Ericsson News

MARCH 1928 | Managing Editor: Woldemar Brummer | **No. 3**

English edition.

— Toll Traffic in Mexico. Up to 1926, the toll traffic in Mexico had not attained the proportions which might be expected in a country of this size. At this time, however, toll lines between the capital — Mexico City — and a number of other cities such as Pachuca, Toluca, El Oro and Cuernavaca, had already been established, these lines being built and maintained by the government. *Empresa de Teléfonos Ericsson*, owners since 1904 of a concession for operating a telephone net within Mexico City and the Federal District, had also established toll service prior to 1926 between Mexico City and the towns of Texcoco, Chalco and Cuantitlán within its zone of operation and — by special permission from the government — with Tlalnepantla, this latter town being located outside of the above-mentioned zone. The rates for a 3-minute conversation period for calls between the capital and the above-mentioned towns vary between $ .30 and $ .80 Mex. Cy. according to the distances and for each additional minute between $ .10 and $ .60. The year 1926 constitutes a turning point in the history of Mexican telephone communications, an agreement having then been signed between the Mexican Federal Government and *Empresa de Teléfonos Ericsson* whereby this latter company was granted a concession covering the toll traffic as well as local telephone traffic within the entire country. The Mexican *Ericsson* subsidiary commenced the development of the toll traffic by constructing the line Mexico City—Vera Cruz, this latter being Mexico's most important seaport. This important line will be opened for traffic by the middle of April and was completed as far as Amecameca already in 1927, and by January 15th of the present year it had reached Puebla, whereby this town obtained telephone communication with the capital.

R 863 Colonel H. Escalante, Municipal President of Puebla, Inaugurating Telephone Service Between Mexico City and Puebla, Jan. 15, 1928.

A simple but imposing ceremony marked the celebration of this event, followed by a banquet, invitations having been extended to the federal and municipal authorities in Puebla. In the absence of the Governor General Donato Bravo Izquierdo, the Mayor of Puebla — Lieutenant-Colonel Heliodoro Escalante — acted as chairman of the proceedings. The *Empresa de Teléfonos Ericsson* was represented by chief engineer Helge Rost, the superintendent of the contract department Miguel Hernández Chávez, the toll traffic superintendent Miguel Jaso and secretary Fernando Islas.

The first conversation over this line took place between the municipal president — who may be seen in the accompanying illustration — and General Bravo Izquierdo in Mexico City. After having exchanged greetings, the line was officially declared opened for traffic (see illustrations on page 4).

The spokesman of the Ericsson company thanked the official representatives and authorities for their highly valued coöperation which had been the means of adding a new page to the history of the telephone communications within the republic.

The following rates apply for toll traffic between Mexico City and Puebla: For one 3-minute period $ 1.00 and for each additional minute $ .33 Mex. Cy.

At the present moment this line has been opened for traffic as far as Orizaba, situated between Puebla and Vera Cruz.

Toll traffic will soon be established with quite a number of other states within the Mexican republic.

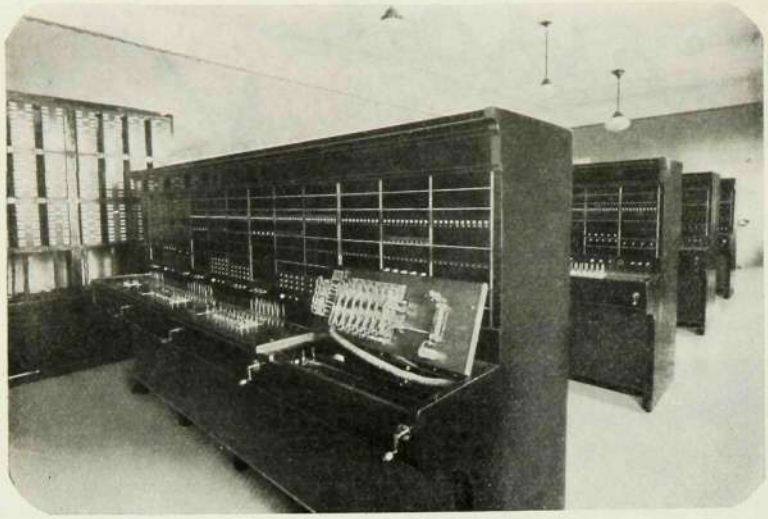
Concerning the activities of the Mexican Ericsson company with regard to the construction and operation of local telephone nets in the provinces and towns of the republic, we are in a position to mention that this company is now in possession of a majority of stock in the operating companies owning local telephone concessions in the city of Vera Cruz and the provinces of Guanajuato, Hidalgo, Coahuila, San Luis Potosí and Jalisco with their respective capitals Guanajuato, Pachuca, Saltillo, San Luis Potosí and Guadalajara.

