

### State Railway Board Defends Phone Schedule

#### Northwestern Bell Asks Injunction Against Rates, Some of Which Are Alleged to Be Too Low.

Members of the Nebraska railway commission came to Omaha yesterday to defend their order fixing rates, effective January 1, upon the Northwestern Bell Telephone company. The company has asked the federal court for an injunction to prevent the enforcement of the rates, some of which the company considers too low.

#### Prepares Affidavit.

U. G. Powell, special accountant for the commission, has prepared an affidavit in which he attacks financial statements filed by R. P. Baird, auditor for the plaintiff company. Mr. Powell says in his affidavit that the controller of the American Telephone and Telegraph company refused to allow him to examine that company's books for the purpose of ascertaining the cost to the company of services said to have been furnished to the Northwestern Bell for the year 1921.

Mr. Powell says the old Bell company had an annual return of from 4.7 to 5.48 per cent from 1913 to 1917. It is alleged by Mr. Powell that the Northwestern company had an annual income of 6.45 in 1922, if the results of the company's exchange and toll properties in Nebraska are taken as a basis of computation, plus the estimated increase in exchange and toll revenue mentioned in Mr. Pratt's affidavit, plus the toll revenue that would have accrued to the state of Nebraska had the same basis of apportionment been used by the company in distributing gross toll collections received in the state for the first 16 months of 1922 as was used by the company during the year 1921.

#### Increase in Wages.

Mr. Powell also alleges that the results of the operation of the company's plant in Nebraska for the first nine months of 1922 as compared with the year 1921, on an average per month basis, show an increase of 3 per cent in total telephone revenues and a decrease of 17 per cent in operators' wages.

It is declared by Mr. Powell that the book cost of installing the machine switching central office equipment in the Omaha general office building as of November 30, 1922, was \$2,364,617.32, that the cost of the manual central office apparatus dis-

### Babies' Cries for Santa Too Much: Mother of Five Tries to End Life

#### Mrs. Minnie Miller, Deserted, Gives Up Fight When She Cannot Grant Children Wishes on Christmas.

Feeding and clothing five small children deserted by their father, was a difficult task, but their mother, Mrs. Minnie Miller, 1336 South Twentieth street, didn't mind it.

She was willing to work all day and part of the night, ready to make any sacrifice that a mother stands ready to make.

But Christmas eve and Christmas day approached. There would be five children's stockings to fill and Santa Claus to play.

With childish glee the children, the oldest 12, and the youngest 3, told their mother each night before they went to bed what they expected from Santa Claus.

#### Talks to Santa.

Down at one of the department stores little Clinton, 3, met Santa personally and talked to him, too. "I want a sled, and a pony and lots of candy," he said.

The other children, Leo, 12; Mildred, 10; Laura, 9, and Alfred, 8, placed by the machine switching equipment up to and including November 30, 1922, was \$18,235.09; that the increased number of subscribers' stations served by the change on November 30, 1922, over November 30, 1921, was 482.

#### Supports Affidavit.

Railway Commissioner T. A. Browne has prepared an affidavit supporting another one signed by Mr. Powell. Mr. Browne states that he is co-operating with the depreciation department of the Interstate Commerce commission and that he is certain the latter body has no rule directing telephone companies regarding the amount of reserve which shall be charged to operating revenue.

#### Strategic Position.

Commissioner Browne says in another affidavit that there has been an advance in the market price of quoted securities and that this has been noicable with public utilities. He says the Northwestern company, as a subsidiary of the American Telephone company, has occupied a strategic position in the money market and has been securing funds from the public at a constantly lessening rate of interest. He gives examples of the floating of bond issues by telephone companies, the rate of interest in 1922 in some cases being only 5 per cent.

He says the Lincoln Telephone company, a competitor, has throughout the disturbed financial period sold 7 per cent bonds at par in sufficient amounts to care for its needs. Many municipalities issued paying bonds at 7 per cent in 1920 and are now refunding these at 4 1/2 per cent.

#### Scores of Police Hunt Band of Denver Robbers

(Continued From Page One.)

transoms above the main entrance to the mint and in the windows of the second story of the building. The granite walls of the building likewise are chipped where the bullets struck. Buildings across the street show the intensity of the fire of the guards. Windows in various stores and apartment houses over the stores were pelted on the part of roomers were reported to police headquarters.

Miss Catherine Feist, an employe of a restaurant directly across the street, declared that she was attracted to the door by the shooting, and in addition to the bandits who leaped out of the car, she saw two men hiding behind telephone poles nearby, who apparently were members of the gang.

#### Youth Witnesses Robbery.

Paul Clark, 17, gave a thrilling account of the engagement. He declared he was standing directly across the street from the mint when the bandit car, heavily curtained, drew up. He said: "Three of the men, all carrying shotguns, jumped out and rushed up to the guard standing nearest the reserve bank truck. I couldn't hear what they said, but they apparently were telling him to open the wagon. He shook his head and then one of the bandits struck him a terrific blow. I don't know whether it was with his fist or a gun. As the guard staggered under the blow, a shot rang out and he crumpled to the pavement."

