

Say-Aurora Borealis Hit Coolidge Speech; Engineers Explain Failure of the Radio

Special to The New York Times.

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 16.—The aurora borealis was blamed today by scientists for the failure of President Coolidge's speech at the International Oratorical Contest last night to get out through the air to radio listeners. F. P. Guthrie, district manager of the Radio Corporation of America, said his engineers held the aurora borealis responsible.

Tests were made on a telegraph line leased by the radio station at 7:30 o'clock, but when the radio operator

took his post at the broadcasting instrument at 8:05 he found the signals from the Washington Auditorium so faint he could not send them out. The engineers looked for the cause but could find no mechanical trouble. After a twenty-minute silence, the Auditorium signals increased in volume and the remainder of the program could be broadcast.

The aurora borealis yesterday affected all telegraph and telephone wires throughout the northern part of this continent.