

The

ADT TRANSMITTER

vol. XIII. no. 10 — OCTOBER — 1941



SKYSCRAPER AFIRE?

(See page 2)

• LETTERS •

Super-Perfect Service

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.:

As you well know, in December, 1940, we installed an A.D.T. Burglar Alarm System. Through the past several months because of this alarm system we have been able to operate our business much more efficiently.

It was on August 26 that the real test came. Just to think that alarm sounded at 3:46 a.m., and the would-be burglar was in jail fourteen minutes later and next day was on his way to a five-year sentence.

You can think what you wish, but we call that super-perfect service. I would say that it is a distinct service to the entire city, as there is no telling how many jobs this fellow might have committed and what the cost might have been if he had not been caught in his first job in our city.

RAY G. FEENEY

Battery "B"
Davenport, Iowa

Good Investment

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.:

This is to advise that the service you rendered in connection with the small fire at our plant recently was very satisfactory. It seemed only seconds after we pulled the alarm when the fire apparatus rolled into our plant. We have always felt that the A.D.T. service was a good investment and it has proved itself practically.

F. R. KOENIG

The Bates Manufacturing Company
Orange, N. J.

Very Commendable

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.:

Your promptness in dispatching an officer to our University Boulevard store in response to an alarm from there is very commendable, and we wish to express our appreciation for the very satisfactory investigation and your service in keeping our places well protected.

I. S. DEUTSER

The White House
Houston, Texas

A NATION-WIDE ORGANIZATION

The American District Telegraph Company (A.D.T. System), established in 1873, is the only nation-wide organization specializing exclusively in supplying Central Station electrical fire and burglary protection services.

A.D.T. Services, which protect property values in excess of twenty billions of dollars, have acquired an unequalled reputation in safeguarding lives and property against fire and burglary.

A.D.T. Central Stations serve upward of 27,000 subscribers in 350 cities and towns from coast to coast. A.D.T. Central Station Protection Services include the following:

SPRINKLER SUPERVISORY AND WATERFLOW ALARM: Makes the sprinkler an automatic fire alarm. Electrically detects and reports conditions that might impair proper functioning of the sprinkler system.

AERO AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARM: Detects and reports fire automatically, instantly and accurately.

WATCHMAN SUPERVISORY AND MANUAL FIRE ALARM: Watchman's patrol stations are electrically connected with the Central Station, which investigates any failure to signal on time. Manual Fire Alarm Boxes provide means to summon fire department quickly and accurately.

HEATING SYSTEM SUPERVISION: Automatically detects and reports abnormal or sub-normal conditions of the heating system.

INDUSTRIAL SUPERVISION: Automatically detects and reports irregularities in conditions in industrial plants, such as temperature, mechanical operations, etc.

AUTOMATIC FIRE CONTROL FOR AIR DUCT SYSTEMS: Provides automatic fire and smoke detection and reporting devices, to meet the special fire hazards created by air conditioning, ventilating and other air duct systems.

BURGLAR ALARM: Any unlawful entry or irregular opening is automatically detected, and immediately investigated by armed A.D.T. guards with police cooperation.

HOLDUP ALARM: Provides means for secretly summoning police, without arousing suspicion, in case of attack by bandits or other emergency.

• EDITORIAL •

Beware of Burlap

A tangled mass of wreckage is all that is left of a booming defense plant which went up in flames a few days ago. The loss amounted to well over two million dollars, and the plant's production of equipment for the nation's air force was brought to a complete halt. The cause? No saboteur this time; it was an even more dangerous and unpredictable visitor—spontaneous ignition, which caused a fire to break out in a stack of oil-soaked burlap bags filled with aluminum shavings and scrap.

This is only one of countless cases where burlap has been the breeding place for spontaneous ignition. Because of its fibrous texture, burlap seems to admit just the right amount of oxygen to foster combustion, and whenever it comes in contact with oil, or is otherwise abetted, spontaneous ignition is quite likely to take place.

Burlap-covered articles frequently become impregnated with oil when they are dragged along an oily floor and unless this is discovered, as it frequently isn't, trouble may ensue. Spontaneous ignition also occurs when metal articles, coated with oil in order to prevent rust and corrosion, are wrapped in burlap coverings.

With this latest disaster as a grim warning, we should double our precautions whenever burlap is used, being sure to ascertain whether the burlap has come in contact with oil, exercising care in regard to storage and so on. It is foolhardy to lose sight of the fact that this harmless-looking material can be exceedingly pernicious.