In the town of *Torreón* (province of Coahuila) the local exchange was opened for traffic on January 21st of this year, the work of extending this net and completing communications with the towns of *Gomez Palacio* and *Lerdo* in the province of *Durango* being carried on at high pressure.

R 866 Placing a Coating of Asphalt on the Bases of Mannesmann Steel Poles for the Toll Line Between Mexico City and Vera Cruz.

— A cable from **Smyrna** imparts the news that the recent earthquakes have caused no damages of any kind either to L. M. Ericsson's personel, the plant now in course of erection or the new exchange building. A view of this latter is reproduced on page 1 of *Ericsson News* No. 2 for this year.

— Notes of Interest from Vienna. During 1927 *"Ericsson" Oesterreichische Elektr. A. G.* received an order from the Austrian Postal Administration for a combined local and toll telephone exchange for Gastein, the well known health and bathing resort, mak-



R 860 The Wiener-Neustadt Toll Exchange, Lower Austria.

ing a total of four telephone exchanges delivered to the Austrian government by the above-mentioned company. As has previously been mentioned in no. 2, 1927, of the *Ericsson News*, the Ericsson company in Vienna have already delivered telephone exchanges to St. Pölten, Wiener-Neustadt and Loeben.

The Gastein plant will be opened for traffic this year, before the beginning of the bathing season. The exchange will be equipped with thirty-two toll lines and six hundred local lines.

The toll exchange will have four positions with five incoming toll lines each, two positions with six toll lines each for night service, one position for incoming call orders, one dummy section and one cable turning section.

The local exchange comprises four positions with one hundred and fifty subscribers' lines each in the local field, and one three-panelled dummy section.

The local and toll boards are all placed in one single row in order to facilitate the extension of either the one or the other. This arrangement necessitated the placing of the cable turning section in the middle, between the local and toll boards, with the toll board to the left and the local board to the right. The order includes a main distributing frame, relay rack, line testing board, supervisor's desk, time checks for toll calls, etc., as well as the erection of the complete plant.

As a result of the automatization of the Vienna net now going on, the Austrian Ericsson company has received large orders for calling dials.

This company has also received orders for the delivery of one toll board each for the towns of Landeck and Bludenz on the Swiss border. Each of these boards will have two positions and be equipped with 2×10 toll lines and 2×20 plugs and speaking and ringing keys.

Among a number of smaller orders received from the Postal Administration we will mention fifteen switchboards adapted for combined local and toll service — each one with a capacity of five incoming toll lines, two through toll lines and fifty local lines — and ten toll boards, each with a capacity of ten incoming and three through toll lines.

