

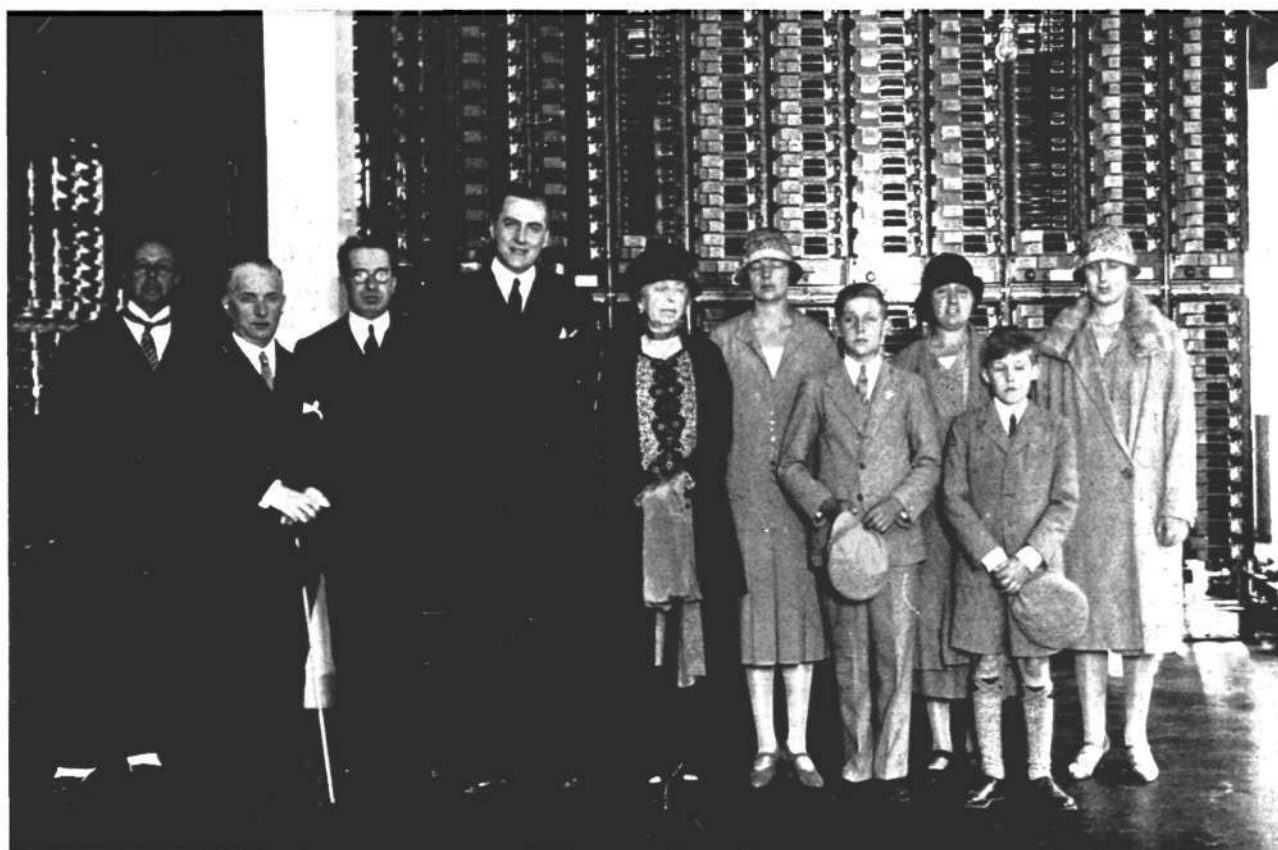
# The L. M. Ericsson Review



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H. M. THE DOWAGER QUEEN MARIA CRISTINA OF SPAIN TOGETHER WITH THEIR R. H. AND SUITE AT THE NEW AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE EXCHANGE IN SAN SEBASTIAN, JULY 6<sup>TH</sup> 1926.

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The New Ericsson Automatic Exchanges

IN SAN SEBASTIAN AND VICINITY.

