AURORA BOREALIS HITS WIRE SERVICES

Current From Magnetic Pole Causes Record Interference in Canada

By The Canadian Press.

TORONTO, April 28.—Aurora borealis, the enemy of telegraph services, struck in record fashion throughout the Dominion today. Not for ten years has the magnetic pole's interference been so widespread.

From the prairies to the maritimes and into the United States telegraph wires were gripped by the excess current radiated from the northern magnetic pole. Wires were grounded as operators in Canadian National and Canadian Pacific offices fought to maintain connections.

Veterans of the services could not recall a time when the aurora borealis reached into so great a territory. From Halifax to the prairie country the Northern Lights danced across the wires, cutting into news services' communication lines for hours at a time.

Excess current became so great in the Canadian Pacific operating room at Sudbury that all circuits were disconnected to prevent blown fuses. It extended to North Bay, Timmins, south to Sault Ste. Marie and into Western Ontario, where wires to Stratford, Kitchener and Guelph were disrupted.

Between Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal the aurora had its fling, delaying transmission of news reports and tying up commercial services for a while. An unusual feature was the appearance of the interference on the short-distance circuits in Ontario and Quebec and down to Halifax.

"Clock aurora," was the description given by the telegraph officials to the latest attack. It charges the wires and appears with pendulum-like regularity, they said, especially severe on high-speed signals of the mechanical telegraph systems.

Wires running from east to west generally bear the brunt of the aurora, but today it hit the north-south communications also.

Local telegraph companies reported last night that for several days their services throughout the country had been affected by electrical discharges similar to the disturbances of static familiar to radio reception. They attributed this disturbance to the aurora borealis, but explained that at no single point in this country had the interference been suficient to interrupt service.

Both the Western Union Company and the Postal Telegraph Company engineers asserted that they had noted the electrical interruptions for three or four days.