# NEW HARNESS FOR THE WIND WORKED OUT

### Electric Generators May Be Operated and Give Valuable Help

(A. & M. Bulletin.)

[illegible] we are going to get more work from the wind that blows so freely in Texas seems probable now, advises H. E. Baerter, farm engineer, extension service, A. & M. College of Texas. After some electric generators and storage batteries had been made common on the farm, inventors have been working on a practical method of generating electric power from wind power.

It looks like no more matter to attach a windmill to an electric generator and that to a storage battery, and that is what is has been done, but to get this outfit to run in a very light wind and on the other hand to withstand a gale, has not been so easy. There has been another problem in the production of a marketable machine, and that is getting it simple enough and so dependable that the average person could give it the little attention that it needs.

Some of the first machines have been in use for as much as seven or eight years so that manufacturers consider that they have passed the experimental stage. Not until recently have the machines been placed on the market, and they have not yet advertised to any extent, as the manufacturers are not prepared to supply them in quantities.

It is probable that several companies will be in the field with a windmill electric outfit before many months. The demand for them on the farms doubtless will be great. Farmers have learned to the use of the gas engine driven electric lighting and power machines and have grown used electrically in around the house and barn. And the farmers of West Texas at least, know that the windmill will work of course, the water with practically no expense or attention.

Farmers will of course be cautious, at first, in buying a machine that is new on the market. But they will not be hard to convince that the idea is good. In fact farmers have been calling for a machine of this kind, and knowing that anyone was working on it.

It may be necessary to warn farmers that they should investigate the company that is selling a machine of this kind before turning loose of any money, but the same rule will apply in this as in with other machines. The rule being, to buy only from reliable firms.

To those who live in the West where the wind blows to an excess much of the time, it will be sweet revenge to put it to work doing the washing, ironing, sweeping, churning, sewing, cooking and lighting the house and barn as well as running the various machines about the farm.

## Cable Services Among Greatest Of World Needs

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—"Through the laying of three black, snake-looking cables under the hundred miles of sea water that separate Key West from Havana has little romance in it to the casual observer. It represents an important step in man's conquest of space and time," says a bulletin issued from the Washington headquarters of the National Geographic Society.

"These cables will for the first time carry the voices of mainland America to the 'Queen of the Antilles' and bring back answering voices; and at the same time they will be carrying the sound of spoken words for a greater distance under water than they have ever been carried before. It is the latest chapter in the far-from-finished story of man's struggle to fling his thoughts—and even the intonations that measure his feelings—to his fellows at the ends of the earth.

"Progress in spanning the salt water that divides the world into what were once 'idea tight' compartments—and which now know the gossip of each other's market places, forums, and headlines as soon as they are known at home—started in earnest only three quarters of a century ago after Samuel F. B. Morse proved with the telegraph that distances over land were slight


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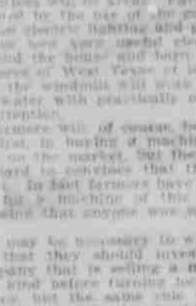


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barriers to exchanging signals. It is perhaps little known that Morse also was one of the first to experiment with under water signaling. After successfully sending messages through a wire laid under part of New York harbor from Castle Garden (now the New York City Aquarium) to Governor's Island, he gave it as his opinion that cabling over a properly built cable between Europe and America should be possible.

**First Cable a Failure.**

"The first efforts to realize Morse's prediction, in the late forties, were failures. Because neither cable-making nor cable-laying had been mastered the cable broke again and again, and the broken end was finally abandoned in mid-Atlantic. The first commercially successful submarine cable was laid as the result of the much less ambitious desire to connect England and France. This cable about 26 miles long was laid under the Straits of Dover in 1851. Then came other short cables: Italy to Corsica and Sardinia, Sardinia to Africa, Scotland to Ireland, and a length in the Black Sea.

"In 1857 Europe and America were first connected by cable and messages were exchanged for several months. But the insulation of the cable was destroyed by currents of too great strength and the two continents were again without electric communication for nearly ten years. An attempt to connect Europe with India through the Red Sea was the next ambitious cable project, but it, too, was a failure. The first successful long cable, chiefly useful for commercial purposes, was laid, curiously enough, in the waters of the Mediterranean where commercial nations first sprang up. It extended from Malta to Alexandria and was opened in 1861.

**No Cable News of Civil War.**

"Europe remained without cable news from the United States during the Civil war, but in 1866 the Atlantic was finally electrically bridged, and the connection between the old and the new worlds has since been continuous. In 1869 a cable was laid from France to the United States. Other cables were laid from the British Isles, and later direct connection was established between Germany and America. By the beginning of the World war thirteen trans-Atlantic cables were in operation between Europe and the United States.

"Once the north Atlantic was bound by the great metal strands, these far-reaching tentacles of man's intelligence began to stretch out under the waters of the earth's oceans. The British Isles were tied to the continent by numerous cables reaching to France, Belgium and Holland. The Scandinavian countries were connected with each other and Germany. Portugal laid a cable to Brazil, and after this pioneer others followed at various points across the south Atlantic. A line through the Mediterranean and the Red Sea connected England with India, Australia, the East Indies and China. Another doubled Africa and reached the same objectives.

