

*The*

# ADT TRANSMITTER

vol. XVI. no. 2 - FEBRUARY - 1944



## • LETTERS •

### Might Have Been Disastrous

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.:

We are pleased to say that the situation was handled in a manner quite pleasing to us. Were it not for the Aero Automatic Fire Alarm, this might have developed into a loss which would have been especially disastrous inasmuch as we were at the peak of our season in packing holiday merchandise.

W. R. OLSEN

Winston and Newell Co.  
Minneapolis, Minn.

### All Doubt Removed

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.:

It was always a question in my mind whether the A.D.T. Electric Protection Service was justified in comparison with the expense involved. After going through last Thursday's experience I think it is one of the finest investments we have made.

We came close to having one of the most embarrassing experiences in connection with our buildings. Your Electric Protection saved the day, otherwise we might have had a serious fire or a ruined boiler which at this time would be most unfortunate and I am sure very expensive . . . A good hot blaze at this time of the year would be most disastrous to our business.

JOHN W. WALZ

Nu-Art Engraving Company  
Chicago, Ill.

### Service Gives Pleasure

AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.:

We want to thank you for your service maintained when fire broke out in our billing room and particularly for the help given us by your representative who stayed with us until the "all clear" signal.

The very efficient service that we get from A.D.T. and the fire department are amongst the few things that are left to make doing business a pleasure.

W. L. WILSON

Goodall-Brown Dry Goods Co.  
Birmingham, Alabama.

## A NATION-WIDE ORGANIZATION

The American District Telegraph Company (A.D.T.), founded 1873, is the only nation-wide organization specializing exclusively in electric protection services.

A.D.T. Central Stations serve upward of 32,000 subscribers in 350 municipalities from coast to coast. The aggregate property values protected by A.D.T. exceed twenty-two billion dollars. This figure does not include the values of cash and securities in the U.S. Treasury, U.S. Mints, Federal Reserve Banks and branches, thousands of banks throughout the country, or the U.S. bullion depositories at Fort Knox and West Point, all of which employ one or more A.D.T. Protection Services.

**SPRINKLER SUPERVISORY AND WATERFLOW ALARM:** Makes the sprinkler an automatic fire alarm. Electrically supervises all vital parts of the sprinkler system.

**AERO AUTOMATIC FIRE DETECTING AND ALARM SYSTEM:** Detects fire and summons fire department automatically.

**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 the fire department quickly and accurately.

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

**HOLDUP ALARM:** Provides means for secretly summoning police in case of attack by bandits or other emergency.

**INVISIBLE RAY (PHOTOELECTRIC) ALARM:** Protective medium is beam of invisible light. For boundary protection, parallel-fences, and for any open areas indoors or out.

**TELEAPPROACH:** Surrounds safe or metal cabinet with a field of radio waves. Approach of any person within the electrical field results in an alarm.

**HEATING SYSTEM SUPERVISION:** Automatically detects and reports abnormal conditions in heating systems.

**INDUSTRIAL PROCESS SUPERVISION:** Automatically detects and reports abnormal conditions in various industrial operations.

**AUTOMATIC FIRE CONTROL FOR AIR DUCT SYSTEMS:** Provides automatic smoke and fire detecting and alarm devices for air conditioning and other air duct systems.

## • EDITORIAL •

### The 1943 Fire Loss

Fire losses in the United States in 1943 amounted to \$380,235,000, the highest in the country since the total of \$442,143,000 in 1932, according to the National Board of Fire Underwriters.

The 1943 losses were twenty-one per cent higher than for 1942 when the total amounted to \$314,849,000. The 1943 total was swollen considerably by excessive fire losses in December which were thirty-one per cent higher than in December, 1942, and fifty-one per cent higher than in November, 1943. The December total was the highest since March, 1932.

A large portion of the 1943 fire losses are accounted for by fires in industrial plants and other establishments highly essential to the war program. In an article on page 7 of this issue of THE A.D.T. TRANSMITTER, Percy Bugbee, general manager of the National Fire Protection Association, outlines briefly some of the causes of these fires in war plants in our second year of war. For a more complete picture of the situation the N.F.P.A. has published a bulletin entitled "Fires in The Second Year of War," which has been sent to the N.F.P.A. members and is available to others at twenty-five cents.

