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Cable That Is to Link America to Islands of Pacific.

Clarence H. Mackay and Distinguished Officials Witness the First Attempt to Bring Cable to Station on Shore.

and caused considerable jollity among his party by inspecting his bleeding chin in the star of a peloroma, which he used as a mirror without detaching it from the weave.

ENDS IN FAILURE.

It was well after three when the cable ship entirely ceased paying out rope. Perhaps a hundred fathoms of cable had been unwound from the drum; for only a couple of cable buoys were visible in the water astern of the vessel. Mr. Mackay and Vice-President Ward were sitting in the sand near the spliting place watching the wig-wag signals on the ship. Slowly these were taken down by the Silvertown engineers.

"Too much risk in passing cable to land. Coming into port."

That was the first message. Then this was slowly spelled out:

"Disconnect rope on shore when we tell you. We will take rope on board."

"That settles it," said Mackay to Ward. "Put to-day at least."

"Ask them what the difficulty is." This from Mackay to the signal man in front of him.

And the answer was returned from the Silvertown:

"Back tide too strong. Telephone Rosenfelds we are returning. One-hundred-one lighter alongside first thing to-morrow."

And so the rope went back and the day was ended.

"I am simply heartbroken that the shore landing should not have been effected to-day," said Mr. Mackay on his way home. "We had made every plan for the ceremony. We were thoroughly prepared with our shore end of the work.

"It is not our fault. The failure to connect must be passed up to the Silvertown people. They are the contractors, and they, having delivered the cable here safely, are not obliged to lay it until tide, weather, everything elemental, shall be what they consider favorable. I had thought this a perfect day for the work, but it seems they think differently.

TIME UNCERTAIN.

"Perhaps the shore end may be laid to-morrow, perhaps much later. It is not to say. At least not until we have had a long conference with the Silvertown engineers. My deepest regret is to having disappointed the people of my native city. I shall be careful about setting another day. It is a good deal to ask of people that they come twice."

FAILURE TO LAND DUE TO THE TIDE

Chief Engineer Suggests the Use of Lighters to Overcome Difficulties.

In speaking of the causes of the failure to land the cable yesterday, Henry Bennet, the civil engineer in charge of the work, said: "There were several circumstances which conspired to prevent us from making a successful landing of the shore end of the cable. The terrific tide which was running made it almost impossible to drag the cable ashore. The delay in getting a boat to carry a line across was another element which contributed to make the landing of the cable a failure.

"The Silvertown passed through the Golden Gate shortly before 7 o'clock and came to an anchorage off the Cliff House shortly before 8 o'clock. We were anchored just seven-tenths of a mile out shore. A tide which was not even anticipated by the pilot was running. It was racing at the rate of four knots an hour. Through some mistake there was no surf boat ready to carry the line ashore, and it was several hours before the life-saving crew volunteered to take the line through the breakers. It was late in the afternoon therefore when we began to pay out cable. We had paid out between 50 and 100 fathoms of cable when I saw it would be difficult to drag the wire ashore against the force tide. I therefore signaled ashore to cease operations and the cable was hauled back. Had the work of getting the line ashore been commenced earlier I believe we should have been able to effect a landing despite the current. As it was, however, I did not feel disposed to have the cable left floating when darkness came on. Our interests are too large and the results involved are too important to risk any serious mishap. It would have been unwise to have left the work unfinished at nightfall.

"When we make the next attempt a new method of procedure will be adopted. The Silvertown drews so much water that it is impossible to get as close inshore as is necessary to insure safe and successful operations. I shall try to get a large lighter with which I expect to make connections with the shore end of the cable. The cable will be placed on the lighter, which will be towed as close inshore as possible. The cable will then be dragged ashore from the lighter. This will eliminate the danger and difficulty of hauling ashore wire one mile in length against the current. We shall not delay in pushing the work of laying the cable to completion."

Announced at A Dinner Party.

The engagement of Benjamin Ostrand Sprague and Miss Pauline Pierce, which was announced at a dinner given by Mrs. J. McCay Williams of Oakland last week is of deep interest to people in this city. Miss Pauline is the youngest daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Douglas Pierce of Bonham, Texas, who for the past year have been residents of Berkeley. She is a young lady who has endeared herself by her many accomplishments and beauty of character to a host of friends.

Mr. Sprague, late of San Francisco, formerly in the same business in this city, is now assistant superintendent of the American Beet Sugar Company at its factory at Oxnard. Mr. Sprague and his bride, who are now at the Palace in the Sprague, have been most prominent in the advancing of the best and rare same society in the United States.

The wedding of Miss Bertha O. Clifford, daughter of Eugene J. Palmer, editor of the Colusa "Gazette," and Frank P. Thomas will take place on Wednesday, December 24th, at the residence of Mrs. M. M. Clifford, Somerville, Contra Costa county.

