WOMEN WHO TELEGRAPH

Fair Ladies Whose Fingers Toy With Lightning.

How They Work and Are Paid—Their Influence on the Wages of Male Operatives.

New York Sunday News.

The telegraph operator looked out of her window at the News reporter and smothered her blond bangs with one hand while she reached for his message. Then she counted the words, tapping each one with the handle of a pen gnawed ragged between her white teeth. Then she nibbled her pen reflectively, surveying the reporter furtively under her long lashes. Finally she said, "Twenty-eight cents," and a silver dollar, without a thirty-five cent hole in it, having been passed over, a small boy was dispatched in search of change.

"I have quite a run of messages this morning," said the operator, "and there's nothing in the drawer but bills. It seems to me I have been doing nothing but changing since 8 o'clock, and only a minute ago I found myself looking in the glass to see if I was recognizable yet."

"Do you commence toying with the lightning as early as that?" asked the reporter.

"From 8 to 8 are my hours. Long, you say? Indeed they are, and dull enough, too, sometimes. I have read novels till I hate the sight of them. Now I'm studying French, for a change."

The reporter inquired how she liked her profession. She liked it well enough. How well was that? Well, it was a great deal better than tending a counter, and that is what she used to do before she learned to master the electric sparks at the night classes of a telegraphic college. "Even if I didn't like it I would stick to it," she said, with a determined flash in the blue eyes. "For when I commenced four years ago I was sneered at by the men for daring to think I could do the work, and I'd submit to any inconvenience to prove that I can. Do women make good operators as a rule? Quite as good ones as men, when they attend to their business, when reminds me that I am neglecting mine. Seventy-two cents, sir. Count it yourself, please. Thank you."

An official of the Western Union company, speaking of men at telegraphers, said to the reporter: "The general public has a very insufficient idea of what it owes to female operators. Little more than five years ago we were the slaves of our men. They formed a high priced, a thoroughly independent body. They made money and spent it. Telegraph operators are as Bohemian in their instincts as actors and newspaper men. They never work while they have cash or credit to play on. Their pay-days fell bi-monthly, and every pay-day left us crippled for operators till the roystering absentees had run their money through. If we ventured to expostulate they would refuse to work at all. If we expressed disapprobation at any thing they did they would let messages accumulate till their would be half a day's, and even longer, delay in the most imppotant business. There was no actual trades' union among them, but they stuck together and had things pretty much their own way.

"Then the suggestion was made that we should employ women as operators. The late President Orton was the originator of this idea. His friends would frequently send young ladies, who had learned telegraphy in private schools, to him for employment, and he knew that a number whom he had found positions in business houses for were capable of excellent work. Finally we employed a few on the short and easy lines. They did their work admirably. They were not as fast as the men, and could not work the heavy distance wires. But for all ordinary work they were quite capable and satisfactory.

"The male operators made a vigorous kick, and distinguished themselves by no little bourishness toward their sister professors, but they had to cave in. They made a strike of it and held out for a week, when the usual break-up occurred, and they staggered in till all were forced to terms. From that time forth the public were better served than it had ever been before. The old rule or ruin reign of the dandy operator was over. But the greatest convenience the employment of women rendered possible was the establishment of the small local offices in hotels and the up-town districts, where it would never have paid to keep a high-toned male operator at a salary of almost as much as the office brought in. Many of our local offices were at the start attended to by young women who took a commission on their returns as pay. Now, however, we have them all under salary. Out of town we have hundreds, I was going to say, of offices in the care of female operators. They are small offices, at places where a man would not stay. For instance, at a village of a couple of score of houses we could not afford to keep an operator at a city salary. But by paying some young girl who lives there $25 or $30 a month, which is more than she could earn in such a place at much harder labor, we are able to keep the line open to furnish facilities which the residents find frequent need of. The same remarks apply to many branch offices here and in other cities where business is light, but there is still a demand for local service. If it was not for our women operaters these places would not be supplied with telegraphic service at all."

If the public have been benefited by the introduction of female operatives into telegraphy, the male operatives certainly have not. There has been a remarkable decline in salaries since the women entered the business. The best operators, giants in their line, who send and take messages with incredible speed, still make handsome salaries enough, as salaries in telegraphy go, and less able operators, by doing extra work, earn good livings. But among the mass of operators salaries have been seriously cut into. Women are doing for from $25 to $50 a month now what ten years ago men got from $50 to $80 and $100 for doing. The pay of operators outside has similarly suffered. Many manufactories and large business houses enjoy private telegraph lines. These used to employ men. Now women do the service at nearly all of them. In the same way, in hundreds of minor country stations, where a man, by combining the wretched salaries of station-agent for the railroad and operator for the telegraph company, contrive to eke out a comfortable living, women now do their work for even less than half their old remuneration.

