

The Telepost vs Telegraph

It was 65 years on April 1st, since the Postmaster General, acting for the United States Government, inaugurated service over the first commercially operated telegraph line in this country, between Washington and Baltimore.

On April 1, 1845, Prof. Morse and his associates offered to sell his telegraph invention, now used in every civilized country, to the Government, for \$100,000.

Congress, following one of the most acrimonious debates in its history, appropriated \$30,000 for the construction of the Washington-Baltimore line, in order that the merits of the invention might be tested and its value as a government requisite determined, should it ever be regarded as a desirable federal purchase.

Dismissing the proposition as of too conjectural value, the Postmaster General to whose judgment President Polk deferred, said of the Morse system:

"Although the invention is an invention vastly superior to any other devised by the genius of man yet the operation between Washington and Baltimore has not satisfied me that under any rate of postage that can be adopted, its revenues can be made to cover its expenditures."

Today, in this country alone, the Morse system is capitalized for \$200,000,000.

Prof. Alexander Graham Bell offered to sell his telephone patents to the Western Union Telegraph Co. for \$60,000 but the officers of the company said it was only a toy and had no commercial value.

This same toy, according to the annual report of the American Telephone & Telegraph Co., just issued earned \$150,000,000 last year and has now more than 5,000,000 telephones in use throughout this country.

In striking contrast to the attitude of congress in Morse's time, which decried his invention, read what the Committee on the District of Columbia said in its report to the House of Representatives under date of March 10th last, in recommending the admission of the Telepost system of automatic telegraphy to the national capitol:

"As an illustration of the advantages that the Telepost offers, take the following: By its system a message, at a charge of 25 cts to the sender, can be deposited in the Boston office and within one hour there-after be in the possession of the United States postoffice officials at Seattle, duly stamped for local delivery. Thus all carrying charges are saved to the postoffice department and five day's time in delivery to the sender. From the above showing of the Telepost lines in actual operation and under construction it is apparent that the system has long since passed the stage of experimentation."

The Telepost is to the telegraph art what the modern electric operated, high speed cylinder printing press is to the crude hand press of Ben Franklin's time and what other great mechanical improvements are to the primitive implements of fifty years ago, long since consigned to the scrap heap or the department of antiquities of the museum. Its antiquity in every day commercial use to send from 1,000 to 5,000 words a minute under all climatic conditions over one wire, marks an achievement in interstate communication of unparalleled magnitude and presages for the country an era of permanent, efficient, cheap telegraphy for the every minute uses of ev-

ery citizen, big and little.

The Telepost is a working telegraph system in every day commercial use as you may know, between Boston and Portland in New England and between Chicago and St. Louis, Indianapolis, Springfield, Terre Haute, and other cities in Illinois, Indiana and Missouri. It is now working on extensions, north, east, west and south. Its rates of one cent, half a cent and quarter of a cent a word cover all distances like the United States Mail, from the longest to the shortest and are the cheapest in the world.

The Western Union and the Postal which still use the old Morse hand methods of transmission realize more keenly than you do, perhaps, the significance of the continued extension of the Telepost system of automatic telegraphy into all sections of the country with its competition defying rates. In a half hearted effort to mollify the popular and nation wide demand for cheaper tolls to which the Telepost has given new impetus in every section in which it is operating, the older companies recently inaugurated a night letter service modeled in part after the similar all day and all night letter service initiated by the Telepost in this country eighteen months ago.

The old companies' service is limited to six hours and is from 20 to 300 per cent higher than the Telepost universal service of 25 cents for 50 words which is maintained regardless of distance throughout the 24 hours.

These are things to think about on this 65th anniversary because they concern your pocketbook. And what concerns your pocketbook, everything else being considered, touches a chord that makes all of us akin, when it comes to deciding what we want.

The Telepost wants you as one of its friends. It wants you to know what it is doing throughout the country to provide it with a system of low-rate, rapid and accurate telegraphy from coast to coast. It wants you to keep in touch with its development, because it believes that in common with the enlightened thought of the nation you favor a system that will do what the Telepost system is now doing in commercial operation every day in New England and in the middle west. It wants your co-operation and good will in paving the way for its introduction into all parts of your section and your state and will welcome from you any suggestion that will be helpful to it in achieving the ends it seeks, believing that an intelligent public sentiment in your community will facilitate its expansion more effectively than any other agency it could enlist in its cause.

A man by name, Philip Keys, who was working in a logging camp near Falls City, had his skull fractured by a falling limb last Friday. The injured man was taken to Dallas and placed under the care of a physician. Latest report was that there was a chance for his recovery.

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