CAREER OF PROF. PUPIN.

INVENTOR OF OCEAN TELEPHONE HAS STRANGE HISTORY.

Born in Hungary to Servian Parents. He Runs Away to America When 15 Years Old — Works as Rubber in Turkish Bath, Attracts Attention of Brooklyn Minister, Who Secures Him Scholarship, After Which He Rises Rapidly.

New York, Jan. 27.—[Special.]—Professor Michael J. Pupin of Columbia University discoverer of the ocean telephone, is one of the few professor millionaires, or millionaire professors, who has succeeded in making his studies and his lectures in the classroom lead the way to wealth. Professor Pupin twenty years ago was an employé at a small salary in a Turkish bath.

Professor Pupin was born in Hungary in 1858. His family were Servians of the upper class and a career was mapped out for the youth in the army. Young Pupin tired of drills and in 1874, at the age of 15, he ran away and came to New York. He was unable to secure employment for some time and finally sought a position as a rubber in a Turkish bath in Brooklyn. He remained for three years, and it was the beginning which led to his ultimate success.

Minister Aids Young Pupin.

At baths the young Servian met many distinguished people, and his intelligent conversation and evident powers of original thought made an impression on more than one who frequented the establishment. Among the latter was the Rev. Dr. Homer, pastor of a Protestant Episcopal church of Brooklyn, who was so impressed by the lad that he secured for him a scholarship in the Adelphi Academy. At the end of two years he was graduated with honors, and was then made the recipient of a scholarship at Columbia. Here he distinguished himself by capturing a number of prizes. He also became a leader of his class in a physical as well as intellectual sense. In 1883 he was graduated at the head of his class, and delivered the Greek salutatory.

Pupin was next accorded a fellowship in Columbia, and this enabled him to take a post-graduate course at Cambridge University, England, and at the University of Berlin, Germany. He received the degree of Ph. D., his course having been marked by high honors. In 1889 Professor Pupin returned to Columbia, and was appointed instructor of mathematical physics in the department of electrical engineering.

Theory of the Invention.

Professor Pupin's researches have been chiefly in the demonstration of electricity, particularly in the matter of electrical wave propagation. The invention, which has been so widely discussed during the last few days, and which will have its commercial application in ocean and long distance telephony, is a practical application of a general theory of wave propagation on which he has been working for more than six years, and on which he intends to continue to study. The ultimate object of this theory is the investigation of the laws of the propagation of light through molecular complexes. It overcomes the natural dissipation of the electrical current by the insertion at regular intervals of induction coils, by which the current is renewed and strengthened and the volume of energy transmitted unimpaired over distances which, without such coils, it would be impossible to traverse by wire or cable.

Professor Pupin is receiving applications from all over Europe and from Canada for the purchase of his patents in various foreign countries. He received $500,000 and a royalty for the rights to the use of his appliances in the United States. A few years ago Professor Pupin married the sister of his old classmate and now fellow-professor at Columbia, Professor A. D. W. Jackson. She was then a widow, and it is understood when she died recently she left Professor Pupin a fortune of $1,000,000.