

03450

627

BIRMINGHAM TELEPHONE EXCHANGE.

- 1. TITLE.....7
- Superimpose.....Birmingham.
- 2. GEN? VIEW EXCHANGE.....6
- 3. SEMI VIEW CHAMBERLAIN ARRIVES.....7
- 4. GEN. VIEW INTERIOR HALL.....6
- 5. LONG VIEW CHAMBERLAIN SWITCHES ON.....5
- 6. CLOSE UP MOTOR STARTS.....5
- 7. SEMI VIEW MAN PUSHES SWITCH.....3
- 8. CLOSE UP WORKING ON MOTOR.....4
- 9. GEN. VIEW INTERIOR EXCHANGE.....6
- 10. SEMI VIEW LINE OF GIRLS.....5
- 11. PAN FROM SWITCHBOARD TO GIRLS.....6
- 12. LONG VIEW CHAMBERLAIN TALKS.....47
- 13. CLOSE UP " "19
- 14. SEMI VIEW " "18

HART ✓

"

"

M.

H

H

"

"

"

"

M

M

M

133ft.

19

89

5

41
 75

 36

 111

80
 48

 128

2-250420
21/1/37. 61

INTERVIEW MAJOR TRYON

LV talks. My Lord Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen. I am quite delighted to welcome the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Mrs. Chamberlain here today. I welcome them on behalf of the whole staff of the Post Office, and on behalf of all present. We are really grateful to Mr. Chamberlain for coming here today because Parliament is sitting, he is always very busy, and very soon he will be opening not a telephone exchange, but a budget.

SV. talks. A thousand million calls. Last year we broke the record set up in the previous year for the number of telephones installed. In 1936 we installed 238 thousand new telephones compared with 183 thousand the year before.

SCU talks. We want to show the public that as Mr. Chamberlain so well said last September, the Post Office is a friendly and a human place, and I am asking him to declare this building open and I want you to show how friendly the post office staff is by the welcome which you will give him today (applause)

SV Chamberlain walks up, starts to talk. Mr. Chamberlain-Chairman, My Lords Ladies and Gentlemen, the Postmaster General has been good enough to express his gratitude to me for coming home today in order to open this wonderful new building which he has put up for our benefits.

LV Chamberlain talks. To get some idea of the immense variety and extent of the services which the Post Office renders to the public, and since I have migrated to another office whose activities are not perhaps always quite so much appreciated ~~tax~~ as well as the Post Office, I have watched with growing admiration, and I may say, envy, the enterprise which they have shown which has added so much to their usefulness, and so much I may add, to their popularity with their clients.

SV talks. I am now getting to an age when I can look back on a great number of things which the present generation accept as a matter of course, but which in my youth were completely unknown, and among them, together with electric light and the motorcar and the radio and the gramophone, is also the telephone. I recollect that when I was a small boy at school, experimenting with a schoolfellow who happened to be one of the sons of the great Huxley, with a somewhat primitive form of telephone which consisted of two receivers tied together with a piece of string, and we found that standing at opposite ends of the playground we could more or less make one another heard through this telephone, although I am not quite sure how much went through the telephone and how much went through the air.

2 5
61
Our telephones today are reliable, and I may say, one of the most indispensable instruments in our life, in our domestic affairs and in business affairs either, and thanks to a serious, ah, what seems to the layman, a miraculous - a series of miraculous inventions, it is possible today to talk to people many thousands of miles away with the same ease as if they were actually sitting in the same-~~room~~ rooms as ourselves.

SV. In these days nothing is done as it used to be, and the Post Office are always in the front line in showing something new.

SV. It is quite sufficient to drop that little hint, and very soon I shall find that I am privileged to share ~~the~~ the same advantages as other more fortunate citizens of Birmingham.

SV. ..object here I shall be able to start these motor generators into operation, and having done that you will be able to listen to a number of loudspeakers which will ~~take~~ take you through the building and in turn tell you what is going on in the various departments. In order that I may avoid any possible disappointment I understand that you are not likely to hear any complaints from subscribers (laughter) Nevertheless

SV. Nevertheless I dare say you will be able to get other opportunities of that kind if you wish, and in the meantime I am sure you will be extremely gratified to have this rather novel method of understanding what is being done here.

SV. Although as we are here situated about the middle of the building it is quite obvious that it must have already been opened or else we could not have got here, but I do declare it open formerly Mr. Postmaster-General ~~and once more~~ I wish to thank you for giving me this opportunity of associating myself with this very interesting occasion (applause) ...opens building 3