

If a town can be kept clear of mosquitoes, the necessity for such disagreeable things as quinine and window screens will be obviated, and all classes of the community will be benefited. The addition to the mere comfort of life in the tropics will be great owing to the disappearance of these terrible pests, and it is even likely that the destruction of mosquitoes will bring about the destruction of other noisome insects, such as sandflies, etc.

(2) *Prevention of Infection of Mosquitoes.*—If Anopheles is unable to bite a malarial patient it cannot transmit the disease to any human being.

Malaria, or "Ague," as it is termed, was once common in England; it has now died out, and although there are as many Anopheles in England to-day as ever, they cannot produce the disease, simply because they can obtain no fresh supply of the parasite.

In certain German colonies quinine has

been given to a whole community with the object of eradicating the germs of malaria in infected human beings. This measure is both expensive and disagreeable and under British law can hardly be enforced.

All malarial patients should be scrupulously guarded from mosquito bite by the use of nets, etc., and care should be taken to prevent Anopheles from gaining access to hospitals.

(3) *Prevention of Infection by Mosquitoes.*—This can be accomplished by making all dwellings mosquito-proof, by filling in doors, windows, ventilators and all similar openings by wire gauze and by advising all who have to be about at night, to wear gloves, veils, etc.

Although absolute security from mosquito-bite in ordinary life cannot be obtained, it is quite possible by judicious, and not very irksome, protection enormously to reduce the liability and so minimise the chances of malarial infection.



How Lord Rosebery's Speech was Reported

By John Pendleton

LORD ROSEBERY is a serious statesman, but he could scarcely refrain from smiling at the inadvertent comment made by one newspaper on his speech in Edinburgh, four years ago. The proof-reader, getting the last paragraph, when weary, long after midnight, wrote "Thank God" at the end of it. The compositor, faithfully following the "copy," dealt with the thankful exclamation as a correction, and tacked it on to the paragraph, which, in the next issue, read: "At the conclusion of his speech Lord Rosebery left for the south—thank God!" Probably the proof-readers in other daily newspaper offices were in a similar frame of mind on the night Lord Rosebery visited Chesterfield, and delivered, in the railway shed near the historic West Bars, his notable speech on "Efficiency and

Empire." Whatever the political effect of his lordship's utterance, it was unusually interesting, because of the difficulties that Nature flung in the way of the journalists instructed to record it, and the enterprise they showed in overcoming hindrances to its transit.

WIRES BROKEN BY STORM

The snowstorm in the middle of December wrought havoc among the overhead wires throughout the kingdom, and for several days telegraphic communication was interrupted, or altogether impossible between London and many of the northern cities. In consequence of the telegraphic breakdown the newspapers were obliged to express regret at the scantiness of their news supply. Business men were in a worse plight. They

were driven, by the freaks of the storm, to the exasperating necessity of sending their telegrams by train! On one or two circuits messages went through; but the service was erratic, and many of the telegrams, forwarded at the sender's risk, were belated, or never arrived. In the midst of the commercial clamour for underground telegraphic communication, to avoid storm and maintain the current of trade, every effort was made to repair the overhead wires, particularly in the Midlands, in view of Lord Rosebery's speech; but the proprietors of the daily newspapers, and the managers of the press agencies, were doubtful as to the capacity of the Telegraph Department to cope with the verbatim reports. Consequently the most elaborate arrangements were made to convey the "copy" from the place of meeting to the various newspaper offices.

NEWSPAPER "COPY" BY SPECIAL TRAINS

For many years even the most influential daily journals had depended mainly on the Press Association to supply the long reports of statesmen's speeches, sending perhaps a descriptive writer to give an introductory column of comment; but the damage to the wires, in almost every direction, shook confidence in the established custom, and several newspaper proprietors resorted to the practice that obtained, prior to the use of the telegraph for press work, of chartering special trains to bring back the reporters, and the "copy" of the speech ready for the printers. The three Manchester daily newspapers indulged in the luxury of special trains, the *Manchester Guardian* sending a reporting corps of six men to the meeting. There were several other special trains practically at the convenience of journalists, including one for Birmingham, and two for London.