On the Cover

Home-going Chicago office workers on September 10 gazed aghast at what appeared to be a fire in a Michigan Boulevard skyscraper. Actually the blaze was in a huge railroad freight terminal which was destroyed with a loss estimated at \$500,000. Clouds of billowing smoke, however, gave the illusion that it was the adjacent thirty-three-story office building which was burning.

The picture is from International News Photos.

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The ADT TRANSMITTER

VOL. XIII

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No. 10

BURGLAR ALARM IN DUAL ROLE

Guard's Speedy Investigation of Trouble Signal at Long Island Beverage Plant Leads to Discovery of Fire

"Operator, operator," called Watchman Castellanos, frantically jiggling the hook. But there was no doubt about it, the telephone was dead.

And then the watchman heard brisk footsteps and in walked an A.D.T. guard. "It's all rght. I turned in an alarm from the city box on the corner," said the guard calmly.

"You turned in an alarm! How did you know there was a fire?" gasped the watchman.

It was a burglar alarm which brought an A.D.T. guard to the E. & J. Burke Company in Long Island City, but when he saw smoke and flames in the beverage company's plant he dashed to operate a city box, knowing that there was no A.D.T. fire alarm on the premises.

Because the blaze started in the electric wiring, as soon as the burglar alarm system was affected, a trouble signal was received at the Central Station. The telephone wire also was burned, as the watchman found to his terror when he discovered the fire and tried to call for the fire department.

However, because the A.D.T. burglar alarm warned of trouble, the firemen were able to arrive just in time to prevent a large pile of cartons from igniting and to keep the bottling machinery from being badly damaged.

OUT OF LUCK

Outside P. Ballantine & Sons, Baltimore beverage company, William Coates posted a lookout; then he got inside by breaking a pane of glass, reaching in and unlocking a door. So far, so good. But in another minute—when he unknowingly crossed an A.D.T. Invisible

Ray—it was all up with Coates. An alarm had been flashed to the police.

In vain were the lookout's frantic signals a short time later, for though Coates hid in desperation under a shipping platform, the police soon found him. His accomplice managed to escape, but was picked up soon afterwards.

CIGARETTES AGAIN

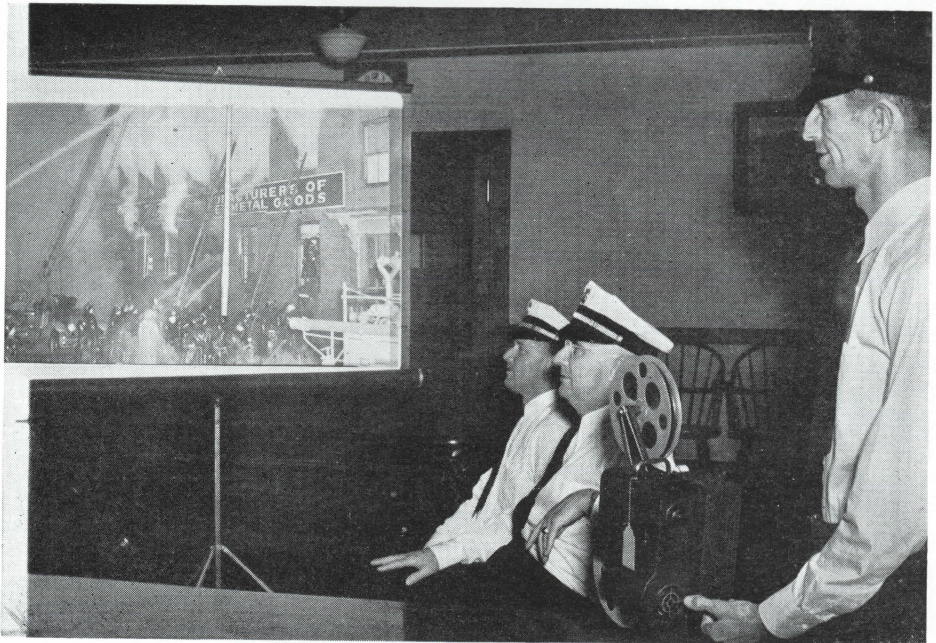
The act of a careless smoker resulted in a fire starting in a waste basket in the Albiano Lunch, Boston, on August 17. A sprinkler head operated, setting off an A.D.T. waterflow alarm which summoned firemen in time to prevent damage.

