

NOTED KNIGHTS OF THE KEY

Progressive Strikes of Men Who Started as Telegraph Operators.

STORIES OF THEIR START IN LIFE

How They Grasped Opportunities that Came Their Way and Rose to Eminence in Business and in the Professions.

Up from the ranks of labor has come an army of noted men, equipped and drilled by experience for the very highest places in the business and political life of America.

What "knight of the key" has learned to be proud of his world-famous fellow-craftsmen, Andrew Carnegie, of that other prince of operators, Thomas Alva Edison? Both were humble "brass-bounders" forty years ago.

A story that is thoroughly characteristic will give an inkling of the sort of man Edison was. A tall, young country boy, looking as green as a suit of "butternut" clothes and a slouch hat could make him, applied for work in the Broad street (New York) office of Maury Smith in 1871.

Test that Made Edison Famous.

"Try me; I can keep up with the best of 'em," said the stranger.

Mr. Smith noticed that the applicant appeared to be quite deaf, but out of curiosity and possibly with the idea of having some fun with him, he gave him a table and told him to "receive" a message then due from Washington.

"You will have to work pretty fast," he warned him, "for our Washington man is in the habit of rushing things."

As a matter of fact there was no message expected from Washington, nor did the wire lead there. Mr. Smith connected the receiver with a "sender" in another part of the same operating room and put his fastest operator, "Dick" Hutchinson, at work sending a 2,000-word message.

On came the message, faster and faster, twenty, thirty, forty words a minute. A crowd of operators gathered around, curiosity and then amazement depicted on their faces.

Among Mr. Carnegie's friends, in old Cleveland and Pittsburgh days, when he earned \$40 a month at the key, were Mr. Eckert, local manager of the Western Union, and Mr. Chandler, freight agent of the Cleveland & Pittsburgh road.

Mr. Chandler rose to be an expert operator, going to Washington in 1882 to take charge of the cipher dispatches for President Lincoln.

It was in the winter of 1871-2 that I learned telegraphy had been in the employ of Hon. B. F. White, secretary of the territory of Montana, driving a team from Corinne, Utah, to Virginia City, Mont. W. N. Shilling was telegraph operator at Malad City, Idaho, which was also White's headquarters.

Ex-Senator Lee Mantle of Montana, in reply to an inquiry, says: "I accepted Shilling's offer, did his repairing for about five months, and in the meantime, became a very good 'sender,' and learned to run the old-fashioned paper 'receiver.' I gathered up some quite an expert repairer, and had acquired some local reputation for expedition in locating and repairing breaks.

It is now more than twenty years since I have touched a key; but if I should live 100 years I could not forget the pleasure and enthusiasm with which I undertook to learn the business, nor the satisfaction which I derived from following it. Indeed, I regard it as the most fortunate incident in my earlier life, as it gave me many opportunities for reading and study, and although for five years stationed hundreds of miles from a town or railroad, on the apex of the Rocky mountains, I was yet enabled to keep informed of what was going on in the world.

The business of telegraphy is in itself an educator, and I repeat that I never cease to look back with gratitude and satisfaction upon my association with the knights of the key.

The governorship of a great state, that of Georgia, was held from 1867 till 1871, by a young telegraph operator, Rufus Brown Bullock, by name, who had brains enough and will enough to grasp his opportunities. He was only 32 years of age at the time, and he did not even have the advantage of being a southerner by birth.

George H. Usher, who, at 15, was an operator in New York, for the Atlantic & Pacific, is now superintendent of the Postal Telegraph company. He made his reputation in Buffalo.

L. C. Weir, president of the Adams Express company, is an old telegrapher, as was the late Marshall Jewell of President Grant's cabinet.

J. D. Reed, the veteran of the craft, who gave Andrew Carnegie his first job as a telegraph messenger, at \$2.50 per week, in 1848, says: "He was just what I needed. Mr. Reed, in speaking of the incident the other day, 'and had the most delicious Scotch brogue I ever heard.' In fact, he was not long away from his native Dunfermline heather. Was he bright? Indeed he was. 'The upak,' meaning that he had a good idea of what to do, and how to do things, I could not have kept him down if I had wanted to.

