IMPROVEMENTS TO TELEPHONE SYSTEM

The Installation of Switchboard by the Western Electric Company Means Much for Vallejo

(Vallejo Evening Chronicle.)

In less time than it takes to tell it, the new equipment recently installed by the Western Electric Company at the main office of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company was put into operation and when completed the town of Vallejo had one of the finest equipped exchanges in the state.

All one night a corps of expert electricians and telepnone experts worked hard and swiftly with the idea of making the exchange complete and ready for service before morning. Long before midnight all the mechanical part of the arrangement was in readiness but the officials waited until the calls of the public became few, in order that the experts might get in their work undisturbed and without unnecessarily disturbing any business of telephone users. This work of preparation was watched with great interest by the visitors present; in fact they looked with wonder at the work of the telephone men. "What a mass of wires," said one man; "Really I don't see how they can distinguish one from another." And little wonder, for the back of the board seemed to contain thousands of wires.

The number of calls was not becoming less and with everything in readiness the installers waited for their call. While waiting for the change to be made from the old service to the new ,our attention was called to the working of a telephone exchange—and what a revelation it was.

To those whose knowledge of a telephone system is limited to the fact that if the receiver is taken from the hook someone will say "Number please" and immediately give you the party wanted, a visit to a telephone exchange will be time well spent People were seeing something new every minute. The lighting of the tiny lamps, the low distinct "Number, please" of the operator, the rapid movements of the operators go on almost continuously. Every move counts, no time is wasted in idle conversation and the idea of system prevades. We watched with deep interest all the operations necessary to complete a call but before we could really understand it all, we were told by Mr. Mitchell, the manager, that soon the work of cutting over the new lines would start.

When the foreman gave the order to cut in the new appratus how those men did work! They did'nt tear around madly like most people when in a hurry but made every move count. Each man had his particular work cut out for him and he did it without asking any questions. Everything moved smoothly and so rapidly that those witnessing the addition of the new lines hardly had time to realize what was going on, before it was all over. We were informed by the installer, hovewer that the time taken for this particular cut over was no shorter than usual, which goes to show how well standardized the appratus and methods must have been in order to put this number of new lines in operation without a hitch of any kind.

To a growing city like Vallejo nothing is more essential to its prosperity and advancement than a good telephone system and that it should become necessary for the telephone company to make such elaborate extensions of the system is good evidence that this city is not only keeping pace with the times, but rapidly pushing to the front. The rapid growth in the number of 'phones in this city has made this addition necessary and the new equipment will not only take care of the present demand but will also make adequate provision for future growth.

The telephone has long passed the stage when it was a luxury to be enjoyed by the well-to-do and has become a necessity not only to public institutions and private enterprises but to the home as well. The telephone of today is a servant to the city and the people and a very useful servant it is. Every public building is equipped with telephones which are always busy taking care of the city's affairs. We find them in all the departments of the city hall, in the fire department's quarters throughout the city, in the schools, and hospitals, the police department and in the office of the water and light companies; and these public institutions would be at sea if their telephone connections weer cut off for an hour. While the city finds it an absolute necessity, the average citizen finds it just as essential to his welfare. This is evidenced by the large number of 'phones which have been installed during the past year in private business homes.

A few years ago if we found it necessary to call a physician it meant a walk of often a mile or two. If he was not in when we got there it meant another trip to some other physician. Today we reach his residence by 'phone in a few seconds and if he is out we call up another one in the same length of time, thus saving valuable time and allowing us to remain at home. We find we need something from the store or market in a hurry and still cannot find time to go for it. Without a 'phone we have to get along without it, but with one we can call up and have goods deliver to us without losing any time. In case of rain or bad weather the telephone proves to be the house-wife's best friend. One woman in speaking of her telephone calls it "her friend on the wall." Our most distant friends are always within call and in case of need can be summoned at a minute's notice. As a social aid the telephone is society's best friends. Every day invitations are issued over a 'phone and arrangements made for these delightful informal parties and gatherings. Without a telephone these informal affairs would be difficult.

The business man already knows the value of a telephone to him and it is not a question of having a telephone but a reliable telephone that interests him. Many important deals are now closed daily over the telephone and important matters involving thousands of dollars are decided after conference over the 'phone between two men who may be, at the time, hundreds of miles apart. A reliable telephone and good service are necessary then.

For public convenience the telephone companies now-a-days have an information bureau which tells you practically anything you want to know. Every question imaginable from "What time is it, please," to 'How did the game come out?" is answered each day. This is indeed a great benefit to any city.

This city is fortunate in having so modern an exchange and that it will have many advantages over other cities having inferior service is apparant. The new Western Electric switchboard recently installed is a marvel of completeness and embodies all the latest improvements known to switchboard practice. The local exchange is equipped with the best apparatus obtainable, assuring its patrons the best service and with the co-operation of its subscribers hopes to make its system the best in the state.

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Dated, New York City, November 24, 1908.

PAUL LICHTENSTEIN,
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Trustees.

Underwood, Van Vorst & Hoyt, Attorneys for said Trustee, 25 Broad Street, New York City.

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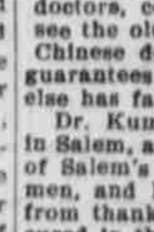

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