A NOTABLE JOURNEY

Memorable train runs, with "copy" for the newspapers, were not unknown in the last century. In 1845 Sir James Allport, remembered as the general manager of the Midland Railway, travelled by relays of trains, from Sunderland to London, and

back again, between five o'clock in the evening and ten o'clock the next morning, taking to the *Times* office, the figures indicating the election of Hudson, the "Railway King." He stayed in London two hours, and returned to Sunderland with a number of copies of the leading journal containing not only the result of the contest, but an article commenting upon it, and he actually arrived at the voting-place before the declaration of the poll, greatly mystifying the people at his production of the papers giving the information that had not yet been publicly proclaimed.

FIRST ON THE ENGINE

In the later forties journalistic rivalry was keen; and one of the South Eastern engine-drivers has given a frank insight into the newspaper methods of the time. "No telegraph," he says, "till 1848. The *Times* newspaper and the *Herald* paid £5 a night, and £5 a day for an engine to stand at Folkestone to take the news up, at the time of the French Revolution, when the boat came in. They paid £30 for the return up, and the reporters raced one another from the landing-place. If one of them got his foot on the engine it was his train, and away we went without waiting for the carriage. Once the *Herald* man got before us, and the *Times* man was terribly annoyed. 'I will give you £3 if you can get in front of him,' he said; and I did it, swiftly running ahead, while the other engine was taking water, half-way, in a siding."

LIKE PRINCES

Though the special trains were sent out of Chesterfield Station, after the Rosebery meeting, amid great commotion, they did not develop so much dramatic incident in travel as the engine that enabled the *Times* man to outwit his rival. Nevertheless the resort to special trains as "copy" carriers for the newspapers was a notable incident in the journalistic enterprise of the new century. Anyhow the two journalists who had a special train to themselves, on the return journey to Manchester, could hardly object to what Mr. Chamberlain styles the policy

of "splendid isolation." For an hour they travelled like princes at the rate of about a sovereign a mile!

AN AMICABLE ARRANGEMENT

The telephone has gradually come into use, especially between the London and home offices of the provincial papers, as a transmitter of news, and the Scotch and other dailies proposed to avail themselves of it, at all events, as a helper in the despatch of Lord Rosebery's speech; but their intentions were frustrated by the storm and they had to depend on the telegraphic service, or the special efforts of their own staffs. Probably for the first time in history, in order to minimise in some degree the crush of matter at the local telegraph office, the representatives of the Press Association, and the reporters of the Central News, twelve men in all, joined hands, and sent the same message through to the papers on their lists—quite a unique example of the "lion lying down with the lamb."

CROWDING PRESSMEN

Mr. Gladstone, in the zenith of his political power and oratorical fame, could count on the attendance of a greater number of journalists than any other speaker; but the crowd of pressmen at the Rosebery meeting was singularly large, owing partly to the newspaper importance of his Lordship's utterance, but chiefly to the determination to get the speech into the first editions at any cost. The meeting was attended by one hundred and thirty pressmen—leader writers, descriptive writers, and artists, including Maxwell of the *Standard*, Massingham of the *Daily News*, Emery of the *Morning Post*, and Seppings Wright, of the *Illustrated London News*. In the throng of reporters there were sets of men doing verbatim reports for their own particular papers; but the only "ring" formed, so far as the writer is aware, was that organised by Mr. S. G. Harrison, chief reporter of the *Sheffield Telegraph*, who writes: "The 'ring' included reporters from the *Yorkshire Post*, *Sheffield Telegraph*, *Bradford Observer*, and *Nottingham Guardian*. I enclose the original time-table:—

"THE RING"

TWO MINUTE TURNS PLEASE

Howarth . . .	A	K	T	DD	NN	XX	GGG
Hutcheson . . .	B	L	V	EE	OO	YY	HHH
Toplis . . .	C	M	W	FF	PP	ZZ	III
Cornwall . . .	D	N	X	GG	QQ	AAA	KKK
Robinson . . .	E	O	Y	HH	RR	BBB	LLL
Baker . . .	F	P	Z	JJ	SS	CCC	MMM
Eaton . . .	G	Q	AA	KK	TT	DDD	NNN
Martin . . .	H	R	BB	LL	VV	EEE	OOO
Huxtable . . .	J	S	CC	MM	WW	FFF	