SPEED

Just two minutes after an A.D.T. manual fire alarm had been turned in at the Mathews Paint Company of Los Angeles, the first pieces of fire apparatus arrived. Though the blaze was small—as most fires are at the start—owing to the inflammable nature of the property's contents, the slightest delay might have had serious consequences.

The outbreak occurred when an overheated varnish kettle burst into flames. Due to the prompt action of the fire department, it was extinguished with about one hundred and fifty dollars' damage.

In the words of an official of the company, the service rendered by the Los Angeles Fire Department and A.D.T. was undoubtedly of "immeasurable value."



Boston Herald
THEY WATCH THEMSELVES AT WORK—Deputy Chief Harry J. Sears, Chief Fred A. Tenney and Donald E. Burns of the up-to-date Braintree, Massachusetts, Fire Department view a film showing themselves in action. Such movies, now a part of the department's permanent record, are proving extremely useful and of great educational value

BURGLARY

ONE TOO MANY

Capture Puts Stop to Series of Burglaries

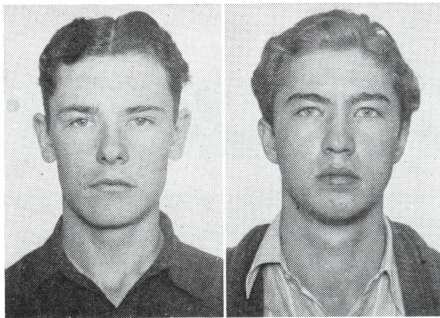
Shattered glass in an open sliding door was the only sign of trespassers at the Westinghouse Supply Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana, although police had been summoned there by an A.D.T. burglar alarm. A long and thorough search yielded no other evidence; whoever the intruders were, they seemed to have departed. And so, having boarded up the broken glass in the door, the officers and A.D.T. guards left the premises.

About half an hour later that night another burglar alarm sounded from the Westinghouse Supply Co. The police, responding quickly, captured two men in the alley just outside the sliding door which had been opened again, this time from the inside. The burglars had entered the premises when they caused the first alarm and somehow had managed to escape discovery. The captives not only admitted breaking into the Westinghouse property but also confessed to six recent burglaries in Fort Wayne four of which had been committed in one night.

HE MET HIS MATCH

Breaking an unprotected basement window, Edward Hart managed to get into the Loyal Order of Moose recreation hall in East St. Louis, Illinois, without betraying his presence, but after that his luck changed. For when he tried to pry open the doors leading to the barroom, he set off an A.D.T. Burglar Alarm, which brought the police on the double quick. Crouching under a soft-drink counter, he attempted to elude them but to no avail.

The thief was identified as a local truck driver who apparently supplemented his income by burglary, for in searching his home the police found loot gathered in a long series of house-breakings around the city. But when Hart attempted to rob a place protected by A.D.T., he met more than his match at last.



CRIME WAVE CUT SHORT — Jack Purdy and Harry O. Kline, Jr. after several burglaries trapped by A.D.T.

OVERNIGHT "GUEST"

Averse to forcible entry and worry over burglar alarms, a cautious burglar in Detroit preferred to enter the warehouse of the Detroit & Cleveland Navigation Company during business hours and find a hiding place to spend the night. Emerging after the premises had closed, he calmly rambled about at will. Nevertheless, despite his endeavor to avoid any difficulty, the visitor ran into trouble when he crossed the beam of an A.D.T. Invisible Ray Alarm. Guards and police sped to the building and took the trespasser into custody before he had done any damage.



Wide World
COSTUME FOR AIR RAIDS—At New York's Civilian and National Defense Exposition, Miss Ethel Beck placidly allows Lieutenant S. G. Cutler of the Army to apply a flaming torch to her fire- and concussion-proof suit

BEHIND THE EIGHT BALL

Bad Luck Finally Overtakes Careful Thief

Allison Embry considered himself lucky but he didn't believe in taking foolish chances. As it was his rule to "case" a prospective job thoroughly, he made surreptitious investigations before he attempted to get into the Park Credit Clothiers in Chicago. Then, comfortable in the assurance that the store had no burglar alarm system to cause him trouble, a few nights later he cut a small hole in the roof and through the false ceiling below it, then lowered himself inside.

