

WIRES CHARGED BY LIGHTNING

Aurora Borealis Puts Tele- graph Companies Out of Business.

Chicago, Ills., October 31.--Serious electrical disturbances, said to be due to the aurora borealis, caused great inconveniences to telegraph and telephone companies today. Telegraph wires in all directions from Chicago felt the effect, in some localities causing a total cessation of business.

The disturbance lasted eight hours. At its climax there were 675 volts of electricity—enough to kill a man—in the wires without the batteries attached. An hour later the trouble had virtually disappeared.

"It was the worst electrical disturbance in thirty-five years," said Chief Operator J. E. Pettit, of the Postal Telegraph Company. "At times there were no workable wires in any direction and the cable service was seriously affected both on the Atlantic and Pacific."