"And it's going to be worse yet," said an operator, who was standing guard over a Park row lunch-counter, to a reporter. "For the telegraph colleges keep grinding 'em out like corn at a mill. Give 'em $30 a month and a looking-glass and a cheap novel, and they don't ask any more. What show has a decent man got alongside of such opposition, I'd like to know?"

"Did he say that?" ask the young lady at the —— hotel, when the reporter communicated the remarks to her, and asked if they were true.

"He did."

The young lady tapped the lever of her instrument with expressive vehemence.

"Well, all I've got to say is that he is an operator," she replied. "I don't know any worse name for him than that."

"PUT THE FOOL OUT."

Attempt to Lariat Adelina Patti With a Wreath.

New York Times.

Mme. Adelina Patti last night sang in Steinway Hall for the benefit of the sufferers by the Michigan forest fires. The cause in which the co-operation of the public was invited was a good one and that fact and the other important one that a considerable reduction had been made in the price of seats, served to bring to Steinway Hall a large audience, which, while it did not fill the hall, was larger than any which has yet heard Mme. Patti since her reappearance. The audienc was composed of intelligent and discriminating people, who were afforded an opportunity during the evening, which they did not neglect, of exercising their discrimination and good sense by rebuking some very absurd exhibitions of lack of good sense and taste. Mayor Grace and a large number of highly respectable gentlemen occupied seats on the stage. By direction of some inspired dunce, these gentlemen rose whenever Mme. Patti came upon the stage, and again when she left the stage stood until she had disappeared. This was obviously an unnecessary, though harmless and excusable, act of politeness, although it excited the risibilities of the audience. George N. Sanders (said to be a son of ex-Rebel Sanders), chairman of the Mayor's relief committee, undertook to read a list of the invited guests and to make a portenously long speech, which was sufficiently amusing in its blunders, but otherwise an affliction which was calculated to make every person in the audience feel a sense of partnership in the sufferings of the people of Michigan. There remained a further affliction, however, to be imposed by Mr. Sanders, which was altogether ridiculous and to be regretted, in that it not only annoyed the audience but embarrassed Mme. Patti. After Mme. Patti had sung the aria from "Dinorah," she was recalled several times. On the last occasion Mr. Sanders came forward, carrying in one hand a large green wreath decorated with streamers of red, white, and blue, and in the other a silk flag. Approaching Mme. Patti, and disregarding the hisses, laughter, and jeers of the audience, he said, "I am now called upon to add one more to the many laurels you have won, and with this wreath, in the name of his honor, the mayor, to crown you empress of song of both continents." This speech ended, Mr Sanders endeavored to put the wreath over Mme Patti's head. By a very natural impulse, for the wreath was of overwhelming proportions, she avoided him. He persisted, the audience repeating and redoubling its laughter and hisses. At last, to escape, Mme. Patti darted off the stage. Mr. Sanders started off in hasty pursuit, with the streamers of his gayly decorated wreath flying in the air. Mayor Grace seized Sanders frantically by the coat and tried to hold him fast, but he broke away, and disappeared suddenly, to the inexpressible disgust of the audience. When Mr. Sanders reappeared there were hisses all over the hall, and cries of "Put the fool out," and 'We've had enough of that." No fashionable gathering ever more plainly expressed the annoyance it had felt than did the one which finally succeeded in hissing Mr. Sanders down.

A Significant Fact.

The cheapest medicine in use is THOMAS' ECLECTRIC OIL, because so very little of it is required to effect a cure. For croup, diptheria and diseases of the lungs and throat, whether used for bathing the chest or throat, for taking internally or inhaling, it is a matchless compound. eod1w

A Man Who Kept His Word.

Many years ago an orphan boy was taken from the House of Refuge in New York to work for a Paterson farmer. After a while he complained that he was overworked and beaten, and at last he ran away, telling the neighbors before he went that he intended to come back again when a man and "square off" with his unkind employer. On Thanksgiving Day a stalwart young man called on the farmer and announced that he was the identical "orphan," and that he had come to "square off" with him, which he proceeded to do in the most emphatic style, giving the man a sound thrashing. His wife came to the rescue, but the young man also "squared off" with her, and when a big dog was set on him he polished off the dog, too. He then announced that the accounts were all "squared off," and he would return to his western home, whence he had come expressly for the purpose of fulfilling his threat made when a boy. Before a warrant could be issued for his arrest he was many miles on his way from Paterson.

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COLD LEAD.

Another Cold Blooded and Deliberate Murder.

James Jameson Shot and Killed by One Henry Coyne.

Sidney Telegraph.