Miss Gertrude Ettlinger, whose engagement to Melville Mays has been announced, will be day, December 16th, and on Tuesday, December 23d, Mr. Mays of a member of the firm of Gottlob, Mays & Co., managers of the Columbia Theater.

Announcement is made of the engagement of Miss Jessie Bauer, niece of Harris Baurer of the San Francisco News Company, to John Hargreaves, formerly of Detroit, Mich., at present in business in San Francisco.

The wedding of Mrs. H. B. Havens and C. G. Hickox will be celebrated quietly on the 20th of this month, the Rev. Parker Prendergast officiating. Mrs. Havens is a sister of Mrs. Ernest Lane and Mrs. Hugh Harrison. The wedding will be very quietly celebrated at Mr. Hickox's ranch near Woodland. Mr. Hickox is a widely known capitalist of Cleveland, Ohio, and he is extensively interested in Eastern railroads.

The marriage of Miss Helen Woodward of William Pitt Leonard of Dayton, Ohio, took place at the residence of the bride's mother, 1119 Fulton street, Alameda, Wednesday evening, December 3d. It was witnessed by near relatives and intimate friends. The Rev. Dr. C. R. Baker of Oakland officiated. The bride was gowned in white and the maid of honor, Miss Alice Woodward, in pink and white. The groom was attended by Harry Segee of San Francisco. After a short trip the young couple will reside in Dayton, Ohio, where Mr. Leonard has established a home for the bride.

Mrs. H. W. Board of 1420 Buchanan street entertained a number of her friends on Thursday evening. An exciting game of ping pong was the feature of the evening. Those present were Miss Clara Greenlee, Miss Evelyn Greenlee, Miss Louise Asser, Miss Madeline Keller, Miss Belle Kidd, Miss Gertrude Connolly, Miss Lulu Connolly, Miss N. Myrtle Harding, Mrs. Board, H. Anderson, F. Walters, J. Hannah, S. Grace, O. Erickson, C. Johnson, C. Cunningham, F. Ellner and Mr. Board.

The Mission Literary Club met at the residence of Mrs. W. A. Stewart, 69 Capp street, on Thursday afternoon. Refreshments were served by Mrs. J. Kemp, Mrs. W. Armstrong and Miss Hewitt. Refreshments were served and a most enjoyable afternoon spent by every one. Those present were: Mrs. J. Kemp, Mrs. R. B. Vrooland, Mrs. E. McGlynn, Mrs. W. A. Hewitt, Mrs. T. A. Forbes, Mrs. J. Dye, Mrs. D. Lynch, Mrs. F. Armitage, Mrs. E. J. Shaper, Mrs. T. Walker, Mrs. C. A. Rogers, Mrs. Geo. Mrs. T. Norton, Mrs. D. Gray.

Miss Ruth Lockwood Turpening of East Oakland is visiting for the winter her cousins, the Misses Turpenings of 200 East Green street, Pasadena.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Marsons and daughters have removed to the Hotel Dartmouth. Miss Ray Marsons will be at home on the second

LIGHTER WILL BE USED FOR LANDING OF CABLE

It is not probable that the work of laying the cable will be attempted again for several days. According to the new mode of procedure decided upon by the engineers, five miles of cable will be coiled upon a lighter. The lighter will be towed close inshore and the wire will be paid out and connected with the shore end of the cable. Then the lighter will be towed out to sea until the end of the five miles of cable is reached. The end will be buoyed, then spliced, and the Silvertown will take up the work and start on her voyage across the Pacific.

Captain Morton of the Silvertown last night said: "I cannot state positively when we will go outside again. It is very unlikely, however, that we will go to-morrow. It will take some time to load the cable on a lighter. The new method of procedure is the only one now open to us, as it is impossible to get a vessel of the Silvertown's draught close enough to the beach to insure a successful landing."

Last night the crew of the Silvertown was busily engaged in coiling the cable, preparatory to placing it on a lighter.

horses were compelled to pull straight ahead instead of up Balboa avenue toward the Cliff House. Many were the stops, and danger was feared on account of the flag pole near the tents and roped crowd.

The rope came from the stern of the steamer with the curves of a letter S, and pressed hard against the heavy flag staff.

In endeavoring to save the pole from falling the more serious accident of the day occurred. A rumor went out that Clarence W. McNear had been killed. He had only sprained, however, and in a half hour was able to enter his carriage for home, in company with his son, John, who had been knocked down without serious damage. Mr. McNear Sr. was hurt about the back of the head and his spine was unpleasantly wrenched; but his condition is not considered critical.

Clarence Mackay laughed at the scratch; he wanted to keep a souvenir of the day.

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