Embry had been in the store but a few minutes when to his utter amazement he heard the dread screech of sirens. Escape was clearly impossible; the only hope was a good hiding place. Thinking and acting quickly, he climbed through the small hole he had cut in the metal ceiling, then squirmed his way along the rafters in the small space between the false ceiling and the roof. At first he thought that luck was with him, and for a time it seemed that it was, but a sharp-eyed and persistent A.D.T. guard suspected his possible hiding place and with his flashlight soon confirmed his suspicion. He had to crawl on his stomach far into the small, dark and dust-laden space to make the capture.

Dragged forth from his place of concealment, the bewildered Embry faced the police. True, there was no burglar alarm when Embry cased the store, but just *two days* before he broke in, A.D.T. protection was installed. He caused an alarm when he intercepted an A.D.T. Invisible Ray as he sneaked about the store. In his pockets the police found about four hundred dollars' worth of watches and diamond rings which he had garnered in his brief moments of freedom.

NOT SO EASY

If three young men thought that getting into D. B. Rosenblatt's coat shop in Minneapolis would be an easy matter, that delusion was quickly dispelled. For just as they were going into action on the evening of September 4, A.D.T. guards arrived, took the three into custody and turned them over to the police.

They had caused a burglar alarm when they lowered a fire escape ladder; three minutes later guards arrived.

UNTIMELY ATTACK

While an employee of Gray's Cut Rate Drug Co., Columbus, Ohio, was preparing to close for the night on August 11 he had occasion to call the A.D.T. Central Station on the telephone. It was while the conversation was taking place that a luckless burglar was discovered attempting to break into the drug store. For once no burglar alarm was necessary; the employee had only to pass the word along. The thief was still optimistically trying to pry open the door when the police caught him.

THIRTY-FIVE BURGLARS WERE CAPTURED DURING AUGUST AS THE RESULT OF A.D.T. BURGLAR ALARMS

FIRE

SOMETHING EXTRA

Invisible Ray Alarms Prove Their Versatility

A midnight burglar alarm from Meyer Brothers Drug Company in St. Louis immediately brought A.D.T. guards to investigate, but no burglar did they find nor any sign of one. Instead, they discovered that the Invisible Ray Alarm, which reports trouble of any kind on the system, had operated because of a power failure. A further investigation revealed that the source of the difficulty was a fire in some electric wire insulation in the boiler room. Prompt notification of the fire department prevented any loss.

At the Buffalo Brake Beam Co. a somewhat similar occurrence took place on September 7. The guard who searched the premises as a result of an A.D.T. burglar alarm found that heavy smoke from an overheated electric motor had caused the Invisible Ray Alarm to operate. The motor was hot and smoking badly but thanks to the Invisible Ray the trouble was detected before it had caused serious damage.



International

TO THE RESCUE—Two assistant rectors aided in preventing the spread of the flames and carried out unconscious firemen at fire in the School of the Church of the Transfiguration, Philadelphia, August 21

AUTOMATICALLY DETECTED

No one was in the building to turn in an alarm when fire broke out at 1:55 a.m. on Sunday, September 7, at the Southern Saw Service, Atlanta, Georgia. Nevertheless, firemen were on the scene so promptly that they were able to extinguish the blaze while it still was in an incipient stage. For though the outbreak had no witness, the A.D.T. Aero Fire Alarm System picked up the blaze at its start, averting the

serious consequences of belated discovery. The cause of the fire, which started in a trash pile, was not known. The damage was so slight that no loss was claimed.

HOTEL BLAZE

While guests in Pittsburgh's William Penn Hotel slept, a small fire started in a heap of rubbish near an incinerator in the basement, opening two sprinkler heads. Not wanting to take any chances, Assistant Engineer Snyder promptly pulled an A.D.T. Manual Fire Alarm Box, summoning firemen who lent their assistance.

There was no excitement and no damage of consequence.

BLAST AT CLEANER'S

An explosion caused by static electricity in a dry cleaning machine at the New Way System, Savannah, Georgia, laundry and cleaning establishment, blew the door off the machine and started a fire one morning recently. Employees promptly turned in an A.D.T. manual fire alarm, so that the fire department arrived on the scene in time to cope with the blaze at the outset. About five hundred dollars' worth of damage was done to the machine and the clothing it contained.



Wide World

SMOKE ON THE HUDSON—Freight which included much defense equipment was damaged in four-alarm fire on New York Central's pier in New York City on September 11

WATER LOSS AVERTED

It was early on Sunday morning, August 24, that a fire broke out in the Reading Hardware Corporation, Reading, Pennsylvania, when chemicals in the plating room burst into flame. Though the action of the sprinkler system soon extinguished the blaze, a continued flow of the water could have caused much damage, as it might not have been discovered for many hours. Fortunately, however, an A.D.T. water-flow alarm was transmitted the moment the sprinklers operated so that the fire department presently arrived to check the flow and prevent extensive water damage.