On the fifteenth of June last the new telephone exchanges which are to handle the traffic in San Sebastián (Spain) and vicinity were officially inaugurated. These exchanges are built according to the Ericsson full automatic system, the entire installation consisting of a local net — »La Red Telefónica Urbana Municipal» — and a rural net — »La Red Provincial» —, reaching out about 15 kms from the centre of the city and with sub-stations in Pasajes, Rentería, Hernani and Miracruz within the province of Guipúzcoa.

San Sebastián — a city of about 60,000 inhabitants — is the most frequented Spanish bathing resort, being situated where the little river Urmeas empties its waters into the innermost part Bay of Biscay, about seventeen



R 484

H. M. King Alfonso XIII.

kilometres from the French border.

A beautiful location, together with imposing buildings, lovely parks and boulevards, and a wonderful bathing beach have all contributed to make San Sebastián a most fashionable summer resort in which the elite of Spain — including the royal family (which resides in the summer palace of Miramar), the cabinet and the foreign legations — spend the summer months. When the season is at its height, the population of this city is often doubled. San Sebastián is an important manufacturing centre and has a flourishing trade, thanks to the well situated and near-

by port of Pasajes. The absolute necessity for good telephone service in such an important community is apparent, its leading men

# L. M. Ericsson

having been among the first to acknowledge this fact.

In november 1923 the municipality of San Sebastián succeeded in obtaining from the government a concession for all time for the operation of the city's telephone net. After the cooperation of neighbouring localities had been assured by the signing of an agreement with the provincial government (La Diputación) of Guipúzcoa, it was decided to adopt a full automatic telephone system for the city and its environs instead of the previously existing C.B. and L.B. systems.

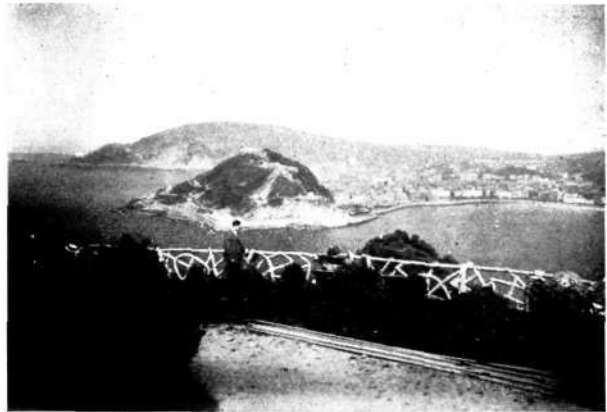
This decision was arrived at following a trip made by the city and provincial telephone managers for the purpose of studying the various telephone systems now in use on the continent.

In April 1924 bids were requested from all the leading telephone concerns, such as Standard Electric, Thompson Houston, Peel Connor, The New Antwerp Telephone and Electrical Works (A. T. E. A.) Siemens, and L. M. Ericsson, the tender of the latter firm being accepted on May 26 of the same year on account of its being lowest as well as for the decided technical advantages possessed by the Ericsson system. The completed installation was to be handed over during the year 1926, this having now taken place.

The both exchanges, i. e. Red Urbana and Red Provincial, are housed on different floors



R 466 The Famous Bathing Beach at San Sebastián.



R 467 A Charming View of San Sebastián.

of the same building in San Sebastián. They operate independantly of each other except for the power plant, which is common for both of them.

The number of subscribers' lines in the local net is at present about 3200 and will propably be increased to 4000 by the end of the year on account of the large number of applications now waiting to be effectuated. The present capacity of this exchange is 5500 lines, with room for an additional 1500.