On Tuesday night at 10:30 o'clock our town was again startled by the sharp report of three pistol shots, and our reporter at once hastened to the spot from which they emanated. The shooting affair occurred in the saloon of Jack Haynes on Rose street, James Jameson and Henry Coyne being the participants. Both of them were employed in the cattle business, and worked for Newman, Hunter & Co., on Running water. The circumstances of the whole affair, as near as we could learn, are as follows: Both parties, Jameson and Coyne, were under the influence of liquor all day, when in the evening they met each other in a saloon on Front street, where they immediately began wrestling one another, all in a joking manner. Coyne, although, took the matter seriously, pulled out his six shooter and struck Jameson on the head, inflicting an awful gash. Upon this, Jameson's friends took him to Dr. Solomon to have his wound dressed and urged him to go to bed. Jameson became very abusive after this and swore if he met Coyne, he would shoot the son ——, Jameson rushed to the depot, where he had his baggage transferred, as he intended to leave for Texas on the evening train, opened his trunk, took out his revolver, loaded it to the muzzle and started back in town to find Coyne. In company with another man, he went to the O. K. saloon and while taking a drink at the bar, Coyne stepped in and without saying a word, drew his revolver and immediately began firing at Jameson; the concussion of the pistol extinguishing all the lights in the saloon. Coyne at this ran out of the saloon, when the lights were re-lit and Jameson was found lying on the floor mortally wounded. Doctors Maple, Kimball, and Solomon were immediately called and at once proceeded to examine the wounded man.

The ball had passed into the bladder and is said to have lodged in the pelvis. After examining him he was conveyed to the Metropolitan hotel, where he expired at 7 o'clock the next evening. No statement could be obtained from him, owing to his unconscious condition. Poor fellow, he was going home to Texas to see his relatives, whom he had not seen for eleven years. His old widowed mother will be waiting at the door to hear his gentle foot steps, but alas, he will not come. May God have mercy on him and may his soul "Requiescat in Pace."

The murderer, after being held by several citizens for about half an hour, was turned loose and escaped. No officers, nor any of the sheriff's strikers, could be found in town after the occurrence, which seems very strange for a town of our size.

A large posse started out on Friday morning in pursuit of Coyne, and the chances are that if he is caught he will fare very roughly, and probably be treated to a necktie party.

Pour on Oil."

L. P. Follett, Marion, O., states that he has used THOMAS' ECLECTRIC OIL for burns and has found nothing to equal it in soothing the pain and giving relief. eod1w

A Petrified Human Body.

Ithaca Journal.

The body of a young lady was buried fifteen years ago in a cemetery six miles east of the village of Afton, in Chenango County. It was removed last Thursday to the new cemetery in the village. The Enterprise says that when the coffin was ready to be removed from the grave it was discovered that the body was petrified, and required the united efforts of four men to raise it, and could not have weighed less than four hundred, although in life she would not have weighed more than 125 pounds. The clothing was decayed, and resembled a veil-like texture over the body. The hair, which in life was very abundant, was still in a perfect state of preservation. The features were a little shrunken and the hands retained their position, folded across the breast. Another body, which was buried about six years ago in the same cemetery not fifteen feet distant, was removed, but with no signs of petrification.

Humbugged Again.

I saw so much said about the merits of Hop Bitters, and my wife who was always doctoring, and never well, teased me so urgently to get her some, I concluded to be humbugged again; and I am glad I did, for in less than two months use of the Bitters my wife was cured and she has remained so for eighteen months since. I like such humbugging.—H. T. St. Paul. —St. Paul Pioneer-Press nov15decl

Progressive Chinese.

The steamer from Hong Kong Thursday brought 1,012 Chinese to San Francisco. It was noticeable that a number of the immigrants had more baggage and seemed of a better class than those who hitherto sought our shores. Many were boys of from 6 to 12 years of age. Several of the new arrivals are well-to-do Chinese, who have come to learn American methods of doing business. The influx of Chinese in search of information, rather than employment, has lately been unusually large, and the task of teaching the English language and instructing Mongolians in American business methods has become almost a profession here.

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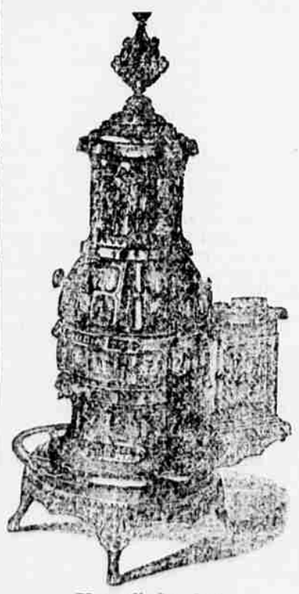

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