The amazing increase in the number of fires in war plants, as shown by the N.F.P.A., is somewhat disconcerting considering the amount of stress that has recently been placed on fire protection. Could it be that with war orders beginning to slacken slightly our interest in fire protection is also beginning to slacken? We hope not—for good wartime protection is no different in its essentials than good peacetime protection.

### On the Cover

The photograph on this month's cover shows a fire brigade inspector at one of the plants of the Caterpillar Tractor Company making his routine check of fire boards and extinguishers which number more than one thousand. Periodic checks of this nature are necessary in all plants to assure that all extinguishers of the proper type are in place, that they are fully charged, in good condition and ready for operation.

**THE A. D. T. TRANSMITTER:** A monthly news-magazine of outstanding events and features concerning fire, burglary and holdup. Published monthly by the American District Telegraph Company, 155 Sixth Avenue, New York, N. Y.—R. K. HYDE, Editor . . . Edited and distributed for the information of employees, subscribers and other interested persons. All articles printed are the individual opinions of the authors. To insure delivery of your copy of THE A. D. T. TRANSMITTER each month, kindly notify the editor of any change in address.

# The A.D.T. TRANSMITTER

VOL. XVI

FEBRUARY, 1944

No. 2

## AERO ALARM SAVES BUILDING

### *Firemen Arrive in Time to Subdue Flames Creeping Up To Roof Through Elevator Opening; Damage Slight*

Speeding through the streets of Baltimore about 10:30 p.m. on the night of December 29, fire engines drew up in front of the Morris & Eckels Co. building on Eutaw Street; firemen jumped out and taking a quick glance at the Aero Annunciator on the outside wall observed that it indicated base-ment, first, second, and third floors.

As it appeared that the fire might be of sizeable proportions the blaze-beaters took no chances and immediately sounded a second alarm. Then, entering the building, they discovered a lively blaze just inside the door.

The flames were shooting toward the ceiling and, drawn through an elevator weight shaft, smoke, sparks and hot gasses were passing upward toward the roof and the floors above.

Through speedy and efficient action by the fire fighters the blaze was quickly put under control and extinguished before it could spread to other areas. The principal damage was charred ceiling beams about fifteen feet square around

the door and a slight charring of the elevator weight shaft as far as the second floor.

The cause of the fire is unknown. Workmen who had been taking stock left the premises at 9:30 p.m., less than an hour before the fire was automatically detected and reported by the Aero system. The management stated that because of the open elevator weight shaft it is probable that the entire building would have been involved if discovery had been delayed.

## RODENT-LIKE ROBBER

Eighty-five dresses and twenty-six coats valued at \$1,500 was the loot gathered up by a burglar caught as he poked his head out of a hole in a rear stairway at the F. & F. Style Shoppe, Cleveland, on December 21.

The burglar had carefully avoided all protected doors and windows but overlooked other protection devices inside the store and summoned his captors when he passed through a beam of the A.D.T. Invisible Ray System.

Police and A.D.T. guards answering the alarm at 3:51 a.m. surrounded the premises. The merchandise was found stacked upon a stairway awaiting an opportunity for removal.

## BACK TO THE "BIG HOUSE"

Two parolees with long prison records found they were pretty well out of practice when they attempted to rob the United Motors Service, Inc., building in Denver, Colorado, on the night of January 3.

Using their professional tools, they pried the iron bar protection from a window that obviously was not wired with a Burglar Alarm, only to step inside and walk through the beam of an A.D.T. Invisible Ray. Police nabbed both men, and no loss was suffered.



*READY FOR THE REAL THING—These female fire fighters at the Breeze Corporations, Inc., Newark, N. J., have been enrolled in the company's fire protection squads and under the direction of Captain Joseph Weber receive the same kind of training as is given to the men. The girls show so much enthusiasm and do their work so well that the chief has several additional groups in training*

## BURGLARY

### NEEDED A RABBIT'S FOOT

*Crooks Run Into Hard Luck Trying to Rob Jewelry Store*

Smash went the mirror! And if the two burglars were at all superstitious they would have expected the hard luck that befell them. But the boys were pretty well befuddled and breaking a mirror in the rear of Huberman's jewelry and clothing store in Camden, N. J., was just one of their minor errors.

