

THE FIELD OF ELECTRICITY

Telephone Companies Call Up a Victory in Washington Courts.

CONGRESS CANNOT REDUCE CHARGES

Effect of Steam and Trolley Line Competition—Long-Distance Transmission—Developments in Other Lines.

The right of congress to regulate tele- phone charges in the district of Columbia was judicially determined in the negative last week. The last congress passed a bill making \$60 the maximum charge for tele- phone service in the District. The telephone company resisted enforcement of the law by appealing to the courts. The District commissioners and patrons of the company also appealed to the courts. After much wrangling an agreed case was submitted to an equity court and a decision rendered in favor of the company. In substance the court holds that the act of congress is unconstitutional, and that the company may have any remedy against the action of the company in removing phones of persons who refused to pay the company rate of \$70 per month. It is at law instead of in equity.

Competition Increases Traffic.

The competition of steam and trolley lines for local traffic materially increases the business both ways. When trolley lines stretched out beyond the old horse car limit and came into sharp competition with the railroads, it was predicted that the division of the traffic would not pay, and that one of the two would be forced from the market. Experience has shown that there are no difficulties encountered in raising the voltage to 20,000, and there is at present one large transmission system which is in practical operation at 40,000 volts. Beyond this limit, however, the difficulties of further increasing the pressure appear to be insurmountable. The medium in which the transmission is conducted, the air, breaks down about that point and no longer acts as an insulator, so that a large amount of energy leaks off from the line, and the high pressure is sufficiently powerful to puncture the insulation of the lines. The medium which could be utilized practically for the insulation of the transmitting circuit line, the insulation of such lines in oil tubes either underground or supported overhead offers little hope, as the difficulty is not only to find a cheap non-conductor that will hold its insulation, but the cost of maintenance is a serious matter and theory offers no practical method of preventing them. Then, too, the protection of such lines from lightning is another serious and important problem, as the arresters usually employed for this purpose have to be replaced at considerable intervals. The pressure of the present time is preventing the working pressure from being so striking across. As regards the distance of electrical transmission, that is merely one of commercial limitations to transmissions up to eighty or 100 miles, several large plants being in successful operation. The limitations of distance and commercial limitations have demonstrated that the transmission of from 600 to 1,200 horse-power at distances from fifteen to twenty-six miles will pay under usual circumstances. From twenty-five to fifty miles many plants will pay when the line is suitably insulated. The limitations are a few exceptional cases, where hydraulic power rights are particularly cheap and fuel at the point of delivery exceptionally high, will pay in distances up to 100 miles. The transmitting lines for such plants are carried on steel towers, and are being built heavy and the poles necessarily strong to carry it, so that weather has practically no effect whatever upon such a line. The greatest damage has resulted from smaller wires falling across the high voltage lines.

Electricity on Modern Canals.

The opening of the Chicago drainage canal lends special interest to the part which electricity is playing in the operation of the great modern canals of modern Europe. One of the most interesting of these is the new German canal from Dortmund to the English coast, which is being built along one bank of the waterway, from which a motor engine gets its power. This engine travels along a track, closely following the windings of the canal, and pulls the boats along. The canal is being built in this way that the damage which would be done to the earthworks on either side of the canal is entirely avoided. Experiments have proved that this means of transportation is from 20 to 40 per cent cheaper than steam with an annual traffic of 2,500,000 tons. At the same time the plant which furnishes power for the towing engines supplies all necessary lights for the canal, as well as the power for operating the locks. The same system is being used in a similar scheme is used, though in that country the traction engine used in towing travels along an ordinary road, no rails being laid. On other French canals power taken from the trolley wire along the banks is utilized for fastening the motor and revolving screw to the stern of each towboat.

Electricity at the Buffalo Show.

In the Pan-American exposition to be held at Buffalo next year it is proposed to give the most brilliant electrical display ever attempted. The main buildings will be grouped around a court of fountains, sunken gardens of tropical flowers and an elaborate display of incandescence. The display will be lighted by 100,000 incandescent lamps. At one end of the court an electrical tower will rise 300 feet. From the tower, at the height of seventy feet, a catenary thirty feet wide will fall. The water breaking up in its descent under the play of light will be a water basin with an area of 80,000 square feet, and into this, adorned with fountains and statuary, will flow a cascade. The electric illumination will extend to a large park lake surrounded by rising lawns and to the "grand canal" enclosing a large portion of the grounds.

Pass Bill Against Boxing.

ALLIANCE, N. Y., Feb. 15.—The bill repealing the so-called Horton law, which permits boxing matches in the state, was passed in the assembly today. The bill stands 29 yeas to 28 nays. The bill has now gone to the senate, where it will be considered by the committee on education.