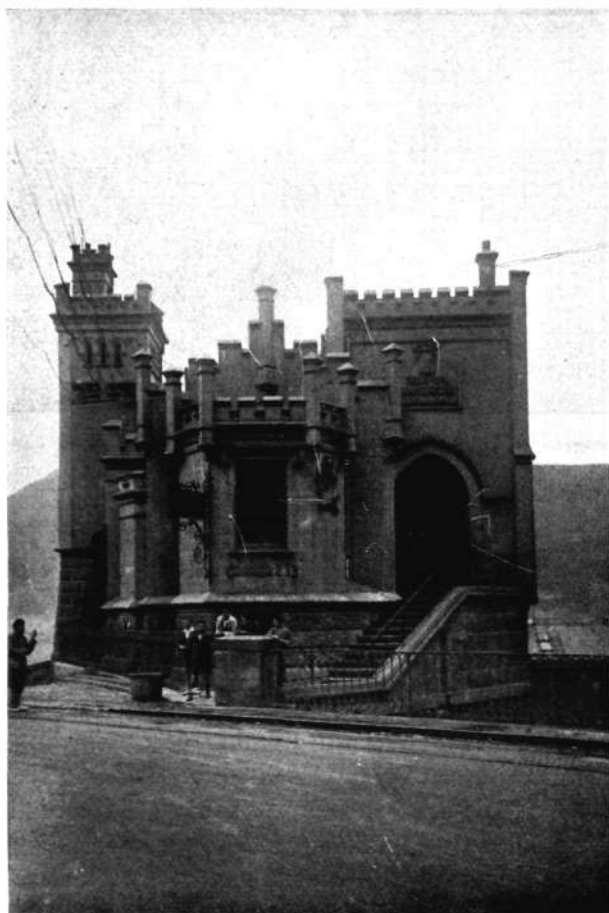
The four satellite exchanges of the rural net are built for a present capacity of 640 lines, the total maximum capacity being 3500 lines.

In connection with the change from manual to automatic equipment extensive *underground* conduit lines have been built for the outside cable plant, thereby considerably increasing the plant built in 1908. This work has been done by the Compañía Española de Teléfonos Ericsson.

San Sebastián was the first Spanish city with underground distribution of cables — a most necessary adjunct to good telephone service in large communities —, and now, also, it is the first city in Spain to obtain a full automatic telephone system.

As already mentioned, the inauguration of the entire plant took place on the 15th of June last, in the presence of the secretary of state, general Martínez Anido, who had come up from Madrid for this purpose. In addition, officials and repre-

## L. M. Ericsson



R 468

Pasajes.

representatives from the city as well as from the province, together with representatives from L. M. Ericsson — all together about 150 persons — were present and took part in the inaugural proceedings at the central exchange, commencing at noon.

During the animated luncheon which followed the proceedings, a hearty vote of thanks was extended to all those who had participated in the work and contributed to its successful completion, among whom L. M. Ericsson and their representatives present were given a prominent place.

On July 6th the telephone exchange was honoured by a first royal visit, in that Her Majesty the Dowager Queen Maria Cristina, together with four of the children of the King and Queen, were escorted through the exchange

and spent quite some time in being shown its interesting intricacies.

On July 23rd, H. M. King Alfonso arrived to see for himself in what manner L. M. Ericsson had performed its commission in the city to which the activities of his government are removed during the summer months. His Majesty evinced a keen interest in the plant and spent over an hour in a study of the same, including the cable intakes in the cellar as well as the smallest details of the selector and line finder mechanisms, after which he congratulated and thanked all those with whom this fine piece of work had originated and wished them continued success in their work in the field of telephony.

Lastly, we beg to offer some points of information which — without additional comment — will enable our readers to form an opinion of the economical advantages offered the general public



R 470

Hernani.

## L. M. Ericsson

in San Sebastián after the introduction of automatic equipment of the Ericsson system, as compared with conditions in other large Spanish cities.

For the sake of comparison we will take the subscription rates for a telephone with unlimited service, i. e. a business telephone.

San Sebastián, annual subscription rate	Pts. 156:—
Santander,           »           »           »           »	180:—
Bilbao                »           »           »           »	225:—
Madrid               »           »           »           »	375:—

1 Peseta = abt £ 0-0-7.6

This shows clearly that the municipal operation of the telephone net has resulted in giving San Sebastián telephone rates which are  $13\frac{1}{3}\%$  lower than those of Santander,  $30\frac{2}{3}\%$  lower than

Bilbao's, and 58.4 % lower than those of Madrid.

This last figure, in particular, should be able to give many persons ample food for thought.

A complete description of the San Sebastián plant will be published in a coming issue of this journal.

We will close this little article with a few words from a leading San Sebastián newspaper concerning the manner in which the Ericsson company has fulfilled its commission in this city:

»As concerns the company to whom the construction of this plant was entrusted, on this occasion we will only repeat that it has again given evidence of its high standard of business morals and of its perfect technical organisation.»

*G. K.*



R 462

Rentería.