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### A DREAM OF THE FUTURE.

Possibility of Seeing by Wire May Soon Become an Assured Fact.

Will the world go around some day before our eyes, wherever we may be? Will events a long way off be brought within our sight as they occur? asks a writer in the London Mail.

Time and space are disappearing fast. There is still alive the widow of the messenger who hurried to Rome to find Sir Robert Peel when he came home to form his first ministry, and Sir Robert travelled by the same means and at the same speed as the Emperor, Hadrian, traveled from Rome in the days when Rome ruled the world. Men still live who rode in the first trains, spoke over the first telephones and sent off the first telegrams. The very men who gave us telegraphs and telephones are inventing for us still.

And one of them, the man whom the world can never pay its debts, is on the eve, we are told, of announcing an achievement with which nothing in the world today can compare. Mr. Edison, who turned night into day with his electric light, who made a little box speak so that friend may talk to friend across the earth, and the message spoken today may be heard after ages of time, is said to hope soon to invent a telephone which will carry not only sound, but sight—or which will bring, perhaps we should say, not only the human voice along the wire, but the image of him who utters it as well.

It is one of the great dreams, and, if the brief telegram which came from New York last week is true, most of us will live to see it realized. More than once we have been told that the great secret of picking up the waves of light has been discovered, and "seeing by wire" has been declared to be an accomplished fact. And the picture of an event two miles away has been actually seen, we know, at the other end of the wire. But it is the genius of Mr. Edison to change theory into fact, to bring wonderful things out of the clouds down to our common earth, and the announcement that has just been made means that at last the secret of the laboratory is to be the possession of us all.

Nothing has yet been made known as to Mr. Edison's method of making the telephone an instrument for reflecting an image as well as for conveying a sound, but it is interesting to remember how this result has already been attained by an inventor of whose invention we have yet heard very little.

Jan Szezepanik, before he carved his way to fame which may yet grow into immortality, was a village school master in Poland, the land which gave him birth. He had been to school himself, as we are told, at Cracow, had read translations of Shakespeare and the books of Dr. Smiles; studied optics and electricity; and at 20 was earning £20 a year by teaching fifty boys at the Polish village of Korzyna.

But today, at 32, he is doing other work. Jan Szezepanik—pronounced Shtepanik—needs no introduction to the world as an inventor. His famous weaving machine will produce a web in as many hours as it would take years by the old way. Two or three years ago, in the presence of Francis Joseph, the young inventor established his claim to have invented a machine as wonderful as any of the wonderful machines of our time. At the Technical Art Museum, in Vienna, he presented to the Emperor of Austria the first tapestry produced by his new process, a marvellous allegorical representation of homage to the emperor, containing 200,000,000 crossings of silk threads! More than 200 square yards of cards would have been necessary to the production of this web by the old methods, and the work would have taken perhaps four years. By the new photographic method the web was begun and completed in five hours!

Szezepanik did not leap at once into fame. The royal recognition came after long, hopeless struggles, which have been the lot of inventors and discoverers in all time. The royal recognition came after streets of Vienna waiting in vain for the patronage of a minister to whom he had shown his inventions, and at length his hope of government help being dashed to the ground. Szezepanik found a capitalist who listened to him and believed him. Herr Ludwig Kleinberg, a man of money and affairs, provided funds for a small factory in which the inventor worked

for two years and a half. Misfortune dogged the steps of both. Eight times the weaving machine was set up, and eight times it failed to do its work. The capitalist was threatened with ruin, but the enterprise was saved at the last hour by a German architect, Franz Habrich, who joined the concern and brought more funds. Once more the machine was made, the magical web was woven, and Szezepanik was free to devote himself to the idea still nearer to his heart—the idea of the "distance-seer," which was to annihilate space and bring distant scenes to unfold themselves before his sight.

How this was done would take too long, and take too technical language, to tell here. Let it suffice to say that by a wonderful arrangement of lenses and disks the waves of light are transformed into electricity at one end of the wire, carried over the wire like a telephone message, and converted back into rays of light at the other end.

The things we see with our eyes, as the verest school boy knows are not what they appear to be. When we see St. Paul's Cathedral, we see a million, or many millions, of rays of light given out by a million, or many millions, of points on the surface of St. Paul's, and the eye, receiving these millions of rays of light, forms them for the brain into a perfect picture. So, standing at one end of a wire, Jan Szezepanik sees, not a man or a house at the other end, but the image of a man or house formed on the retina of his eye by the waves of light given off by the man of the house, picked up by his selenium disk, conveyed as electricity over the wire, and received and made visible on a photographic plate.

Seven years have passed since—for the first time, we need not doubt, in the history of the world—a man with only human eyes stood in a room and saw, reflected in the room, an image of something two miles away. It was the first experiment with the teleroscope, and it established the possibility of the inventor's theory. A lens having been focused so that the image of a church fell upon it, the plate was exposed, at a given signal, and in Herr Kleinberg's house, about two miles distance, Herr Kleinberg, Jan Szezepanik and Herr Schmidt, an electrical engineer, plainly saw the picture—faint and blurred, but recognizable—of the church.

Seven years is as a moment in the work of evolution which is changing the face of this wonderful world, and today men are still content in London if the telephone brings them sound and not sight. Too often it is deaf and dumb, as well as blind. But Jan Szezepanik has not been working alone to realize this great dream. A German inventor, Maximilian Plessner, is a pioneer in the same field, and we are told that last year that the French government was negotiating for the rights of the "spectograph," another kind of telephone invented in Paris.

It makes all the difference in the world, however, that Mr. Edison now promises that we shall see by wire. He speaks our language and thinks our thoughts, and he belongs, wizard as he is, in our own real world. It may yet be that we shall sit by our firesides and see our kin across the sea, that we shall be "switched on" from our drawing rooms to be present at some great battled field, and that the streets of all the world's capitals will be familiar to those who never leave the streets of our own London. Some maker of dictionaries in that day will cross out "space" and "distance" and "invisible" as words without a meaning, and the brotherhood of man will come, not through religion, but through science.

Prepared For the Spring. Philadelphia Press.

"Well, boys," said the school master, as he prepared to take his seat one morning. "I suppose all are prepared for an early spring."

"Yes, sir," said the small boy who was invariably blamed for everything, "but I want to tell you I didn't put it on your chair."

Then the school master discovered the bent pin and the spring was postponed.

"Don't use poor soap," read Hungry Hawkins from the piece of newspaper that came with a hand-out.

"Some folks waste a lot uv words," growled Weary Walker. "In dat sentence I'd leave out the word 'poor'."

### THE LOUD TALKER SAYS—



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