WATCHMEN

QUICK WORK

Instant Aid Is Rendered Injured Watchman

A resounding crash in the dead of night, September 20, sent Guard Miller of the Covington, Kentucky, A.D.T. Central Station on an errand of investigation. The guard found that an automobile which was proceeding at a reckless speed had crashed into the entrance

of the Citizens National Bank because the driver was unable to turn the corner quickly enough.

The bank watchman, just inside the entrance door at the time, was severely cut on the arm and leg by flying glass. The police were at once summoned, bank officials notified, the watchman removed to a hospital for treatment and arrangements made to patrol the bank pending his return.

As the bank is located only about a block from the A.D.T. Central Station, the guard arrived to be of service even before the watchman could request assistance.

OTHERWISE OCCUPIED

In hot pursuit of an intruder, the watchman at the Southern Pacific Railway Company was unable to send in his signal on time to the A.D.T. Central Station. When Guard Bushman arrived to make the resulting investigation of the watchman's failure to report, he found the latter firmly holding a man whom he had caught in the act of passing some galvanized pipe over the fence to a confederate on the outside. The guard took the captive man to the gate house where he was later turned over to the police. No loss of any kind was suffered.

TRIED TO BREAK OUT

Thieves usually are captured when they try to get *into* places; in Los Angeles recently a man was apprehended trying to get *out*. As the watchman was making his rounds in the Broadway Department Store, he heard stealthy footsteps and, investigating, glimpsed the dim figure of a man, cautiously tiptoeing towards an exit. Taking no chances, the watchman at once communicated with the A.D.T. Central Station and secured assistance in tracking down the intruder.

The man the A.D.T. guards captured wore a delivery boy's uniform and was attempting to carry off a radio. Evidently he had entered the store while it was open and had hidden until after closing hours. Employed as a messenger until a few days previously, the man had suddenly stopped working and failed to return his uniform in spite of the company's efforts to reach him.

NO SUMMONS NEEDED

Early on the morning of Labor Day a tenant in the building occupied by the Corona Lightolier Company telephoned the Jersey City A.D.T. Central Station that Watchman Sam Popolio had been taken ill and obviously needed assistance. The watchman's failure to signal on schedule had, however, been noted and an investigation already was under way. Guards who had been dispatched found the stricken man lying on the floor, overcome by a heart attack while on holiday duty. At the hospital where the watchman was taken he was said to be making excellent progress toward recovery.

BANK BLAZE

A spark from a broken electric light was all that was needed to start a fire at the Bank of America, San Francisco, by igniting the inflammable lacquer with which the janitor was waxing the floor. Fortunately, no time was lost in notifying the fire department, for Watchman Butler at once operated an A.D.T. Manual Fire Alarm. Part of the ceiling and a few desks were somewhat scorched but the burned area was confined to the linoleum.



Press Association

BLAZING OIL—Flames rise skyward more than three hundred feet from fire on September 24 in the Whiting, Indiana, Standard Oil Company plant, one of the world's largest refineries

THE ROSTRUM

Devoted to Open Discussion of Protection Problems

BATTLING THE ENEMIES WITHIN

America's Costly Lesson in the World War Shows the Necessity for All-Out Defense Against the Saboteur

New York Harbor on the night of July 30, 1916, was calm and quiet; a gentle wind was blowing. Suddenly pandemonium broke loose, and for hours under a flaming sky a rain of exploding munitions fell in all directions. It was like the Western Front during a titanic battle. Over two million pounds of high explosives at Black Tom terminal blew up in a series of blasts heard even in Camden and Philadelphia nearly one hundred miles away.

On Black Tom, a promontory jutting out into the Upper Bay from the Jersey shore opposite the Statue of Liberty, the Lehigh Railroad had built large warehouses, enormous piers and a network of tracks. It was the point to which vast quantities of munitions and other supplies were brought for shipment to the Allies. On the night of the explosion thirty-four carloads of munitions awaited shipment at the terminal and at the piers barges loaded with TNT and detonating fuses were veritable floating bombs.

