

EARTH CURRENTS KNOCK OUT WIRES

New York, Aug. 9 (Thursday).—Telegraph and telephone wires leading out of New York in all directions were seriously affected shortly after midnight by the aurora borealis or "earth currents," as telegraphers call the phenomena, and for more than two hours a majority of them were out of commission.

The disturbance began soon after 11 o'clock, affecting wires between New York and Atlanta. Later it was felt on all wires between New York, Buffalo and Pittsburgh and even as far west as Chicago. Lines to Boston and to the cable station at North Sydney, Nova Scotia, ceased to operate.

The most serious disturbance was from 1:11 a. m. to 1:45 a. m. when the wires cleared for a few minutes, but soon afterward the waves again gripped them and continued half an hour, when the wires began to clear.

Officials of the Western Union Telegraph Co. said that fully 90 per cent of the wire facilities in the country east of Chicago had been temporarily put out of commission. The effect of the earth waves, they said, was more pronounced on wires running parallel with the equator than those running north and south.