"Finally, in 1902, the greatest of cable-laying projects was undertaken, the crossing of the Pacific. The first Pacific line was laid by a British company from Vancouver, British Columbia to Australia, a distance of 7,300 miles.

**Necessary Raw Material.**

"The Pacific with its vast distances illustrates admirably the cable created need for the ownership of small islands for which, during the latter part of the last century, there was much competition, little understood by many laymen. Signals traverse under-water cables weakly at best, and there are definite limits to the distance over which messages can be transmitted. Island relay stations, therefore, become vital necessities. Because Great Britain owns no islands in the northeastern Pacific and it was not desired to relay on the alien territory of Hawaii, the first Pacific cable was the longest non-relayed section in the world, 3,458 miles, from Vancouver to Fanning Island.

"In 1903, a year after the British cable was laid, an American Pacific cable was established extending 7848 miles from San Francisco to the Philippines, with relays at Hawaii, Midway Island, and Guam. Without the possession of these islands by the United States the building of a trans-Pacific cable under American control would have been impossible. This American line has a branch from Guam to the now famous island of Yap, and connections from there to Shanghai, and Japan to the north and to the Dutch East Indies to the south.

"While cables were being laid under the oceans and telegraph wires strung on land, Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone and there was added the desire to connect water-separated continents by this more intimate means of communication. The first noteworthy undersea telephone cable was that laid in 1891, connecting England with France. Submarine telephone conversations could be carried on over only relatively short distances, due to loss of energy in the long large metal conductors, and the voice therefore conquered the barriers of water slowly. After the Straits of Dover were conquered a few other narrow straits, such as those between the Scandinavian peninsulas, were crossed by telephone cables, and connections were made in the more heavily populated portions between the mainland and nearby islands.

"Within the last few years the invention of the Pupin loading coils and the Audion amplifier has opened new possibilities in underwater telephony, and longer and longer cables are being laid. In addition to the cables from Florida to Cuba, a telephone cable only a few miles shorter has been laid recently in the Baltic between Germany and East Prussia, the province which was separated from Germany proper by the Polish corridor, created by the treaty of Versailles to give Poland access to the sea."

A few minutes time will save you one dollar. Monday night The Caller goes back to the regular price of seven dollars a year. Be certain to send your remittance tomorrow. If it bears post mark of Monday, February 28, it will be accepted. (Adv.)

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## Alexandria Rich In Memories Left By Washington

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—Across the Potomac from the city which perhaps is the most elaborate and enduring monument that perpetuates the name of any human being is a smaller, older, but up-to-date city, which reverently pays her tribute to Washington who surveyed its town lots. He also commanded its troops, was a member of its city council, sat in its historic Christ Church while president of the United States, and tripped the stately minuet in its parlors," says a bulletin from the Washington headquarters of the National Geographic Society.

"Alexandria, Virginia, which was arranging at the close of the Revolutionary war that it was considered a double star for the infant national government, and which indeed might have had the honor of the first capital of the great man who lived within a stone's throw of its borders had thought it fair to use his influence in its behalf, is today an up-and-doing city. A naval depot plant is being constructed there and during the world war it had a fully equipped shipbuilding plant.

**Reborn as Shipping Center.**

"The first ship built at this plant was the Cincinnati Hill named after the home of George Mason, father of the Virginia declaration of right, at that time probably the most complete statement of the rights of man.

"This shipbuilding plant which now stands idle waiting the development of new plans concerning merchant ship-ping, covers 46 acres of land along a river which measures 40 feet in depth at the city pier. At no point in its course to the ocean is the channel less than 30 feet in depth.

"The coal fields of the Cumberland are but forty miles away and the resources of transportation to the city add another commercial asset. The inhabitants in the decade between 1830 and 1840 foresaw the power which was coming into being to the west of them, and expended large amounts of money in building the Alexandria canal and in contributions to the Chesapeake and Ohio canal.

"The Lee highway from New York to San Francisco, now being constructed, pass through Alexandria and westward through the beautiful and historic valley of Virginia. Very appropriate Alexandria, from a geographical platform, is given the sobriquet, 'The Gateway of the South.'

**Shrine Near Mecca.**

"Tourists to the national city, and everyone feels that epithet of late, he must see the Capitol, the white house, and the monument—usually then a few hours. If no more, to cross the Potomac and sit in the silence of the quaint little church in its pretty green churchyard where Washington advocated before the townspeople in 1774 resistance to Great Britain, and where Robert E. Lee agreed to take command of the Virginia troops at the beginning of the Civil war in 1861. Washington's pew is marked today, but unfortunately the high backs of the seats, which in former days kept the President from seeing exactly what kinds of face the bewigged gentlemen in front of him had at their friends were cut down by a subscription vector who wanted his church to keep apace of the times. It is said that Washington and the famous and devoted Martha always rode from Mt. Vernon in a handsome cream colored coach to attend the services.

"The seeker for excellent examples of colonial architecture can heave a sigh of satisfaction when he catches his first glimpse of Carlyle House, as this home in which the illustrous gentlemen and women of old colony days discussed state questions and tripped a measure or two is considered one of the best specimens of eighteenth century architecture in existence. Major John Carlyle, who built it in 1752, provided a means of escape for his family, in case of attack by Indians, in a subterranean passage that leads from the house through the fort on which the the house is located on the Potomac. Here they could get into boats and sail down the river to safety."


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