At 12:45 a. m. a fire was discovered in one of the munitions cars. Five different witnesses on Black Tom Island made affidavits that the fire started inside the car and burned for twenty minutes before the first explosion. Witnesses on nearby Bedloe Island testified that another fire appeared almost simultaneously on a barge. The explosions and the conflagration which followed destroyed the entire Black Tom terminal, with all the munitions and rolling stock there at the time, a loss reckoned at \$22,000,000.

It was not for many years, however, that the Black Tom explosion was definitely proved to have been an act of German sabotage agents, and damages paid.

On the afternoon of January 11, 1917, New York and its environs were again

rocked by exploding munitions. This explosion took place in the shell assembly plant of the agency of the Canadian Car and Foundry Company near Kingsland, New Jersey, about ten miles from the docks in New York Harbor, where ammunition was transported from over one hundred different factories and there assembled for shipment to Russia.

Fire originated suddenly and inexplicably within one of the assembling sheds, and in a few minutes the entire plant was ablaze. Though fortunately the workers escaped in time, in the resulting explosions the plant was completely demolished, with a loss amounting to \$7,000,000.

Many years later, with the hearings of the Mixed Claims Commission, the mystery of the fire was dispelled when the American investigator produced evidence that the fire had been started by an arsonist using incendiary pencils or rags saturated with phosphorus.

During the first World War sabotage agents caused \$150,000,000 damage in

the United States, without even attempting to reckon the huge losses in potential profits which resulted from the destruction of plants holding millions of dollars' worth of contracts. Nor was this appalling wreckage spread over the entire period of the war. Beginning in the first part of 1915 when American plants were becoming adjusted to large-scale production to aid the Allies, the mysterious disasters grew increasingly numerous, then dwindled almost to the vanishing point when America entered the war and when the efforts of industry and Government agencies grew really effective.

Today, as in that earlier period there are frequent reports of suspicious fires, explosions, thefts of valuable tools and material. It is true that no actual case of sabotage has yet been proved, but, as was shown in the case of the Black Tom and Kingsland disasters, proof is sometimes extremely slow in forthcoming.

Today, not only are we forewarned against sabotage but our defenses are infinitely better. We have the assistance of effective fire-detecting equipment. We can support our watchmen by emergency devices and central station supervision. We can help to keep intruders at bay by Invisible Rays which warn of their approach. We can avail ourselves of scores of other modern developments. But only *if we employ all these defensive measures in time* can we profit by the lesson learned so painfully twenty-five years ago.



Underwood & Underwood
THE ENEMY'S WORK—The explosion on Black Tom Island during the first World War which destroyed the entire terminal along with munitions and equipment was proved many years afterwards to have been caused by German sabotage agents

SAFEGUARDING THE SPRINKLER

PROTECTED BY
A.D.T.
ELECTRIC PROTECTION SERVICES
FIRE · BURGLARY · HOLDUP

SABOTAGE

AGAINST...

Arson is a favorite weapon of the saboteur...and the automatic sprinkler his deadly enemy. The arsonist's first move, therefore, is to shut off the supply of water to the sprinkler system, or otherwise to render it ineffective. And this he can easily do—unless the sprinkler system is electrically supervised to automatically detect and report such tampering.

A.D.T. Supervision is the most effective safeguard to insure that sprinkler systems are constantly maintained in proper operating condition. The closing of any shut-off valve or any other condition that might impair the sprinkler's effectiveness, whether by accident or malicious intent, is instantly and automatically reported to the Central Station, which

immediately investigates every trouble signal and secures corrective action. A.D.T. Supervision makes the sprinkler system function also as an efficient automatic fire alarm system, automatically summoning the fire department the instant a sprinkler head opens.

Write for further information on this and other A.D.T. Electric Protection Services that are helping establishments in all fields to combat the threats of sabotage, fire and burglary.

These Services include *Sprinkler Supervisory and Waterflow Alarm, described here; Aero Automatic Fire Alarm; Invisible Ray Alarm; Holdup Alarms; Burglar Alarms; Emergency Police Call; Watchman Supervision. Descriptive booklets furnished on request.*

A.D.T. SPRINKLER SUPERVISORY AND WATERFLOW ALARM SERVICE

Controlled Companies of **AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.** 155 Sixth Avenue, New York, N. Y.
CENTRAL STATION OFFICES IN ALL PRINCIPAL CITIES OF THE UNITED STATES

A.D.T.

Electric Protection Services
AGAINST FIRE · BURGLARY · HOLDUP
A NATION-WIDE ORGANIZATION