

## B. GHERARDI DIES; PHONE PIONEER, 68

Vice President, Chief Engineer  
of A. T. & T., 1920-38, With  
Industry for 43 Years

BUILT 3 LINES ACROSS U. S.

Saw 300,000 Phone System  
Reach World-Wide Scope—  
Cited for Contributions

SUDBURY, Ont., Aug. 15 (Canadian Press)—Bancroft Gherardi of Short Hills, N. J., a former vice president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, died of a heart attack last night while on a vacation near here. His age was 68. Mr. Gherardi was a trustee of Cornell University.

He leaves a widow. Burial will be at Short Hills.

### Recipient of Edison Medal

Mr. Gherardi, one of the leading communication engineers of the United States, was the recipient of the 1932 Edison Medal "for contributions to the art of telephone engineering and development of electrical communication." In accepting the award in the Spring of 1933 he pointed out that when he first became connected with a telephone company in 1895 the longest circuit was between New York and Chicago.

He was born in San Francisco on April 6, 1873, the son of Rear Admiral Bancroft Gherardi, who was navigator of the Niagara, which laid the American end of the first transatlantic cable in 1866.

Mr. Gherardi was educated at various elementary schools, depending on where his father's duties as a naval officer took him. He received the degree of B. Sc. from Polytechnic Institute in Brooklyn in 1891, his father at that time being head of the navy yard in Brooklyn. Two years later he took his degree of M. E. from Cornell University and a year later his M. M. E.

Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute conferred on him an honorary degree of Doctor of Engineering at its graduation in June, 1933, and he was similarly honored by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1936.

There were only 300,000 telephones in the United States when Mr. Gherardi started work testing cables in 1895 for the Metropolitan Telephone and Telegraph Company, parent of the New York Telephone Company. When the traffic engineering department of the company was organized in 1900 he was placed in charge. In 1901 he was promoted to chief engineer of the New York and New Jersey Telephone Company, and when the two were severed in 1906 he became assistant chief engineer of both.

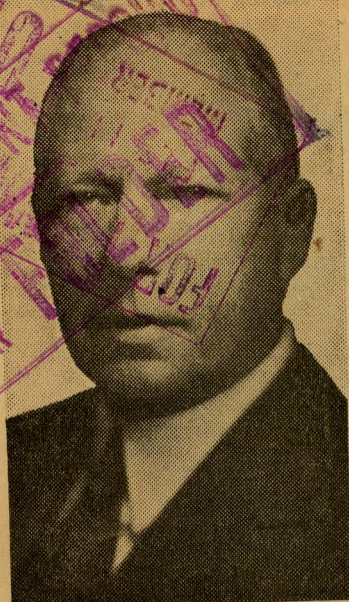
### Equipment Engineer in 1907

His work, in the meanwhile, had come to the attention of Theodore N. Vail, president of the A. T. & T., and Mr. Vail brought the young engineer to the headquarters staff of the Bell system in 1907 as equipment engineer. In 1909 he became engineer of plants, in charge of development and standardization of the system. He was made acting chief engineer of the A. T. & T. in 1918 and chief engineer and vice president two years later. He held the latter posts at his retirement in 1938.

Among Mr. Gherardi's outstanding engineering accomplishments were the construction of the Boston-Washington underground cable, the completion of three trans-continental lines and the building of the New York-Chicago cable.

He was one of fourteen leading scientists elected to the National Academy of Science in 1933 and was chairman of the academy's engineering section from April, 1935, to April, 1938. He was a member of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, of which he was president in 1927; the National Academy of Science and the American Standards Association, an organization he headed in 1932.

Mr. Gherardi married Mary Hornblower Butler of Paterson, N. J., on June 15, 1898. They had no children.



BANCROFT GHERARDI

Blackstone, 1938