Edward Rosewater, editor of the great daily, the Chicago Tribune, and the Omaha Bee, was a telegraph operator in Cincinnati in 1858. During the civil war he performed brilliant service for the government. Since then he has been one of the noted figures of the west.

As founder of The Omaha Bee, he has been eminently successful in establishing a newspaper that ranks among the great dailies of the country, one for which he erected a monumental newspaper building which is reputed to be one of the most superb edifices of the kind in the world.

A. R. Brewer, secretary of the Western Union, has the minute-book of the first telegraph company between Jersey City and Washington—the predecessor of the Western Union. It did not have a wire across the river to New York, so all messages had to be carried by boys across the ferry. Henry Clews was one of them.

Among other noted ex-telegraphers are John B. Talvart, editor and proprietor of the Telegraph Age, who estimates that there are 50,000 "knights of the key" in the United States and Canada; Sir John Van Horne, who is distinguished across the border; J. G. Metcalf and Milton H. Smith of the Louisville & Nashville railroad; J. Thomas, president of the Nashville & St. Louis, and President Ripley of the Atchafalpa.

ST. LOUIS, March 7.—The cases of the president, cashier and directors of the defunct Mullaphy Savings bank, charged with fraud in receiving deposits when they knew the bank was insolvent, came up for trial in Judge Clark's court today.

Attorneys for the accused asked for permission to withdraw their plea of not guilty and substitute that of abatement. The plea set forth simply that there had been no indictments against the defendants and furthermore three years had elapsed from the time of the commission of the alleged felony until the time of arrest and the court was asked to dismiss the proceedings.

MR. MURRY GETS INTO COURT

Mrs. Wilson Declares He Violated His Promise to Marry Her.

BRINGS SUIT FOR BREACH OF PROMISE

Case is Now on Trial Before Judge Estelle of the District Court—Principals in the Action Are Tinged with Gray.

Mrs. M. Ellen Wilson has sued William Murry for alleged violation of a marriage promise. She wants damages in the sum of \$2,500 and the case is now on trial in Judge Estelle's court.

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At a special meeting of the executive committee of the club yesterday, however, Secretary E. M. Clendenning of the Kansas City Commercial club appeared before it to ask the co-operation of Omaha in an effort to secure the establishment of subtreasuries at Omaha, Kansas City, Minneapolis and Seattle.

It appeared from the statement of Secretary Clendenning that Kansas City has been very much in earnest in its effort to secure the adjunction to its banking facilities. Committees have visited Washington in behalf of the proposition, that section of Missouri and National Republican Committee-man R. C. Kerens has stormed the treasury officials and the administration generally and every effort made to secure this distinct financial distinction for Kansas City alone of western cities.

A similar measure was already pending for the establishment of a subtreasury at Minneapolis, upon which the representatives of Minnesota had expended ineffectually much intelligent effort.

The Kansas City contingent were finally referred to Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, who has charge of the subtreasuries of the United States. He had previously sent to congress a report in reference to the Minneapolis proposition, which was rather favorable than otherwise, but which was not sufficiently commensurate to lead to congressional action.

When the Kansas City committee against him he said that he could do nothing except to report as he had already done in reference to Minneapolis, and as he had subsequently done in reference to Omaha.

Later it was suggested that there might be a united effort in favor of the three cities, which was approved by Secretary Clendenning, who volunteered the suggestion that the committee should make a proposition for the establishment of subtreasuries at the four cities named would receive his endorsement.

Hence it is that Kansas City is found asking the co-operation of Omaha for the mutual benefit of both cities. Secretary Clendenning said that he intended to go right on to Minneapolis, and in my opinion, Russia can prevent it until it is ready.

They Are Connected with the Drainage System of New Orleans.

A young man with neatly creased trousers and a crisp necktie walked over to the gray marble switch board in pumping station No. 7 lately and pulled up a small lever, relates the New Orleans Times.

A dozen feet away was a steel turret, rising from the level of the water. Without any fuss or vibration it was sucking water from the old Orleans canal at the rate of 250 cubic feet a second, hoisting it twelve feet into the air and discharging it over the weir at the top of the building to find its way to the lake, a few miles beyond.

To the average man the term "250 cubic feet a second" is as meaningless as so much Sanskrit, but an excellent idea of the magnitude of the performance is obtained when it is known that the water is pumped to 2,000 gallons, and 2,000 gallons represent the capacity of a good-sized house cistern.

