santa Fe, New Mexico. Such a message between these places now costs \$1. The process of cheapening rates has gone on in two ways, by limitation of the maximum rate for ten words, and by extension of the area of the 25-cent message. The maximum rate in 1866 for ten words was over \$14; the maximum ten-word rate in 1872 was \$5. The maximum was reduced next year to \$2.50. It would have been \$3 but for the fact that the people of California, who were especially interested in the rate, then used constantly a \$2.50 gold piece, and the rate was fixed for convenience at the denomination of that coin. The maximum was next reduced to \$2, then to \$1.50, \$1.25, and finally to \$1.

Meanwhile the area of the 20-cent rate was steadily widening, until it came to include a whole State in New England and the Middle Atlantic States. Then came the 25-cent rate from point to point in New England, and from New York to any place in that division. The 25-cent rate is now extended to most of the densely populated States. It has not yet reached Texas, parts of which are as distinct from each other telegraphically as Portland, Me., and San Francisco. Lower rates have been made for cities and their suburbs, and there was for a brief period a 15-cent rate of pretty wide application. There is now a 10-cent rate between commercial exchange where there is practically no delivery, the sender and the receiver each being at the elbow of the operator.

There are still many small places in the United States that can be reached only by the payment of a high rate. Such are places not on Western Union wires, reached only by way of small connecting lines, by telephone, or by messenger. There are many small lines of telegraph in private hands. Some of these have been built by operators upon speculation. The Western Union Company has absorbed many such as they came to have a business of some volume.

While most persons are still under the dominion of the ten-word telegraphic limit, the telegraph is used much more freely for business, and especially for social purposes, than it was thirty years ago. Men may hesitate at exceeding their ten words, but they no longer feel the expenditure of 25 cents for a despatch asking a friend to dinner or inquiring for an invalid or ordering theatre seats, a reprehensible luxury. The frequent use of the telegraph for such purposes is spreading to all sorts of people. I was once confined to the well-to-do. Some cynics say that the telegraph is an excellent adjunct to courtship when the lady seems of many minds as to receiving the attentions of a gentleman. A ten-word despatch saying, "I'll come out at 4, hoping you'll walk," it is said, will thoroughly fluster a coy maiden who might find excuses for declining a more formal invitation. While most persons still content themselves with infrequent ten-word messages, there are few curious folk who write long letters by telegraph, not business letters, but letters of friendship, and even of a more tender sort. There are others who habitually use

the telegraph when to all appearances the mails would serve their purpose quite as well.

It has been observed that the telegraph is much used by business men in places far removed from great markets with which they have dealings. Perhaps one reason for the persistence of the ten-word superstition lies in the fact that telegraphic rates beyond the 25-cent ten-word rate are a mystery to the public. There is a simple method of calculation for messages beyond ten words. The rates for ten words are divided into groups of three—25, 30, 35; 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65—and the middle rate of the group is to be divided by 15 to obtain the additional word rate. Thus the additional word rate for places to which the rate for ten words is 25, 30, or 35, is two cents; for points to which it is 40, 45, or 50, three cents; for points to which it is 55, 60, or 65, four cents. For the next group of three it is five cents, for the next six, and for the \$1 rate for ten words the additional word rate is seven cents. Knowing this, and that the ten-word rate within the limit of the populous States is 25 cents and from a State to an adjoining State seldom more than 50 cents, one is in no great danger of being overcharged by an operator or a messenger boy.

Oceanic cable rates have been greatly reduced since the transatlantic cable first became a success, but cabling is still in large part a business necessity or a luxury of grief. Cable rates to London in 1866 \$100 for twenty words. They were reduced in the same year to \$50 for twenty words. Next year they became \$26.25; in 1868, \$16.41; in 1870, \$15; in 1871, \$10. Then in 1872, came the word rate of \$1. It rose to \$1.50 in 1873, and has since been at various times, according to the conditions of competition, \$1.50 cents, 75 cents, and, for a while in 1886, 12 cents. The present rate of 25 cents was fixed in September, 1888. Cable rates to places on the west coast of Africa run as high as \$2.66 per word. The rate to the island of Mauritius, when the Red Sea cable was interrupted and messages could not be delivered via Aden, is \$4.11. The rate to New Caledonia is \$2.51, and other Australasian rates vary between \$1.27 and \$3.23 according to the route employed.