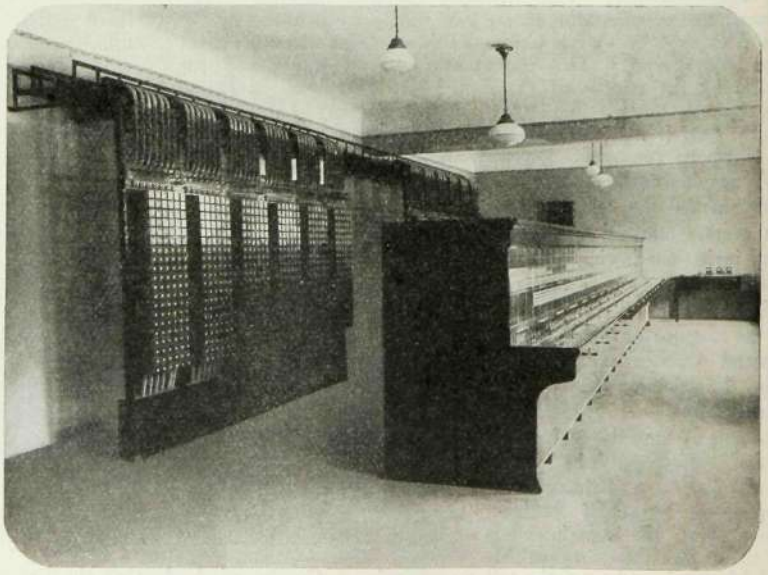
— Litterature. — La Corriente Telefónica; *Estudio matematico de los problemas relativos a la transmissión telefónica, precedido de una introducción sobre la corriente alterna* (Speach Currents; a mathematical study of problems touching on the transmission of sound by telephone with an introductory exposition of the alternating current theory), by Ignacio Maria Echaide, managing director of the telephone operating company of Guipuzcoa (San Sebastián) Burgos 1927, 144 pages, printed in Spanish. This work can well be regarded as something entirely new in the scientific and technical litterary world, this subject having never before been treated in the Spanish language and but incompletely in other languages. The author has acquitted himself of this self-imposed task in a clear and methodical manner, the result being most satisfactory from a scientific as well as from a pedagogical point of view.

— The Swedish Edition of **The L. M. Ericsson Review,** Vol. V., nos. 1 to 3 (1st quarter 1928) has now appeared and contains the following articles:

1. *Suburban Telephone Traffic in a Large City*, by A. Lignell; 2. *Call Order Service at the Stockholm Toll Exchange*, by M. Agrell; 3. *Time Recording*, by H. Josephson; 4. *On the Connecting of Registers by means of Cord Circuit Finders*, by Prof. R. Trechcinski; 5. *During what Length of Time and with how Large a Capacity shall a Manual Exchange be Retained in an Otherwise Automatic Telephone Net?* by H. Torelli.

The English, French, Spanish and German editions will appear during April and May.

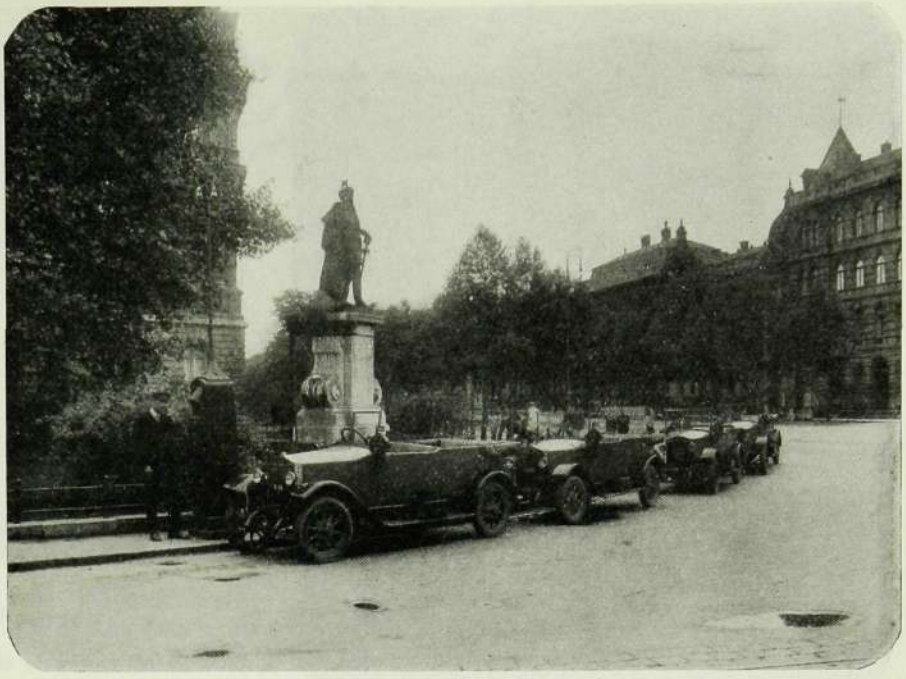
— The Budapest Taxi Exchange. The *Autotaxi Budapester Automobilverkehrs A.-G.*, who have provided Budapest with taxi service for the last fifteen years, enjoy a well earned popularity based on their efforts to give the public efficient and comfortable transportation. The general public has evinced a more than usual interest in the new taxi telephone exchange installed by L. M. Ericsson and commended by some of the foremost native and foreign telephone experts. With the exception of the one in Stockholm this installation is the oldest taxi exchange in the world and differs from the one just mentioned in that it is incorporated with the taxi company instead of with the local city exchange. Consequently, the Budapest taxi exchange is able to handle the apportioning of available taxicabs among the different cab ranks, these latter being provided with a special arrangement — combined with a telephone instrument — by means of which the chauffeurs are able to notify the exchange of their arrival at and departure from the cab rank. Thus, the number of taxis standing at the various ranks throughout the city is always known at the exchange, and a taxi can at any time be sent to another cab rank if this should be found



