

## **WIRE SERVICE LAMED BY AURORA BOREALIS**

### ***Polar Phenomenon Cuts Phone and Telegraph Efficiency 50 Per Cent in East.***

New York, Aug. 26. — Telephone and telegraph service throughout the East and West were seriously crippled tonight by the aurora borealls, described by officials of the companies in this city as perhaps the most depressing on wire circuits in many years.

The disturbance, according to the officials, was first observed about 7 p. m. By midnight, it was said, the service of the telegraph companies east of Chicago and as far west as Minneapolis was only about 50 per cent normal. Southern circuits were not much affected.

It was explained that in some instances the foreign battery, caused by earth currents, ranged from 75 volts positive to 75 volts negative. At Minneapolis, where, it was said, the sky was unusually bright, both telegraph and telephone circuits virtually were put out of commission for several hours.

The fact that wires running east and west suffered more than those traveling in a southern direction was attributed to parallel earth currents.