

## **Telegraph and Short Wave Radio Service Interrupted by Electrical Disturbances**

Telegraphic transmission and short-wave radio telephone circuits were interrupted, and in some cases put out of commission temporarily, early yesterday morning by earth currents and electrical disturbances variously attributed to the eclipse of the sun, to sun spots and to the "northern lights" or aurora borealis. The disturbances, occurring at various times between midnight and 7 A. M., were more severe than other recent interruptions of a similar nature.

Postal Telegraph lines were interfered with chiefly in the area south from Montreal between 6 and 7 A. M., and some wires were out of order for an hour. The disturbances were greatly diminished before reaching New York. The company reported that radio circuits in Eastern Europe experienced much difficulty, which was definitely attributed to effects of the eclipse. Officials were inclined to believe the disturbances here were from the same cause.

The Western Union reported difficulties occurring about 4 A. M. at New York, Boston, Chicago and Omaha, similar to other occasional

disturbances but more severe than any for a year. One official scouted the idea that the eclipse was the cause, and said that the disturbances were due to sunspot changes and might be expected to become more frequent for the next three years. Another believed, however, that the magnetic field of the sun had been "quite perturbed" by the eclipse.

The American Telephone and Telegraph Company reported interference with the short-wave radio telephone, but said the long-wave radio phone and the long-distance wires were unaffected. The disturbances had cleared up by 10 A. M. The difficulty was attributed to sunspots.

Radio companies reported no interference. The disturbances occurred at a time when radio stations were for the most part silent. The earth currents, resulting from electrical causes, were not registered on the seismograph at Fordham University. At the Hayden Planetarium it was said that northern lights might bring similar electrical disturbances, but The Associated Press reported that none had been seen in this part of the country.