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Property Nebraska State Historical Society

NUMBER 52

A Merry Christmas  
A Happy New Year

Webster County Bank  
Red Cloud, Nebraska

## CHRISTMAS GIFTS

IT'S easy to choose the right gift at this store—particularly if you shop now. The things are in, we have time to give you the service we like to, and you can choose unhurriedly.

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J. C. MITCHELL  
JEWELER AND OPTICIAN

A Merry Christmas  
and A Happy  
and Prosperous  
New Year

E. W. Stevens

### Co. G. Quarantined for Spinal Meningitis

Sunday two of the privates of Co. G. came down with spinal meningitis and on Monday morning the doctors gave us the culture test, after which the whole company took their bed-ticks out and burned up the hay. After dinner we packed up our blankets, toilet articles, mess kit and rifles and marched out to the detention camp, three miles west of Camp Funston. The detention camp is on the Pawnee Flats and is north of the stone structure which was the capital of Kansas during the days of July 1 to 5, 1855. This camp is a tented city. Each tent is 16x16, walled up with boards for five feet and a stove, which sits in a box of earth, in the middle of the room. To clean the ashes out of the stove we take the stove out of doors and then take the ashes out with a wash pan. Each tent will accommodate six men.

On Tuesday test the doctors doped our noses and throats and the dope was a long ways from being good. Monday evening nine carriers of the disease were taken out of the company and placed in another part of the camp for treatment, and among the nine men was one from Red Cloud, Roy Garretson. Thursday afternoon we were given another culture test and on Friday morning the doctors doped our throats three times and our noses four times. The cook shack is a block away from where we stay and by the time we get our meals carried to our tent to eat the same are cold. In order to eat our meals we sit on the floor. We use a candle for light at night and in order to keep warm some of the boys sit up and keep the fire burning.

Friday night most of the company and the officers marched back to the barracks while four tents of us had to stay here on account of the fact that we had come in contact with the disease. On Saturday afternoon they took a few more carriers out of the tents and moved the rest of us to another tent where we will be given another culture and if none of us have symptoms of the disease we will get to go back to the barracks.

The doctors inspected our throats and noses four times a day. If anybody thinks this is an enjoyable place to be they have our sympathy for we are not allowed to visit anybody in the other tents.

#### District Court Proceedings.

State of Nebraska vs. Walter Thomas, larceny, pleads not guilty, case continued to next term of court.

State of Nebraska vs. Joseph Perry, larceny, pleads not guilty, case continued to next term of court.

Moorman Mfg. Co. vs. C. E. Bergfeld, continued for term.

Fannie Scott Mosher vs. Scott C. Mosher, divorce for plaintiff and restoration of maiden name.

James Arnold vs. Emory Waller, continued for term.

Benjamin F. May vs. Frank Waffle, continued for term.

A. C. Phelps vs. Geo. C. Shuck, continued.

Clyde Kinney vs. Gust Monte, settled and dismissed.

Lafayette Sherman vs. Glen P. Beatty, judgment for Mrs. Louie Sherman for \$6.00 per week for 350 weeks.

In the matter of the guardianship of Cherral R. and Forrest L. Koontz, appeal dismissed.

E. U. Overman vs. Lloyd Carpenter, judgment on mandate.

Andrew Hawkins vs. C. B. & Q., judgment for plaintiff for \$1,000.

C. E. Pohlentz vs. C. B. & Q., verdict for defendant.

Sophia Raends vs. Chas. Bostock, continued.

C. H. Miner vs. City of Red Cloud, continued.

Mary Barnes vs. Wm. Barnes, divorce for plaintiff.

C. E. Higinbotham vs. J. D. Crans, 60 days to answer.

An adjourned term of court will probably be held in January.

### Some Light on the Telephone Situation

By Dr. R. S. Mitchell.

It has been suggested that an explanation of the position of the business and professional men of Red Cloud in using one telephone system be given to the people of this community and their position and reason be told so that no one would misunderstand them, and we will attempt in a brief way to give you the reasons.

First: The Farmers' Independent Telephone Company is made up all of local men and is managed by men who live among us. The first Independent companies were only local phones between the different farm houses until they finally extended their lines to the city limits and at that time they had considerable trouble getting a central into Red Cloud.