To begin with, they were trying to get into another jewelry store. They threw a brick through a side window and then decided it was too high to climb through, so they went around to the rear and forced open two double doors. Unknown to them the doors were A.D.T. protected and led to Huberman's instead of their original objective. There the crooks smashed a large mirrored partition in an effort to get to the front of the store. Almost immediately their luck changed.

Confronted by police and A.D.T. guards, they admitted they were professionals with long records, and confessed to several other Camden robberies. The two glass-smashing jewel thieves were more surprised to find themselves in the wrong store than they were to find themselves arrested.

### "REAL PROTECTION"

"One does not realize the real protection afforded by your service until the emergency occurs," was the comment of Paul Ingraham, treasurer of the Walker Stetson Company, Boston, following the apprehension of a burglar who broke into the building of this wholesale dry goods establishment on Sunday, December 26.

Climbing a fire escape the intruder entered after forcing a window shutter and breaking a small hole in the glass which enabled him to release the catch and lift the sash. He was found at 2:50 p.m. crouching behind an office partition by guards despatched when an alarm came in at the A.D.T. Central Station.

### PRISONER'S SONG

"On the Street of Broken Dreams," is the name of a popular song which could well be adopted as the theme song of the many window-shatterers whose breaking and taking ways are brought to an end by A.D.T. Burglar Alarm Systems.

Another such theft was thwarted at the Julius Gunther pawn shop in Chicago recently. So quickly was the alarm received and handled that police were able to arrest two men who had broken the glass and still were in the throes of greedy grabbing when authorities arrived.

### "AFOWL" OF THE LAW

Two Chicago youths had to enter a poultry shop to make their way into the Clinton Liquor Store early in the morning on December 23, but it wasn't that which gave them goose flesh.

No sooner had the pair passed through a basement opening into the liquor store than they heard a noise outside. Peering through the glass in the front door they saw an A.D.T. guard, which caused them to flee panic-stricken into the basement where they carefully concealed themselves.

A few minutes later Guard Gross, accompanied by Guard Paniak and the store owner, entered and began a search. Reaching the basement Guard Gross called upon the culprits to sur-

render, and when there was no response he fired a threatening pistol shot into the dirt floor. Quickly the two lads, identified as Nathaniel Merrett, age 16, and Steve Nesbit, age 16, gave themselves up. They were promptly turned over to the police.

### LEARNING THE HARD WAY

If the two culprits who broke into the Administration Office of the Board of School Commissioners in Indianapolis were in search of a higher education, their efforts were not wasted for they are likely to get something of that sort in the local house of detention.

Armed with .32 and .38 calibre revolvers and a complete set of burglars' tools carried in an academic-looking brief case, the two "students" pried open a window in a conference room and entered the pedagogic chambers, but while meandering through the rooms to the lobby the pair walked unsuspectingly through an A.D.T. protected portal.

A.D.T. guards and a squad of Indianapolis police soon arrived and enrolled Conrad Phillips, age 16, and Lester Price, age 27, in their new course. 'Twill be quite a term before graduation.

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*Every dollar put into the 4th War Loan Drive is a double-duty dollar—to aid Invasion and defeat Inflation.*



*TOLEDO HAS BIG FIRE—This \$500,000.00 blaze—the second in the city in two weeks—gutted several downtown stores and threatened the business section*

*International*

## YEGG TRAPPED

### *A.D.T. Guard Surprises Thief Attempting to Crack Safe*

Bang! Bang! The continuous clang of steady hammering on metal reached the ears of A.D.T. Guard Parsons as he entered the office building of the General Paint Corporation, San Francisco, in answer to a burglar alarm received at 2:29 a.m. on December 14.

Investigating further, the guard cautiously made his way to the second floor from where the sounds seemed to be coming. Here, hard at work, he discovered a small, lithe burglar desperately trying to knock the combination off of the safe with a hammer.

Trapped by the guard, the surprised crook surrendered. Parsons notified the police who identified the prisoner as one John Spagnoli, age 32, whom they believe is responsible for a number of similar safecracking jobs in this area.