The cable company usually quotes rates to European countries without naming places, unless, perhaps, the capital. Of course rates may be much higher than the quoted tariff when obscure interior places are to be reached. The telegraph companies join in publishing at Bern a volume that professes to give a list of all the telegraphic stations on earth. The number is between 87,000 and 90,000. Officers of the telegraphic companies hazard the guess that the cable would not be freely used for social purposes, even if the rate to London were as low as 10 cents a word. One reason is that while it is a simple matter to telegraph from New York to a well-known address in London, it is a much more difficult thing to be sure of address in provincial towns, and especially in Continental places, where a foreign language comes on to increase the liability of confusion.

The expense of correcting a mistake when telegraphing upon land lines within the territory of a single country is comparatively small, and may be done with reasonable promptness, but when it comes to correcting a blunder in a trifling cable message of purely social significance, the cost is absurdly out of proportion to the importance of the matter involved.

ST. JOHN BOY IN ENGLAND.

Success of Thomas B. Fielders as a Writer for the London Newspaper.

As most of the people who go to New York from the maritime provinces are called "Nova Scotians," it is not surprising that the N. Y. Sun so describes Thomas B. Fielders, a St. John boy, who is the subject of the following sketch. The Sun says:

It is a curious fact that in recent years only two American newspaper men who have tried to do so have succeeded in writing such newspaper matter as will meet the taste of the London public. One, Mr. Henry J. W. Dam, has prospered best as a writer in other lines while making the basis of his living upon the newspapers. The other, Mr. Thomas B. Fielders, has succeeded very handsomely wholly as what is called a "special" in England. He has not written two columns for the American press or for any other publication except the English dailies. It is likely that he stands alone in this respect.

Thomas B. Fielders is a Nova Scotian who came here by way of Pennsylvania, where he made a name for himself by his fearless newspaper work with regard to Molly Maguires and by his bravery and enterprise in reporting mining accidents and whatever else came in his way. He went upon the New York Times and quickly gained the first place upon the reportorial staff by the display of the same qualities that he had shown in the country. He was an athlete, and very strong and sound of body, with a reservoir of vitality that enabled him to conceive and execute many a risky and daring adventure for the news, and especially for his paper. He once got aboard an incoming ship after being forbidden to do so, got the news he wanted, and jumped off in the dark when the officers forbade his leaving the vessel. He landed upon his own tug-

boat, but the jump was a risky one. He went to London for the Herald in 1889 and joined, or was joined by Mr. Dam. They divided the big reporting over there. But Mr. Fielders did not succeed these by the gits that pushed him forward here, in order to keep himself busy when there was nothing important to do, he used to write light and humorous articles about trite and homely topics, such as the skating in the Park, life in a country village, an afternoon at the circus, and the like. It is this vein that he works in London to-day with such success that everybody knows him and his work, and he is one of the most successful young men in London newspaper life.

A new place has been created for him on the Pall Mall Gazette, where he is the editor's special man. He is outside the news staff, but is sent to the big annual events at Cowes, Aldershot, Leeds, and wherever they may take place. He has greatly modified his style as a reporter. He has had to do so because the English instinctively distrust our methods of using poetical and fanciful similes, comparisons, and illustrations in treating serious events. They take umbrage at what they call the flippancy and frolicsomeness of American reportorial writing, and cannot be made to believe that the facts which are set forth are not as fanciful as the language used in recording them. Fielders is best known and liked, however, for a very different line of work. For instance, one series of articles he has written has pretended to describe incidents in the lives of some cormorants that are housed in St. James's Park. He treats the birds as if they were members of an actual London household of high bred people, and tells of their quarrels, scandals, mishaps, and all their affairs with no pretence of gravity or reason, but with a quality and degree of lightness that has proved acceptable beyond almost anything that this enterprising and original drily has yet published. Letters have come to the office from all parts of England and all corners of the globe asking for more and more news of the cormorants, and every now and then the public is treated to articles of a similar character about the wild animals in London, not in the same way but in a series of funny sketches. In view of the success that this American has achieved in a land where it has been said for a quarter of a century that no American can get even a foothold, it is interesting to quote a few lines from a paper on the cormorants in order that the American reader may understand what sort of writing has brought about this exception to the rule.