Since that time the Independent company has grown until it has 376 phones in the country and over 300 phones in the city, making a total of nearly 700 phones which you can reach directly through the Red Cloud central.

They have direct commercial wires connecting with the Independent phones at Inavale, Bladen, Blue Hill, Cowles and to Guide Rock via Cowles.

Every town in the county except Red Cloud has Independent telephone for their local service and most of them have direct connections with each other. Besides their connection with the county Independent companies they have a direct toll line to Lebanon, Kas.

They are now trying to get a direct wire to connect with the Guide Rock Telephone company, an independent phone system, which has a great many of the phones south of Guide Rock, and some lines north. It is to be hoped that they can get this connection as it would be of benefit to both towns.

It is the desire of practically all the residents of Red Cloud to have one telephone system, that system to be controlled locally. In other words, encourage home industry and encourage a good company to do better. The idea that we cannot get men locally to run a thoroughly up-to-date telephone system is all wrong, and if the community will give them a chance, they will show it.

The profits from a local company will all be spent here as shown by the building of a telephone central office which is a credit to the town and it has all been built by the earnings of the company as not one assessment has been levied on the stockholders to pay for it.

The Independent company has ordered and will install as rapidly as possible a thoroughly up-to-date central energy system.

The Lincoln company has in the past been requested to improve its local service, and the reply has always been that it did not make enough out of the local company to justify the expense, and only in the past sixty days have they made any apparent effort to improve their service. We ask in all fairness, has the Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph company ever spent one dollar in Red Cloud that they have not been compelled to spend.

The phones they recently removed from Red Cloud have all been junked, and about all they were good for was kindling wood and the metal they contained. Were they the same phones Mr. Bell used when he first started in business?

The use of one telephone system in Red Cloud would save this community around two thousand dollars yearly, and not only that, but would add greatly to the convenience of everybody's phone service.

A word in regard to the cost of the two phones. One merchant who has been compelled to have both phones in his place of business and his residence gives the following figures: he has been in business in Red Cloud thirteen years. In that time, outside of

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## Powell & Pope

toll service, he has paid the Bell and Lincoln companies over \$650. During the same period he paid the Farmers' Independent company about \$275. On being asked what phone he got most of his business over, he stated that from 75% to 85% came over the Independent phone. We could probably get the same figures from a number of different men, yet the Lincoln company could not afford to improve.

There is a good reason why the above merchant could get 75% to 85% of his business over the Independent phone when one realizes that the Independent company has 376 farm phones on its lines and over 300 in the town. Has the Lincoln company ever had over 300 phones on its local board? At present we doubt if it has over 200.

At the present time it is impossible to get a doctor, druggist, jeweler, grocer, dry goods merchant or undertaker without a messenger, except over the Independent phone.

Can you blame the business and professional men for wanting to have one phone system. Two phone systems means a double charge for service and only getting half service.

A word in regard to the long distance service. In 1910 the Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph company, then a competitor of the Nebraska Telephone company, ran a long distance wire into Red Cloud, and, having no local exchange, was glad to run their wire into the country central, which at that time had about 450

phones on its local board. They contracted with the Independent company to furnish long distance service for twenty-five years. This contract has seventeen years yet to run. When the Nebraska Telephone company and the Lincoln company consolidated, they ran their wire through the Lincoln company central to the Independent company. On September 29, 1917, a movement was put on foot by the business and professional men to have one system and on October 1, 1917, the Lincoln company cut this wire.

They cut this wire in face of a contract that had seventeen years to run. Also against an order from the State Railway Commission and a state law requiring physical connections between competing companies.

The Lincoln company now declares that if the State Railway Commission rules against them they will carry it to the supreme court.

We have heard a great deal of community spirit and now is the time to start. The merchants and professional men are staying by the farmer and the farmer by the merchant and it is the proper time for everybody to get in the band wagon. In war phraseology it is up to everyone to "do his bit" and have one telephone system in Red Cloud, Nebr., U. S. A.

#### Home Guard Meeting

There will be a meeting of the Home Guards at the Court House, to complete organization on Friday evening December 21, at 7:30 p. m.

F. J. Munday, Chairman.