## NOT SO SIMPLE

Confident in his knowledge of the pitfalls for intruders caused by burglar alarm systems, a third-story man who attempted to make a haul at the Porter Paint Company factory in Louisville, on the night of January 13, took careful steps to outmaneuver detection.

Avoiding all A.D.T. protected openings in the first and second floors of the building, the artful dodger ascended an outside fire escape to the second floor and used the iron bars on a window as a ladder to reach an unprotected window at the third story.

Once inside, the crook went about his business in a scientific manner (so he thought) and threw the A.D.T. Burglar Alarm switch with the idea of shutting off the system. As it turned out he simply announced his presence.

Tipped off by approaching patrol cars that he had made a mistake, he hastily left the building with nothing for all his trouble but a realization that he was not so smart!

## GOT HIM WITH THE GOODS

With rings in his fingers and watches in his pockets he sauntered down South Gay Street in Knoxville, Tennessee. Well, he did for a few feet anyway,

until A.D.T. Guard C. C. Smith overtook him and turned him over to police.

Answering a burglar alarm from the Kay Jewelry Company at 3:25 a.m. on December 31, Guard Smith and the police arrived on the scene so quickly that they were able to put another show window-smasher out of circulation and recover the stolen jewelry — eight watches and several rings, which comprised all of the loot.

## FIRE

### EARLY MORNING WARNING

"We've just received an alarm from the Aero system in your building," phoned the A.D.T. operator on December 29 to Mr. O. A. Stautzenberger, one of the members of a wholesale grocery firm in San Antonio, Texas.

Although it was only 5:34 a.m., Mr. Stautzenberger had just entered the building and was getting ready for the day's business totally unaware of any trouble. With this warning, however, he rushed to the spoils room in the rear of the building and discovered a fire.

The blaze, while not large, might have grown to serious proportions if the fire department had not arrived at the moment and put it out with only slight damage to building and contents.

## BLAZE IN BASEMENT

### *Aero Alarm Gives Warning of Early Morning Outbreak*

Bursting forth in a stock of drug supplies in the basement of Babbitt's Pharmacy in the towering Reynolds Building in Winston-Salem, N. C., a fire which might have been considerably more destructive was quickly disposed of on the morning of December 29 by firemen summoned to the scene by the Aero Automatic Fire Alarm.

Apparently the result of spontaneous ignition, the heat of the flames set off the alarm at 5:38 a.m. Entrance to the basement from the store was delayed slightly by a blocked door but the firemen quickly entered through the sidewalk elevator doors and by efficient work confined the fire to the room where it started. The damage, which was chiefly to the stock, was estimated at \$250.00.

The 21-story Reynolds Building in which the fire occurred is one of the most imposing and architecturally beautiful structures in the city. It houses the company's executive offices and also the A.D.T. Central Station where the fire alarm was received and transmitted to the fire department.

In addition to the protection systems in this building, A.D.T. protects virtually all of the R. J. Reynolds properties in Winston-Salem against the hazard of fire.



*INTERNATIONAL*  
TWELVE HUNDRED FLED FIRE—Two factories were destroyed and a third factory and a mansion were badly damaged in a \$500,000.00 fire at Ware, Mass., which caused employees to flee for their lives and stopped production of war orders

## LOSSES LIGHT

"No damage to building or contents" was the report of a fire at 5:59 p.m. on January 13 in a waste basket in the men's room of the Perma Stain Company, Cleveland, Ohio. The blaze, attributed to a carelessly discarded cigarette, set off the Aero Automatic Fire Alarm but gave the fire fighters no cause for concern.

"Motor afire in the basement" was the explanation of an Aero alarm on January 4 from the Hill & Griffith Company, Birmingham, Ala. Further damage was prevented by employees aided by the fire department.

Another Aero alarm for a fire that could have been serious occurred on December 19 when a Christmas tree in a sun room at the Robert Koch Hospital, St. Louis, blazed up from a short circuit in the wiring of its lights. When the local alarm bell rang an employee of the hospital quickly rushed in with a hand extinguisher and squelched the flames.

## FOUR O'CLOCK FIRES

Dense smoke from a fire in rolls of corrugated wrapping board in the basement of Kahn's Department Stores, Inc., Oakland, Cal., on January 16 forced the firemen to chop out a section of sidewalk light for ventilation before

they could enter and control the smoldering blaze.