R 559 The Local Exchange at Wiener-Neustadt, Lower Austria.

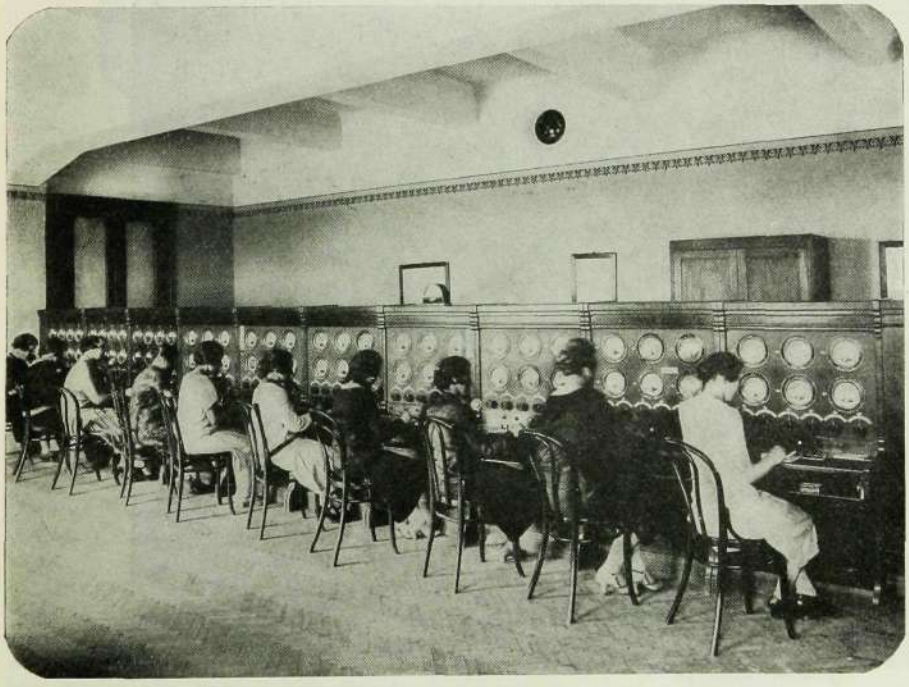
necessary in order to obtain a more even distribution. An order for taxi service is received at the taxi exchange over the local net, after which the operator calls up a convenient rank and gives the order to the answering chauffeur. As a rule it does not take more than two or three minutes before a taxi is placed at the disposal of the ordering party.

— Optical Anunciator System for Hotels, Hospitals, Sanatoriums, etc. The natural demand for quiet on the part of hotel guests as well as patients in sanatoriums and hospitals has made it desirable to reduce all noises and disturbing sounds to a minimum. Most establishments of this kind are still equipped with acoustic signals for calling the personel. If the bell and buzzer signals of such a system are unpleasant and disturbing during the day-time, how unbearable must they not be in the early morning, at which time the services of the personel are in greatest demand. Another reason for the gradual abandonment of the acoustic signalling systems is the superiority of optical systems with regard to the supervision of the personel. With these modern devices it is possible to obtain an exact record of the length of time which elapses between the giving of the signal and the receiving of the order by the person who is to execute the same. Systems of this type not only insure quiet and repose for the guests or patients of an institution but also provide a most efficient means for the supervision of the service. The use of such optical systems is not restricted to hotels, hospitals, sanatoriums and the like, but is equally suitable for passenger ships, private residences, business houses, etc.