"At the sound of the shots a number of guards came running out of the mint and started firing. They were shooting at the bandits, who began shooting back. One of the ban-

also expected to be pleasantly surprised on Christmas morning.

It was too much for the mother. She began to tire of the struggle and shrank from the thought of Christmas morning, when the children would be forced to the conclusion, through necessity, that "Santa Claus did not come to our house."

#### Desires to End It All.

Surrounded by her children, she decided to end it all.

She took poison. Neighbors who heard her screams called police. Police Surgeon Grier, who attended her, says that her condition is not dangerous.

Little Clinton pulled at the coat tail of the police surgeon and cried, "Don't hit my mamma. She's a good mamma."

Thomas Miller, the husband, deserted his family about four months ago, according to neighbors. They say he is now working in Council Bluffs.

Most of the defendants were indicted by a district court grand jury last spring.

#### Shotgun Only Clew.

The only tangible clew that the police have on which to work is a bloody sawed-off shotgun which was picked up in the street about a half block from the mint, where it had been dropped from the fleeing bandits' car. The gun was loaded.

Chief of Police Williams announced tonight that clews that might result in the capture of the bandits probably would be secured by means of fingerprints found on the shotgun.

Chief Williams announced that police were guarding all roads leading out of the city, but that he believed the bandits were still in hiding in Denver. Orders issued to policemen by Chief Williams said:

"Stop every car on every road out of Denver and make every man account for himself—and shoot if you find the robbers."

"The funds stolen in today's robbery were not the property of the Denver mint," declared R. J. Grant, director of the mint, in a statement issued late this afternoon, in which he gave it as his opinion that two of the bandits were wounded.

"It has been customary for us to keep money at the mint merely as an accommodation for the federal reserve bank, our use in a statement suited for storage of the funds," Mr. Grant said in his statement.

#### Pickrell Seeks Permit for New Electric Line

Lincoln, Dec. 18.—(Special.)—Application No. 5,000 was filed Monday with the state railway commission. It was an application by the village of Pickrell for leave to construct a transmission line for electric current from Pickrell to Beatrice. The number of applications has ranged from 267 in 1911 to 401 in 1917.

#### Killed by Automobile.

Norfolk, Neb., Dec. 18.—(Special Telegram.)—Herman Tappert, head of a local messenger service, died here after being run down by an automobile driven by a local man. Tappert's wife and two children live in Detroit, Mich.

#### Foreign Residents of the City of Mexico Are Taught Spanish Free by the Department of Public Instruction.

### Bowen's

THE VALUE GIVING STORE

#### An Ideal Christmas Present an "ELDRIDGE" Two-Spool Sewing Machine

Used Sewing Machines  
"Howe" Machine ..... \$2.50  
"Davis" Machine ..... \$5.00  
"Household" Machine. \$7.50  
"New Home" Machine at ..... \$9.00  
"New Windsor" Machine at ..... \$12.50  
"Goodrich" Machine. \$15.00  
"Singer" Machine. \$18.00

Sold on Easy Terms. Trade Your Old Sewing Machine for a New "Eldredge" Two-Spool.

### A. R. Bowen & Co.

The Value-Giving Store  
Howard St. Between 15th and 16th

### U. S. Grand Jury Accuses 20 in Creamery Deal

#### Indictments Charge Use of Mails to Defraud in Promotion of Waterloo Creamery Co.

Twenty persons alleged to have been active in the promotion of the Waterloo Creamery company, now in the hands of a receiver, were indicted yesterday afternoon by the federal grand jury.

Fourteen counts of the indictment charge them with specific violations of section 215 of the federal penal code and another count charges them with a conspiracy to violate this section. Section 215 has to do with using the mails to defraud.

Those indicted are Leroy Corliss, president of the company; Bert B. Corliss, vice president; Hubert P. Ryner, former treasurer; Iva M. King, former secretary; Joshua B. Fickes, local dentist; Oscar Weststrand of Red Oak, Ia.; Charles W. Burkland, Sutherland, Neb.; Edward M. Schaefer, Omaha; George Cherry, Sartoria, Neb.; Stephen S. Van Horn, Fremont; Harry Slack, Chesapeake, Mich.; Theodore Krueger, West Point, Neb.; Tyler, Owsoso, Mich.; William H. Wilder, Omaha; Henry Rutting, Omaha; R. Allen Grim, Omaha; Dr. Edward A. Salsbury, Omaha; William F. Stoezel, Omaha; E. G. Bandy, Omaha; F. W. Schaelett, Omaha.

Most of the defendants were indicted by a district court grand jury last spring.