Warned of the outbreak at 4:12 a.m. by an A.D.T. waterflow alarm, the firemen found five sprinkler heads in operation when they reached the store. The sprinklers held the flames in check until the fire fighters could enter the basement and complete the job of extinguishment.

At the W. C. Stripling Company, department store, Fort Worth, Texas, a fire of undetermined origin broke out at 4:04 a.m. on January 3 in a cabinet in the beauty parlor on the second floor. In this case, also, the firemen were summoned by an A.D.T. waterflow alarm. Slight damage was done by smoke and water.

## HIS NOSE KNEW

Called by the watchman at the Cooper Building, Denver, Colo., to help him locate the source of a strange odor of smoke A.D.T. guards and firemen went to the building and found a smoldering blaze under the the flooring in the Collins Bar on the first floor. It is believed that someone carelessly allowed a lighted cigarette to drop through the hole around a radiator pipe. Besides a small hole burned in the floor the only other damage was a broken lock on the door.



International

**FREAK FIRE**—A freight car on an adjacent track crashed into a refrigerator car which turned over and smashed into a power pole, short circuiting the wires into this San Francisco power sub-station. A flashback in the station set off a shower of sparks which exploded drums of fuel oil

# WATCHMEN

## DIES ON DUTY

### *Attempts to Revive Watchman Prove of No Avail*

Failing to signal the A.D.T. Central Station at Buffalo, N. Y., when due to start his 1:00 a.m. round on January 7, Joseph Jerozal, watchman at the Hanrahan Building, was found dead by an A.D.T. guard who had been sent to investigate.

The watchman was found in the boiler room in an apparently lifeless condition, but in the hope that there might still be a spark of life the Central Station summoned the fire department rescue squad and police officers who attempted to revive the man. He was finally pronounced dead of a heart attack.

John L. Keogh, president of Thomas Industrial Center, Inc., operators of the building, in a letter to A.D.T., expressed his appreciation of the prompt and efficient manner in which the situation was handled.

## KNEW WHAT TO DO

Aided by a watchman who apparently knew just what to do, employees of Elmhurst Packers, Inc., Oakland, Cal., saved the plant from almost certain destruction on December 8 when sparks from an incinerator, fanned by a fifty-mile-per-hour wind, set fire to the roof of a loading platform attached to the wooden cannery building.

Making his 11:00 p.m. patrol of the plant, the watchman heard a cry of "fire!" Rushing outside he saw the roof ablaze and turned in an A.D.T. alarm. Then, assisted by other employees, he skillfully used fire extinguishers and a one-and-a-half-inch hose line which controlled the blaze so well that arriving firemen found little to keep them busy. The loss was estimated at fifty dollars.

**"Let's ALL Back the Attack" means YOU are in the fight too. Prove it—with an EXTRA War Bond today.**

## THE ROSTRUM

*Devoted to Open Discussion of Protection Problems*

### WAR PLANT FIRE LOSSES GAIN

*We Lick the Submarine Menace—Then “Sink” Twice As Much War Material on Land as in One Year of War*

By PERCY BUGBEE,  
General Manager,  
National Fire Protection Association

“An unprotected one and two-story brick machine shop engaged in the manufacture of airplane parts was gutted by fire of undetermined origin which broke out in a concealed roof space in approximately the center of the plant. The fire department responded to the alarm, but *because there were no hydrants available*, returned to quarters without making any attempt to extinguish the blaze. The plant was located on the bank of a river from which reportedly water could have been secured. Employees fought the fire *with a garden hose* until the water supply was cut off by a broken pipe. Loss: \$575,000.”

“A cotton warehouse in which was stored government-owned stock was gutted by fire originating in an unsprinkled area beneath the grade floor of the main building. Two boys had robbed several stores and crawled under the warehouse to divide their loot. They were using a flambeaux for a light. Fire department equipment was sent from two towns twelve miles away. The firemen upon arrival found the building completely involved, *no water supply available from hydrants, and no way to approach the mill pond to take suction. Pump supplying water to sprinkler system and yard hydrants was out of order.* Loss: \$275,000 to \$300,000.”

