

TALKS BY TELEPHONE OVERSEAS NOT SECRET

*But British Officials Doubt if
Amateurs Will Be Able to Make
Much Out of Them.*

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Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, Jan. 3.—Although no official announcement has been made as yet, it is expected here that the official date for opening the transatlantic telephone service will be made public some day this week. Simultaneous publication of the official announcement will be made on both sides of the Atlantic.

At the present stage of wireless development absolute privacy of messages sent across the ocean telephonically cannot be guaranteed, but an official of the British General Post-office pointed out today that it would be impossible to overhear telephone messages by means of ordinary wireless receiving sets and that special apparatus, knowledge and skill would be necessary to make intelligible any portion of a conversation between this country and America. He said experiments were still being made with a view to insuring a higher degree of privacy.

Another official is quoted by The Daily Mail as saying that it is possible to prevent the overhearing of conversations and that it is certain it will be prevented. He doubted whether any amateur would be able to overhear a two-way conversation, even if he went to the trouble and expense of fixing his apparatus for the purpose.

"Voice sounds coming from America," he said, "will be very faint and cannot be heard in London unless considerably amplified by a special process which the postoffice has elaborated."

He added that the authorities had devised means of tracking persons who attempt to overhear conversations, but he admitted that for some little time the service will be only semi-secret. As against this, The Daily Mail asserts that during week-end experiments questions and answers to and from America were picked up by an amateur with a two-valve set.