Missouri and Missourians.

Four of the newspapers in Andrew county are edited by preachers' sons. Livingstone county is again agitating the question of holding a new court house. "Chillicothe preachers have caused the city dads to suppress the hot machines there."

Blatz Malt-Vivine

(Non-Intoxicant) taken with meals and at bed time will assist the digestive functions and thoroughly tone up the whole system. This liquid malt extract appeals particularly to the nursing mother—it possesses the properties most essential.

TRY BLATZ MALT-VIVINE

ALL DRUGGISTS. PREP'D BY W. BLATZ BEE WING CO., MILWAUKEE

Omaha Branch 1412 Douglas St. Tel. 1061.

MAJOR MULFORD'S VALENTINE

It is a Divorce Decree and is Filed at the Court Hens After Long Delay.

DASHING OFFICER PAYS COSTS AT LAST

From Far-Away Manila Major Mulford Makes Arrangements to Exercise His Right to a Matrimonial Dilemma.

Late in the afternoon on St. Valentine's day there was filed in the office of District Clerk E. W. Dyer a divorce decree against Major Mulford. The decree was signed by Judge Fawcett of equity court November 26, of last year. The filing was delayed pending payment of court costs—an obligation which devolved upon Major Mulford. Meantime he was in a somewhat unfavorable predicament for within a few hours of the divorce trial in Judge Fawcett's court Major Mulford married a California woman. It was the opinion of competent lawyers that in doing so he had taken a plurality of wives, for a divorce decree is not effective until it is filed in the office of the district clerk, and it would not be accepted for filing until costs were paid. The divorce proceedings were instituted by Mrs. Mulford, and she allowed the case to go by default, he being in California at that time. Two days after his marriage to the California woman, whom he met in a romantic manner, he sailed for the Philippines. His bride followed him a few weeks later.

Shook New Mrs. Mulford.

Before the new Mrs. Mulford left for the Philippines she was apprised by newspaper dispatches of the status of her husband's matrimonial affairs in Omaha. The divorce trial was held in Judge Fawcett's court, and she was informed that her husband had married another woman. She was shocked and distressed, and she was informed that her husband had married another woman. She was shocked and distressed, and she was informed that her husband had married another woman.

WYOMING'S PREHISTORIC MINES.

Number of Valuable Discoveries Are Made of Ancient Ranges.

CHEYENNE, Wyo., Feb. 15.—(Special.)—Prehistoric mines of copper, lead, iron, and zinc are known to exist elsewhere in America have been found near Hartsville. Joseph L. Stein, a mine operator, who is probably better acquainted with this field than any other man, was here today on his way east and urged the department of geology to investigate made by the government or some of the larger universities.

Land Bill in South Dakota.

PIERRE, S. D., Feb. 15.—(Special.)—The holders of small bunches of cattle on the range are strongly opposed to the pending bill now before congress, which provides for the fencing hold their cattle in a smaller space than they now occupy by allowing their stock to range without restraint, and the small holder can easily lease a tract large enough to provide hay and grain for his cattle at a moderate price per year than he now pays for round-up privileges.

New Engines in Wyoming.

CHEYENNE, Wyo., Feb. 15.—(Special.)—Twenty new engines for the Union Pacific are now being constructed at the Taunton locomotive works in the east. These engines will be very similar to the recently purchased 1,500 and 1,700 horsepower engines among the largest freight engines in the world. The new engines will be numbered 1,900 and will take the place of the 1,700's between Laramie and Rawlins. The 1,700's will then be sent back to the Nebraska division.

Two Coal Barges Found.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—The coal barges Blossom and Alice, of the Erie Canal, were found on the Tryon river, near the mouth of the Hudson, on Tuesday morning with two children. Their names are Charles and Alice. Their father is a man named Charles H. Lacey, and their mother is a woman named Alice. They were found in a small boat on the river.

Kansas Notes and Comment.

It is estimated that every graduate of the Atchison High school will receive \$25. The great excitement over the discovery of zinc has worked around to Nemaha county. The farmers of Dickinson county have contributed three carloads of corn and over \$200 in cash to the famine sufferers in India. Charles Price, an Atchison boy who has joined the British army and has been made a sergeant, is now in the trenches.

To Recover Bankrupt's Assets.

Thursday afternoon Robert E. Lee Herdman, trustee of the estate of J. H. Thomas and L. L. Thomas & Co. bankruptcy trustee, filed a bill in equity against Hayden Bros. McClelland and the Commercial National bank, the suit growing out of the failure of L. L. Thomas & Co.

Senator Baker on the Authority of Congress.

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