"Nine reporters took notes of the speech, two men collected and arranged the 'flimsy' slips (each reporter requiring a copy), and I acted as time-keeper. We had two-minute turns, and the speech lasted two hours. Three reporters left to catch trains, consequently the formation of the 'ring' was slightly altered; but we closed the verbatim report of the speech on 'Section OOO,' in sixty-one shorthand turns of two minutes each. The speech made a little over seven columns in the newspapers, and the 'ring' work was completed—the reporting was finished—exactly twelve minutes after Lord Rosebery had concluded."

SKILFUL METHOD

The "ring" time-table contains the names of the reporters, and their alphabetical working letters, together with the instruction as to the duration of each man's shorthand turn. It is passed from hand to hand, round the "ring" at the beginning of the meeting; and when the statesman rises to speak every reporter knows what to do, and how to do it. With nine experienced men the task of reporting the speech is comparatively easy, though the time-table on the face of it, looks almost as bewildering as the cabalistic signs that Flinders Petrie digs out of ancient Egypt. The apparent jumble of letters after each man's name, read downward, is no longer a jumble, but the alphabet in sequence, finally doubled, and trebled; and the letters indicate the method by which the nine reporters can, in two hours, skilfully get through what the novice might consider an impossible feat—report in shorthand, and transcribe into longhand, for the use of the

telegraphists and the printers, a statesman's speech, almost as fast as he utters it.

THE SECRET OF ACHIEVEMENT

Organisation is the secret of achievement. The "ring" is organised to a nicety, and works in this way. Immediately Lord Rosebery begins to speak, Mr. Howarth takes a shorthand note of his words for two minutes, then desists, and proceeds to transcribe the shorthand signs into readable English. The other eight reporters, also, in turn, each take a shorthand note for two minutes. Consequently Mr. Howarth has sixteen minutes' latitude before the chief of the "ring" calls upon him to take his second shorthand turn. He has, in fact, more than a quarter of an hour in which to transcribe the two-minute shorthand turn. An expert shorthand writer and transcriber,—particularly with a moderate speaker like Lord Rosebery, who is only occasionally rapid in delivery—he does the work without strain, marking the last sheet of his longhand copy; "End of Section A; Section B follows."

CONTINUITY

Mr. Hutcheson, Mr. Toplis, Mr. Cornwall, and the other members of the "ring" also take shorthand notes, and transcribe their notes into longhand, systematically, according to the time-table, in similar fashion, each man being careful to denote when his section ends, and what section follows, so that the speech, with this section letter guidance for the telegraphist and the compositor, preserves its continuity, or, as the pressman puts it, "reads on," absolutely without break, till the orator finishes, and the man on the last turn writes: "Loud

and continued cheers, during which his Lordship resumed his seat, having spoken exactly two hours."

BY TELEGRAPH

Fortunately an hour before Lord Rosebery began to speak, the wires were available from Chesterfield to London, Birmingham, Liverpool, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Newcastle, York, Sheffield, Nottingham, Cardiff, Bristol, and other towns west and south. A room in the Market Hall had been converted, for the night, into the special telegraph office, and fitted with fourteen Wheatstone instruments, a staff of no fewer than thirty-four operators being engaged in the transmission of the messages. The first "wire" was handed in at ten minutes past five o'clock in the afternoon, and the last half an hour after midnight. The press-messages bulked to 234,230 words, and were clear of the instruments by quarter past one o'clock in the morning.

SUCCESSFUL EFFORT

Considering the patchwork condition of the wires the transmissions were creditable to the telegraphic staff; but some of the pressmen, though usually imperturbable, were in a state of nervous tension lest their messages should not get through. In one or two newspaper offices there was bungling owing to the over-eager dovetailing of Press Association and special train "copy"; but the speech appeared in the newspapers with comparatively few blunders, and though not nearly so long as some of Mr. Gladstone's efforts, was a remarkable example, so far as the reporting and despatch of it, of what can be done in a dual fight against time and the elements.

