

Letter from Thomas A. Watson to Fred DeLand, November 17, 1907

E. Braintree Mass. Nov. 17th 1907. Mr. Fred DeLand Pittsburgh Pa. Dear Sir:—

I have read your “Exchange” article. I see nothing to criticize in it. I have no cuttings that would help it at all.

A man named John Ponton, editor of a paper published in Titusville Pa. was exceedingly interested in the “Exchange” idea as early as 1876 or 77 and had many conferences with Mr. Bell and myself about it. Some sort of a contract was made with him for establishing the system in Penn. towns but he was a visionary sort of a fellow and nothing came of it. I remember no one who was so enthusiastic about that feature of the telephone as he was. If you could find a file of the daily paper he edited in Titusville of about that date you would probably get some interesting suggestions on the subject.

Thank you for the copy of the Pop. Sci. Monthly article.

Yours truly Thomas A Watson