

Chicago Telephone Co.

Engineering Dept.

CHICAGO, ILL., Oct. 23d, 1897.

THE BOARD OF EDITORS, INTEGRAL—

Gentlemen: In response to your inquiry, I would say that to the best of my recollections, about 65 per cent. of the original aggregation, whose roster began, “Apfel, Aspinwall, Burroughs, Blodgett, etc.,” have broken connection with the class of '98.

A. O. Carpenter, one of our good all-around men of the mechanical persuasion, left school to accept a position with the Paige Iron Works, Chicago. He remained there about four months, when, through the agency of Mr. Dingey, he transferred his services to the Russell Engine Co., Massillon, Ohio. He left there about a year later in response to a proposition from the Johnson Switch and Signal Co., Johnstown, Pa. I lost track of him at this point.

Mr. Ewald left school at the close of his Freshman year, to engage in the manufacture of cycle fittings. He is now the head of the Ewald Manufacturing Co., devoted to the production of cycle fittings and high grade hardware specialties. He has twice doubled the capacity of his plant at 41-43 W. Washington street, Chicago, and now is able to utilize six thousand square feet of floor space, employing thirty-five men. He contemplates another extension in the near future.

W. S. Ferris, with headquarters at No. 1 W. Washington street, is city buyer for the Creamery Package Manufacturing Co., a concern enjoying an extensive trade in the Northwest.

H. E. Martin has a responsible position with the Armour Elevator Co., at 205 La Salle Street.

W. F. Sims, a graduate of '97, and myself, are employed by the Chicago Telephone Co., the local lessee of the American Bell Telephone Co., and we are both satisfied with our field of work. It is a great business. I recently inspected several of the exchanges operated by the New York Telephone Co. This company has seventeen thousand subscribers in New York City, and seventeen thousand in Westchester County. In addition to this, the New York and New Jersey Telephone Co. has enough subscribers in the immediate vicinity to make a total of nearly fifty thousand within a radius of thirty miles about Cortlandt, the principal exchange of New York City.

This locality has the largest telephone traffic of any point in the world. Strange to say, however, the traffic at this point is not as dense as it is in Chicago, for the Chicago “Main” exchange, with fewer lines than Cortlandt, has an average of 84,611 calls per day against 58,137 for Cortlandt.

The American people utilize the telephone, both for local and long distance work, much more than Europeans. To illustrate this I will mention a single fact.

The State of Massachusetts has 23,390 subscribers, making 2,500 calls per year per subscriber. In Europe, Switzerland furnished a parallel with 23,446 subscribers, the subscribers averaging but 530 calls per year. Thus the average Massachusetts subscriber uses his telephone nearly five times as much as the average subscribers in Switzerland.

These facts are interesting not alone to the telephone fraternity, but to students in general.

Thanking you that I may be permitted even this much space in the Souvenir Annual, I am

Sincerely yours,

JOHN M. HUMISTON, Ex. '98.