

## Bell Telephone Divorced From Western Union

The following press dispatches tell the story of the proposed dissolution plan of the telephone trust:

Washington, Dec. 19.—The American Telegraph and Telephone company, better known as the Bell system and telephone trust, has agreed to drop its control over the Western Union Telegraph company and to reorganize immediately, at the suggestion of the department of justice. It has voluntarily agreed to adjust its business to the conditions of competition.

Attorney General McReynolds, with the assent of President Wilson, has accepted the reorganization plan proposed by the American Telegraph and Telephone, and will not proceed with the contemplated suit under the Sherman anti-trust law against that organization, which is one of the largest corporations in the country.

The Bell Telephone capitalization at the time of the merger, in 1912, was \$500,000,000, and its bonded indebtedness \$105,000,000. Of the \$100,000,000 capital of the Western Union the Bell company acquired \$29,000,000. Since 1906 the Bell company has paid 8 per cent dividends, and since 1909 the Western Union has paid 3 per cent.

### PRESIDENT GRATIFIED

Formal announcement of the action of the American Telegraph and Telephone company was made at the department of justice tonight by Attorney General McReynolds. The attorney general gave out the text of a letter written today by Vice President Kingsbury, of the American Telegraph and Telephone company, volunteering to "set its house in order." At the same time he made public a letter from President Wilson expressing gratification over the action taken by the telegraph and telephone combination. The president wrote:

"My Dear Mr. Attorney General: Thank you for letting me see the letter from the American Telephone and Telegraph company. It is very gratifying that the company should thus volunteer to adjust its business to the conditions of competition.

"I gain the impression more and more from week to week that the business men of the country are sincerely desirous of conforming with the law, and it is very gratifying indeed to have occasion, as in this instance, to deal with them in complete frankness and to be able to show them that all that we desire is an opportunity to co-operate with them. So long as we are dealt with in this spirit we can help to build up the business of the country upon sound and permanent lines. Cordially and sincerely yours,  
"WOODROW WILSON."

The reorganization plan originated with the company, although it followed many reports that a suit against it might be brought. It was regarded by department of justice officials tonight as the most striking indication offered in a decade that "big business" has come to the conclusion that it is better to follow the Sherman law than fight it.

Coming on the heels of the announcement that Postmaster General Burleson was seriously interested in government ownership of telephone lines, the action of the department of justice took on added significance. Some officials went so far as to express the opinion that it indicated that legislation to acquire the country's telephone business would not be

pressed by the administration at the present session.

### TERMS OF AGREEMENT

In brief, the agreement provides that:

"The American Telephone and Telegraph company will dispose promptly of its holdings in the Western Union Telegraph company so that each concern shall be under distinct management.

"The company will not hereafter acquire control of other telephone companies, and where control of telephone companies has been acquired, but no actual physical union has been effected, the American Telephone and Telegraph will submit the course it is to pursue to the interstate commerce commission, and to the department of justice.

"The company will promptly make arrangements by which all other telephone companies in the United States shall have access to its toll lines.

Representative Lewis, of Maryland, who is leading a fight for federal ownership of the telephone facilities of the country, said the dissolution would not alter his determination to continue his fights.

### MR. BRYAN'S MESSAGE

However strong the effort may have been to create an impression that there was a sordid side to the welcome extended Mr. Bryan, and that much of its volume was due to the hunger of his party followers for partisan preferment, it did not entirely divert attention from the real purpose behind his address before the Commercial club.

The purpose was manifestly to assure the people of Nebraska that "the president is on their side." Mr. Bryan's masterful exposition of the relation of the people, as distinguished from the special interests, to all that has been done by the Wilson administration was wonderfully cheering and convincing. His forecast of what the president still proposes to do was comforting and uplifting to the heart.

What he said of President Wilson, of his servitude to his conscience and his right impulse toward the conservation of the rights of all the people, while it may have seemed like a studied eulogy of his chief, was little more than a heartfelt expression of what is in the minds of the people of all shades of partisanship.

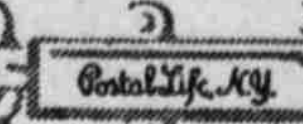
In listening to the words of the distinguished speaker, which may have seemed to many just a little more eloquent in their simplicity and earnestness than any of the former words of one whose words are always marked by simplicity and earnestness, one did not have time to remember that there were a few among his hearers who were thinking of their chances for personal preferment through his kindly offices. They were able to discern a higher purpose in Mr. Bryan's visit to his homefolks than to bring comfort to the office-hunters of his party.—Lincoln (Neb.) Star.

### OVERCHARGED

The attorney for the gas company was making a popular address.

"Think of the good the gas company has done!" he cried. "If I were permitted a pun, I would say, in the words of the immortal poet, 'Honor the Light Brigade.'"

Voice of a consumer from the audience: "Oh, what a charge they made!"—Labor Digest.



# Accomplishing a great reform

**THE HUGHES INVESTIGATION** of 1905, found that all life-companies were heavily burdened by agency-expense which came out of the pockets of policyholders, of course.

Press and public agreed that the elimination of the agent was the great reform needed.

The Postal Life Insurance Company was organized that same year to help work out this very reform.

It has done its part by demonstrating that the business of life insurance can be done direct; it has thus done business successfully for more than eight years; it does not employ agents at all but gives the public the benefit of the saving thus effected.

**THE FIRST YEAR,** policyholders receive a guaranteed commission-dividend corresponding to what other companies pay their agents, less a moderate advertising charge.

**AND IN ADDITION,** the Postal pays every year after the first, the usual contingent dividends earned by the Policy.

Agents, of course, find it hard to compete with the Postal; they fight it and get certain easily-influenced insurance periodicals to help them.

The public is therefore warned not to take the word of any such agents or to believe the "framed-up" articles that may appear in such periodicals.

The Postal Life is a highly-accredited institution and enjoys the confidence of the well-informed insuring public.

This dividend ranges up to

## 40%

of the premium on whole-life policies

In subsequent years policyholders can deduct the entire agent's renewal commission of 7½% and an office-expense saving of 2%, making up the

Annual Dividend of

## 9½%

Guaranteed in the Policy

**POSTAL LIFE BUILDING**  
35 Nassau St., New York

Write and find out the exact sum the Company will save you at your age on any standard form of contract—Whole-Life, Limited Payment Life, Endowment, Joint Life or a Monthly-Income Policy.

Call at the Company's office if convenient, or write for full official information. Simply say:

**Mail me insurance-particulars, as per advertisement in**

**THE COMMONER** for January

In your letter be sure to give:

1. Your full name.
2. Your occupation.
3. The exact date of your birth.

**No agent will be sent to visit you: the benefit of his commission goes to you because you deal direct.**

**STRONG POSTAL POINTS**

**First:** Standard policy-reserves, now nearly \$10,000,000, Insurance in force nearly \$50,000,000.

**Second:** Old-line legal reserve insurance—not fraternal or assessment.

**Third:** Standard policy-provisions, approved by the State Insurance Department.

**Fourth:** Operates under strict State requirements and subject to the United States postal authorities.

**Fifth:** High medical standards in the selection of risks.

**Sixth:** Policyholders' Health Bureau provides one free medical examination each year, if desired.

## Postal Life Insurance Company

WM. R. MALONE, President  
35 Nassau Street NEW YORK

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I am offering for sale 400 acres of good farm land in Perkins county, Nebraska. This land is a dark sandy loam, very productive and is increasing in value. Will sell all or part. Write for price and terms to

**T. S. ALLEN, Fraternity Building, Lincoln, Nebraska**