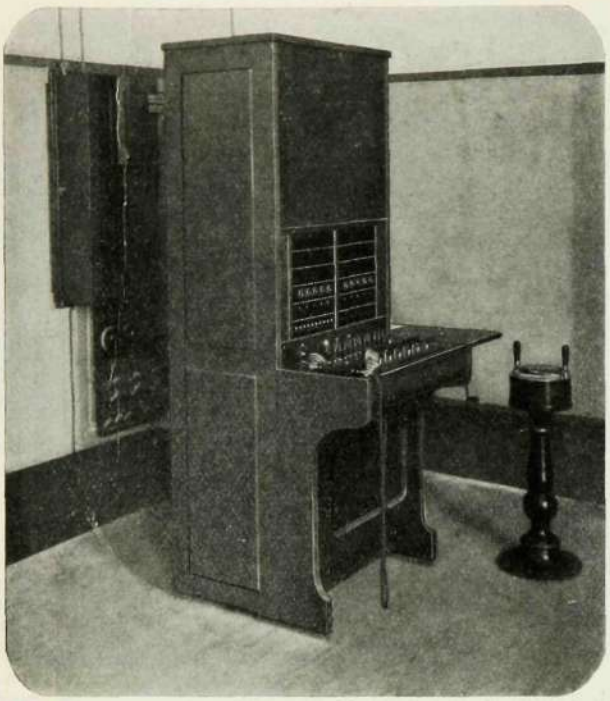


R 847 Cab Rank, with Telephone Instrument, in Budapest.

An optical signal system functions in the following manner. Over the door of each room is mounted a number of small differently coloured lamps, the number of lamps being determined by the different categories of service. The lighting and extinguishing of these lamps is accomplished by means of a corresponding number of switch buttons and a cut-out switch. When the occupant of the room wishes to communicate with an employee of one of the categories represented, all he needs to do is to depress the corresponding button, the buttons being identified by means of suitable designations. This lights the corresponding lamp, which then continues to glow until the wanted person has entered the room and disconnected the signal. Simultaneously with the room lamp, an indicator lamp in the room occupied by the personel is made to glow and a buzzer signal is given, the buzzer being connected in parallel with the indicator lamp over a switch, this latter permitting the buzzer to be disconnected when so desired; thus the personel's room is equipped with both luminous and acoustic signals. At the same time as the other lamps, a pilot lamp, suitably situated and indicating the location of the room from which the signal has emanated, is made to glow. Such lamps are included in the system only where necessary. In long, crooked or well lighted corridors it is often difficult to distinguish the small, glowing room lamps. In such cases pilot lamps, connected in parallel with the room lamps, are suitably placed so as to facilitate the locating of the room in question. After having received the order from the occupant of the room, the person answering the call may break the signal circuit by means of the cut-out switch before leaving the room, thus extinguishing the lamp over the door of the room as well as all the other indicator and pilot lamps, in the corridor as well as in the room of the personel. In case the person called is occupied for some length of time in another room, and therefore unable to observe the signals in the personel's room or in the corridor, she is provided with a buzzer instrument about the size of a watch which can be plugged into a jack beside the switch buttons for this room. Schould a signal then be given from another room,



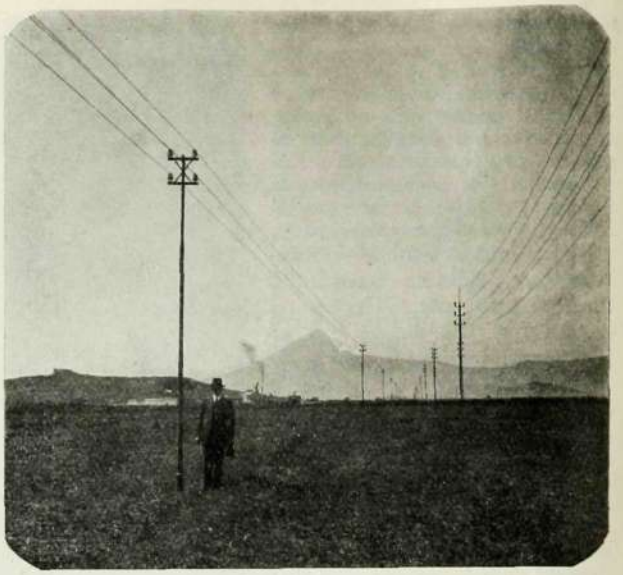
R 848 The Taxi Telephone Exchange in Budapest.