In the first week of June the Lady Cormorant informed the husband that she intended to become a mother once more. He tried to dissuade her. He painted in gloomy colors her previous efforts: how her first had fallen into the water, caught cold and stiffened; how she had done nothing but sit all last year, and that out of three kids but one remained. His pleading and remonstrances was in vain. She said that she was possessed of a desire to lay an egg, and the desire was so strong that it was useless to fight against it. Finally he said, "Have it your own way." She laughed lightly and said, "Of course I will. You are now talking about something you know nothing about. You never were a mother, Dvonisius." He grinned, and said, "I'm blotted if I can see any particular advantage in being a mother. I don't want to be glued to one spot for weeks and weeks and rub all my chest feathers off. Seems to me an egg is about as uncomfortable a thing to sit on as could be made. If it was flat I could partially understand; but what's the use in wasting time in discussion? If you say you feel like laying, why you'll have to lay, I suppose. Having been torn from her home in her early childhood, as explained in a previous article, the Lady Cormorant has had no opportunity of picking up by degrees such information as is usually possessed by female members of her race. On this account she has always arranged preliminaries after the manner of an amateur. A professional, if desirous of laying an egg, would simply enter the nest, wriggle about until a comfortable position was secured, lay three or four eggs, and then begin to sit, but the Lady Cormorant is still under the impression that as soon as she lays a single egg she must begin to sit. This year she adopted her invariable custom. One morning she did not get off the nest to go to breakfast. The husband called out, "Aren't you coming?" She said, "No; you may bring mine." He paused for a moment as if surprised. Then he said, "Ah," adding, "Is it all right?" The Lady Cormorant blushed and nodded. She had laid the usual egg, and was prepared to sit on it until the shell cracked. The end of the story is that the child is born and thrives until it tumbles out of the nest into the water. Its first cousin saw it fall and ate it up. He is now out by all the other cormorants and regarded with aversion by the ladies of every winged family in the park.

THE RETIRED BURGLAR.

He Finds It Hard to Accustom Himself to Ordinary Hours of Living.

"My chief trouble now," said the retired burglar, "is about my hours. I have been so long accustomed to working nights and sleeping days that I find it difficult to change back to the hours of other folks. Instead of having my breakfast at 7 o'clock in the morning I have it at 7 o'clock in the evening. Some folks make their dinner the last meal in the day, but I never could get used to that, I can sleep better on a light meal; so I have my dinner in the middle of the day, I mean the middle of the night, and my supper about 5 o'clock in the morning. This schedule works all right for the first half of the night. There's

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plenty of life then, and I can go to the theatre and one place and another, but after dinner, I must say, I find it pretty tedious. When I was at work, and my mind was occupied I never thought anything about it; but now it is different. This is a bigger town 'n it used to be and its open all night. There's plenty of occupations nowadays that people work at all night, but the people that work at 'em are working at 'em. You don't see 'em around the streets; and the general fact remains that most people work days and sleep nights; and the cold fact is that from dinner time to supper time I feel sort 'o lost.

But I'm not discouraged. I don't suppose I could change the habits of a lifetime in a minute, and I shall just keep on trying till I get my hours shifted around again like other people's."

WAS A PATIENT

In St. Joseph's Hospital
Hamilton, Ont.The Doctors Said a Surgical
Operation Was necessary to
to effect the cure.THE LADY LEFT THE HOSPI-
TAL AND DOCTORS.She Uses Paine's Celery Com-
pound and is Cured.

Another wonderful, almost miraculous, cure to report. As usual, the afflicted one is saved by the use of Paine's Celery Compound.

Mrs. Annie Saunders, the cured lady, lives in Bracadale, a pleasant suburb of Toronto. Her sufferings from a trouble common to many women, were terrible, and the wonder is that she now lives. To her, medical and hospital treatment proved of no avail. At a critical juncture, the doctors deemed an operation imperatively necessary.

Mrs. Saunders would not sanction the proposed operation; she decided to try a medicine that had cured thousands; she had faith in its wondrous powers to make her a new woman. Paine's Celery Compound was her chosen agent; she used it, and thanks Providence for the happy change effected. She writes as follows regarding her cure:

"It is with much pleasure that I testify to the value of your wonderful Paine's Celery Compound. I was a great sufferer from severe attacks of neuralgia in the left ovary. At times the attacks were so acute that I thought I would lose my reason."

"Several doctors treated me, and I was a patient in St. Joseph's Hospital, Hamilton. I obtained no relief from medical treatment. The doctors said that unless I had the ovary taken away I could not be cured."

"Instead of submitting to the operation, I used Paine's Celery Compound, and I am thankful your valuable medicine cured me. I feel like a new woman, and I would like all sufferers to know just what this great medicine has done for me."

About Cushions.

Handsome and inexpensive cushion covers may be made of pale blue denim, embroidered with white silk; also covers of white duck embroidered elaborately or

simply outlined in delicate colours in an all-over design, are handsome

It is well to remember in getting cushion covers to have something that harmonizes with the surroundings; don't have too great a contrast between it and everything else in the room, and don't have it look as though it was made more for ornament than use.—Editor.

