

# NORTHERN LIGHTS HALT WIRE SERVICE

**Electrical Disturbance Accompanying Aurora Extends Even to Cables.**

---

**DRAWS STREET CROWDS**

---

**Many Hurry to Riverside Drive to Watch the Brilliant Night Display.**

One of the strongest and most distinct displays of the aurora borealis, or "northern lights," ever seen here came into the arctic sky shortly after 7 o'clock last night, and continuing with slowly diminishing power its electrical aftermath played havoc with cables, telephone and telegraph services, affecting wireless transmission to a lesser extent.

The American Telephone and Telegraph Company, reporting its telegraph service completely demoralized, declared that the conditions had not interrupted its local long distance telephone service to any great extent. Although the arrival of the light was not discovered until night came on, apparently the big rays, with their disturbing influence, were present during the afternoon, because brokerage wires were retarded.

Officials of the cable companies, in describing the effect on the cables beneath fathoms of ocean, declared that one enterprise that ordinarily received from twenty-five to thirty cables every day had received only one up to late last night.

In telling of the aurora borealis the weather man declared that the effect on wires was due to magnetism of great power thrown off by the lights. When this hit the wires, he said, it put them out of service completely.

To those in the streets who happened to gaze skyward the lights appeared flashing and wavering across the northern sky, illuminating more than half of the horizon and resembling a huge searchlight, but the rays were not so direct. The flares were from northwest to southeast, fading into the southern horizon.

As the news spread through the city that the northern lights were visible persons left their homes to stand in the street or climb to house tops to obtain a view of the spectacle. Riverside Drive afforded an ideal place from which to watch the display and it was crowded until late. In the Bronx many women and children, to whom the meaning of the flares and flashes had not been explained, ran into their homes and pulled down the shades in order to shut out the mysterious glow.

The last display of the lights was in the latter part of August and was of short duration. It was said that the effect on wire communication was the greatest in three years.