R 864 Toll Switchboard in Puebla on the Toll Line Mexico City—Vera Cruz.

the usual lamps are lit and this last mentioned buzzer will give a signal, after which the maid need only step out in the corridor and observe the signal lamps to see from which room the signal has been given.

For checking up the personel, check lamps — mounted on a special board and placed in a suitable location — are connected in parallel with the signal lamps. These lamps give accurate information as to the speed with which the guests are given service.

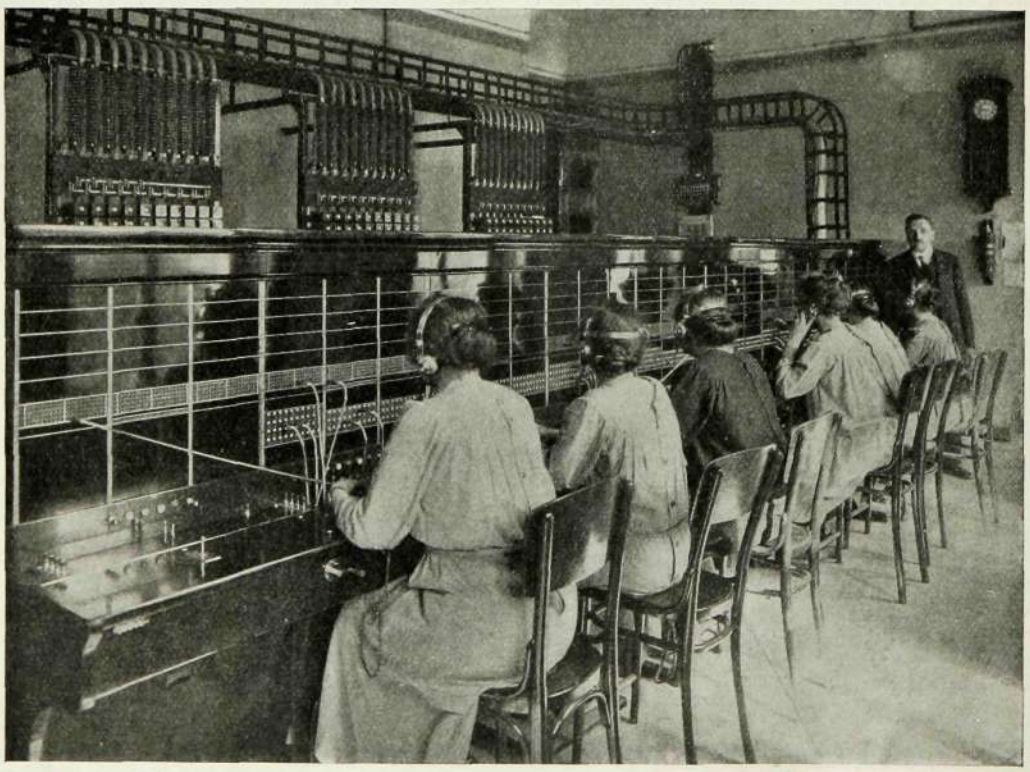


R 865 Steel Pole Line for the Toll Service Between Mexico City and Vera Cruz.

Systems of this kind, made by the Ericsson works in Vienna and Budapest, are delivered and installed by Telefonaktiebolaget L. M. Ericsson in Stockholm as well as by any of our agencies (see *Ericsson News*, no. 4, 1927, page 2).

Among the installations executed by us, the following may be mentioned:

Semmeringer Hotel- & Kuranstalt A. G. (vorm. Panhans), *Hotel Excelsior*, Triest, *Sanatorium Dr. Wiesler*, Graz, *Hotel Institutal Balnear*, Sinaia, Rumania, *Hotel Athenée Palace*, Bucharest, *Hotel Palace*, Bucharest, *Hotel Astoria*, Budapest, *Sanatorium Fasor*, Budapest.



The St. Pölten Telephone Exchange in Lower Austria. Built by the Vienna Ericsson Company.

Stockholm 1928. Kurt Lindberg, Boktryckeriaktiebolag.