“Fire originating in a dehydrating tunnel completely razed a tomato cannery and potato dehydration plant. The dehydrating section had formerly been two stories high, *but floors had been removed converting it into one large, high-ceilinged room without fire cut-offs.* Open windows provided a draft which carried the flames to a storage room

where dehydrated potatoes were kept in five-gallon cans. *No automatic sprinkler protection was provided.* Water supply was inadequate, the *nearest fire hydrant being about nine hundred feet from the building. Firemen used most of their hose in laying one line* which was not sufficient to control a fire of this magnitude. Loss estimated at \$500,000.”

“Fire destroyed almost totally a two-story brick joist plant making uniform caps and netting headgear for the armed forces. . . . The watchman who discovered the blaze attempted to extinguish it with a hand extinguisher *but was handicapped by the fact that he had but one arm.* The small room where the blaze originated was blocked by loaded stock trucks. Watchman hurried to the adjoining office building, failing to close fire door behind him, and tried to phone the fire department *but could not contact the telephone operator.* He finally called to a passerby who turned in an alarm. *A weak water supply was a contributing factor to the loss . . . no au-*

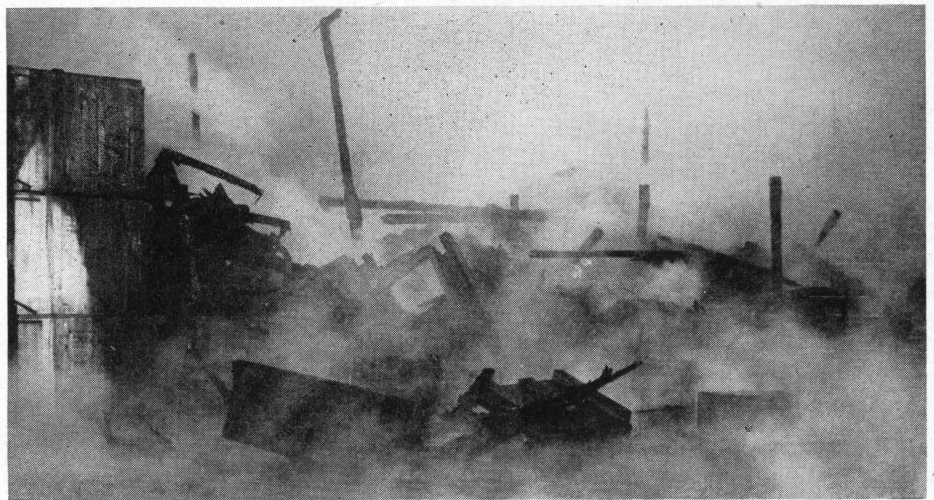
tomatic sprinklers were provided in this war plant. Loss: \$245,000.”

Thus, in four cases—with italics—do we see another side of the American war production story. Those four fires alone cost us \$1,620,000 in direct losses, plus an incalculable damage in interrupted continuity.

The situation seemed bad enough in our first year of war when we suffered one serious fire a day in our war plants. A record of *two costly outbreaks a day* for our second year seems like a quaint way to improve the situation! Especially when the explanation does not rest in unfamiliar hazards inherent to new or strange processes but, rather, in our traditional disregard of the most elementary fundamentals of fire protection: excessive, unbroken fire areas; overcrowding of storage space; untrained personnel; lack of not only modern automatic protective systems but of even as rudimentary a safeguard as water!

Supervised automatic protection systems would work wonders in providing our vital war plants with an amazing immunity against interruption by destructive fires. Yet one has merely to re-read the italics in the foregoing reports—each of which could be duplicated fifty times by other fire records—to see how far away we are from such a logical state of preparedness.

What does it avail us to lick the submarine menace—and then turn right around and “sink” twice as much war material on land as we lost from preventable fires the year before?



*International*  
**AUTOMOBILE PARTS DESTROYED**—One hundred tons of automotive parts, worth an estimated \$2,000,000.00 were destroyed in this fire in a Fort Wayne storage building on January 24. FBI agents began an immediate probe of the conditions

Let us all

**BACK THE  
ATTACK**

by buying more War Bonds

in the **4th WAR**

**LOAN DRIVE**



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