

Werk

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cheap nor so prompt and trustworthy as that of Great Britain. At the beginning of 1899 this company owned 189,847 M. of line and 874,420 M. of wire, while the number of despatches sent by it in 1898 was 62,173,749. The rates from New York are given at p. 15, and from them may be roughly estimated the probable rates from other parts of the country. — In 1897 the United States contained 536,845 M. of *Telephone Wires*, with 325,244 telephones (comp. p. 15). Telephones are in operation in all large, and many of the small, towns throughout the country.

VII. Glossary.

The following short list of words in frequent use in the United States in a sense not commonly known in England may be found of service. The speech of the cultivated American, of course, varies little from the speech of the cultivated Englishman, and no misunderstanding is likely to arise in their verbal intercourse; but it will not unfrequently be found that railway-officials, cabmen, waiters, and the like do not know what is meant by the British equivalents of the following expressions. It must not be understood that the under-noted words are all in use throughout the whole of the United States. A New Englander, for instance, may tell you that 'he never heard such a word', when you use a term in regular use by all classes in the West or South. The list, which might be extended indefinitely, does not attempt to enumerate the local names for different kinds of food, implements, etc.; nor does it mean to include words that are solely and avowedly 'slang'. Purely technical terms are also avoided. Comp. p. xxi (railway terms), p. xlvii, etc.

Bed-spread, coverlet, counterpane.

Biscuit, hot tea-rolls.

Bit (California and the South), 12½ c.

(two bits 25 c., eight bits \$1).

Blind, shutter.

Block, rectangular mass of building bounded by four streets.

Boots, used only of boots coming up wholly or nearly to the knee. Comp.

Shoes and Ties.

Boss, master, head, person in authority.

Bowl, basin (set bowl, fixed in basin).

Bright, clever.

Broncho, native (Western) horse.

Bug, beetle, coleopterous insect of any kind.

Bureau, chest of drawers.

Burro (California and the South West), donkey.

Calico, printed cotton cloth.

Carom, cannon (at billiards).

Chore, odd job about a house done by a man.

Chowder, a kind of thick fish soup.

City, corporate town or municipal borough.

Clerk, shopman.

Clever, good-natured.

Corn, Maize or Indian corn.

Cracker, biscuit; also, in the Southern States, a poor white man.

Creek (pron. crick), a small stream.

Cunning, neat, pretty, tiny (mainly of children or small pet animals).

Cute is often used in much the same sense.

Cuspidor, spittoon.

Cutter, light, one-horse sleigh.

Deck, pack of cards (used by Shakespeare).

Dirt, earth, soil (e.g., a 'dirt tennis-court').

Drummer, commercial traveller.

Dry Goods, dress materials, drapery, etc.

Dumb, (often) stupid (Ger. *dumm*).

Elevator, lift.

Fall, autumn.

Fix, to arrange, make, put in order, settle, see to, etc.

Fleshy, stout.

Grip or *Grip-sack*, hand-bag.