BICYCLES COST MONEY.

The Present High Price Are Not Likely to Be Much Lower Next Year.

Manufacturers and dealers say that bicycles will be no cheaper next year; that is, the standard price for the best makes will remain at \$100, says a New York paper. But for an article with a standard price the variation in cost to the purchaser of a bicycle is very great. It has been stated that the cost of a \$100 bicycle, when completed at the factory, does not exceed \$45. The difference is represented by the profits of manufacturers, agents, and sub-agents, and the cost of advertising, the rent of agencies, and the expenses of travelling salesmen. Three years ago one manufacturer estimated that it cost him \$25 in advertising to sell each of his \$150 wheels. When all such expenses of selling can be avoided the maker is willing to grant big concessions to purchasers. One athletic club furnishes its members with a \$100 bicycle for \$72.50, a discount of 27½ per cent. Most makers are glad to give discounts, sometimes even larger than that mentioned, to riders with any kind of a fast record. Still other dealers sell \$100 bicycles at the standard price on instalments, and jump at offers of \$85 in cash.

The big margin between the cost and selling price is bringing more small manufacturers into the business all the time. Two or three skillful workmen may thus start in business. They buy most of the parts of the machine ready made, and their share of the work consists merely of finishing the other parts and assembling the whole. They make a specialty of building bicycles to order, using the different makes of wheels and other parts as desired by the customer. They like to charge the regulation \$100 for their machines, but often may be induced to accept \$65 or \$75. Some of the excellent machines, sold at \$50 or \$60 by the big dry goods stores come of such small workshops. Others are supplied by manufacturers of \$100 wheels, though not sold under names. Such wheels might be classed as seconds, though it is only in finish and in unimportant details that they are inferior to the higher priced

machines. Nevertheless, it may be well to add that not all cheap machines are good.

Just as colored men have distinguished themselves as bicycle riders and instructors, so they have entered the field of manufacturing on a small scale with success.

It is believed that all really good workmen who try to turn out good work, have prospered in the business of making bicycles on a small scale. Although they have not the advantages of the big manufacturers in the way of labor saving machinery, they more than offset this by the saving in commissions, advertising and other expenses of selling. Some of them have been kept pushed all summer making machines to order or for their regular stock trade. At present they are busy repairing and overhauling the machines of cyclists who have been touring. They expect to be kept busy all winter making bicycles to order for use next spring.

While manufacturers and dealers expect to keep prices up to the present notch, other people look for a fall next spring, in view of the tremendous number of wheels turned out daily by makers big and little. It is well known that some manufacturers have been unable to keep up with their orders this year. This fact has stimulated the production of bicycles to an extraordinary degree. Not long ago a Western sewing machine concern put \$1,000,000 into a bicycle plant, and other makers have increased their facilities on nearly the same scale. It would not be surprising, therefore, if a flood of bicycles upon the market next spring should result in an important cut in prices.

Persons who don't care if they are not up to date can get a good bicycle very cheap indeed. There is a large supply of wheels that have been discarded by two, three, four successive owners, and their price has fallen with each transfer. They lack the latest improvements and the model may be several years old, but they are still serviceable. Some dealers make a business of buying such wheels and putting them in order. Buying one of them is a good deal of a lottery for a person not versed in bicycles, but a judge of wheels may sometimes pick up a bargain. Dealers say that comparatively few wheels are rented nowadays.

Decidedly a Back Number.

Fac-similes of the first newspaper ever printed were distributed to the members of the press congress at Heidelberg. It is a sheet published at Strasburg in 1609 by Johann Carolus. In a letter from Venice, dated Sept. 4, in the first number Galileo's discovery of the telescope is announced. "The Government has added 100 crowns to the pension of Master Galileo Galilei of Florence, professor at Padua, because he has invented an instrument which enables one to see distant places as if they were quite near."

You will Live to Regret it if you Pass
this without Reading.

It is an advertisement of FIBRE CHAMOIS but is straightforward and honest and means every word it says. If you wish to obtain double the warmth and satisfaction from your fall and winter clothing, have your coats and overcoats made up with an interlining of FIBRE CHAMOIS.

It will make them windproof. Bitter winds cannot penetrate and cold raw days may be disregarded. It is light in weight, durable and not bulky, and, being porous, the natural moisture of the body is not checked.

It is so inexpensive that your tailor should charge nothing extra.

All this applies to Ladies' Jackets or Wraps or Children's Outer Garments as well.

Patented July 1890, March 1895.