In other words, the big pump draws in, lifts and throws out the contents of a large cistern in the course of a few minutes. In a minute it has disposed of 120,000 gallons—quite a good deal of water.

There are three such pumps in station No. 7 and it is estimated that two of them, working at full capacity, will be able to take care of any rainfall in this city. The largest single pumps in the world, the nearest approach to them being those at the irrigation works on the bank of the Nile, which are considerably smaller, are completed a week ago last Sunday, and this week they are doing their first practical work.

The pumps proper are vast coils of tube. If something very big might be compared to something very big it would not be inapt to say that the coils are like giant snakes. Each of them came in two sections, half of the coil being all that a freight car could carry. The shell, put together, weighs twenty-five tons and measures twenty-one feet from side to side. The internal diameter is nine feet, and inside the tubes a series of great revolving runners, the effect of which is to draw the water at one end and discharge it at the other. The shaft on which the runners revolve weighs more than sixteen tons.

These enormous coils are placed in circular pits fifteen feet below the surface of the pump house floor. The power which operates each of them comes from an immense motor fastened to the upper end of the running shaft, and covered by the steel turrets already referred to. The motors receive their electricity direct from the general powerhouse in the shape of a 2,000-volt current coming in over a trio of thick cables, and this is connected to an interesting and curious detail, easily within the grasp of the average layman. The motors are of what is known as the "revolving field" type—that is to say, the field, or great wheel on which the armatures are mounted, turns around, while the armatures remain stationary. When a pump is started the full alternating current of 3,000 volts is not at once turned on, but a 125-volt direct current is first used to magnetize the field, or, in homely terms, to "warm up" the motor.

When sufficient speed is attained the full current is applied.

The 125 volts direct are produced by passing the 3,000 volts alternating through a small device known as a transformer, which effects a complete change in the character and power of the mysterious fluid. The weaker and modified current is also used to operate a number of small auxiliary motors and to feed the arc and incandescent lamps by which the station is lighted.

Skunk Farms.

Not a week passed without our receiving several letters from farmers who wish to breed skunks for their fur, says the Rural New Yorker. Several years ago, in an unlucky hour, we printed an account of a skunk farm in Livingston county, New York.

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There is a class of people who are injured by the use of coffee. Recently there has been placed in all the grocery stores a new preparation called "GRAND" made of pure grains that has the place of coffee. The most delicate stomach receives it without distress, and it will tell if from coffee. Children may drink with great benefit. Sweets and soft drinks are not packages. Ask for GRAND.

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Nations, cities and individuals that progress are not afraid to get out of the beaten path. The aggressive, earnest, intelligent man or woman is not bound by codes or dogmas. They think for themselves, and humanity benefits there-by. As a class, the medical profession is clean-shaven. The old school smacks of decay. Bleeding and blistering died hard, but died nevertheless, while homeopathy continues to progress. The great Pasteur was not a physician, yet he grazed a pathway which thousands now gladly follow.

A few bright, active, progressive physicians, who will not be bound by precedent, and who have the courage of their convictions, are doing a great work for the profession as a whole. They believe that no man or school has absorbed all the medical knowledge obtainable, and when a scientific discovery is made that revolutionizes a pet theory for the treatment of disease, are willing to give it a fair trial and abide by the results if favorable. Such a physician is Dr. L. M. Lander, of Chicago. Read and weigh the honest words of this noted specialist:

"Several times during the past few years I have observed the effect of Warner's Safe Cure in case of Kidney Trouble. I found that the action of the medicine was highly curative in effect, and that most desirable results followed its faithful use.

"I believe it to be a very fine remedy for Kidney disorders." (Jan. 20, 1900.)

DR. L. M. LANDER is a graduate of the Imperial Central Institute, Stockholm, Sweden.

off in the matter of water as compared with most of the towns and villages in Indiana. Government officers tell me that the Indian government looks with the greatest apprehension on the famine. They already fear that the famine will be so great as to destroy the population and proportions at the very opening, and without any doubt for nine months more the famine must rage.

"Undoubtedly private philanthropy must supply great help in this famine, far greater than in the last famine, if millions in these and other parts of India are to be saved from starvation."

DEAR CHILDREN.