Numerous original letters are contained in the bulky indictment, purporting to be letters sent out by some of the defendants in selling stock. Various false representations are charged to have been made to prospective purchasers such as that the stock was worth \$137.50 for each \$100 share; that the company had \$2,000,000 assets over its liabilities; that it owned and operated numerous distilling and sugar subsidiaries; that it had an earned surplus; that buying its preferred stock was just like going into a building and loan association.

#### Contempt Proceedings Instituted.

The resolution by which the directors asked stockholders for a 10 per cent contribution after the company had gone into the hands of a receiver. For this contempt proceedings were instituted against some of the defendants.

Bond was fixed at \$5,000 for each defendant by Judge Woodruff. Thirty-seven men also were indicted yesterday by the federal grand jury on charges of conspiracy to defraud the United States government. The 37 were all included in another indictment returned by the grand jury last Friday.

It is alleged in the new indictment that the defendants worked among themselves to falsify the alleged surplus of the Lion Bonding and Surety company so that it could get a license to give bonds running to the government. Officers of the company are alleged to have traded notes and various banks for certificates of deposit temporarily in order to show a surplus.

#### Named in Indictment.

The defendants in this indictment were not required to give bond in ad-

dition to the \$5,000 each put up when they were indicted last Friday. Those named in the new indictment are as follows:

Edwin R. Gurney, Fred Volpp, Philip H. Kohl, Frank R. Knapp, Daniel Stanley, H. Clifford Leigh, Henry O. Beatty, Dan F. Brown, E. Bertram Aldredge, J. Clarence Leonard, J. Harvey Wheeler, Charles C. Brant, Edward P. McDonald, Edward M. Martin, Stanley C. Stookey, Henry W. Schoettger, August A. Hayek, Harry E. Dunlap, Vaughn G. Williams, John Tully, Fred W. Bula, Fred Wupper, Emil E. Wolf, Caleb E. Negus, Thomas J. Kastle, John J. Thiel, John A. Hauser, John E. Bates, J. Mark Shulenberg, Dennis W. Killeen, Louis E. Cozad, Louis P. Sornson, Edward H. Sturdy, Howard W. Crandall, John Froggatt and Arthur S. Baty.

### Man Quits Husking to Bilk Realtors

#### In Omaha Jail Now—Police Say He Admits Check Fraud.

John Nelson, 37, Missoula, Mont., quit husking corn in Minnesota a week ago and came to Omaha to defraud real estate dealers. He is alleged to have stated in a signed confession to police. He was bound over to district court under \$500 on charges of obtaining money under false pretenses.

He is alleged to have presented evidence of \$9,500 in the United States National bank in Vancouver, B. C., which does not exist, according to the Omaha banks, and after dickering with a real estate firm here for some suburban tract, would give a \$500 check as first payment.

But he would request that this check be held until his draft for the imaginary \$9,000 should go through, and then cash a small check for \$100 or so, for spending money, it was alleged.

He was arrested through the efforts of Leo Buzell, secretary of the Omaha Real Estate board, who warned Omaha and Bluffs realtors against him.

#### State Board Canvasses 'Vote at Last Election

Lincoln, Dec. 18.—The state canvassing board today canvassed the vote in the last general election. Those present were Acting Governor P. A. Barrows, secretary of State D. M. Amsberry, State Auditor G. W. Marsh and State Treasurer Dan Crosby.

A proclamation declaring the two referendum laws carried at the last election existing laws was withheld pending the return of Governor McKelvie from a speechmaking tour outside the state.

#### Lieutenant Governor's Suit Against State Dismissed

Lincoln, Dec. 18.—Lieut. Gov. Pelham A. Barrows lost his suit to recover more than \$800 from the state for services alleged to have been performed as acting governor during absence of Governor McKelvie from the state, when District Court Judge W. E. Stewart today dismissed the claim which Mr. Barrows filed against the state auditor.

The lieutenant governor has made no comment as to whether he intends to file an appeal.

### Taxes in State Are Excessive, Railroads Aver

#### "Q." Northwestern and Minneapolis & Omaha Present Evidence to Board of Federal Judges.

Voluntary testimony by affidavits was taken yesterday in the suits of the Burlington, Northwestern and Minneapolis & Omaha railroads to get their county and state taxes reduced.

A large array of attorneys faced the tribunal composed of Federal Judges Woodruff, Munger and Lewis.

Real estate men testified by 138 affidavits from 54 counties in the state that assessed value of farm lands in 1922 was 68 per cent of actual value. Eleven affidavits by assessors and former assessors asserted the assessed value of farms was 67 per cent of their market value in 1921 and 1922.

#### Sold at \$85 an Acre.

T. A. Polleys, Northwestern tax commissioner, submitted a tabulation showing farm lands covered by 4,031 transfers were sold at an average of \$85 an acre and were assessed an average of \$45.74 an acre in 1922. Census figures of 1920 were introduced to show the average value of certain lands was \$87.91, and that these lands were assessed an average of only \$39.19.

Actual value of the Northwestern property in Nebraska was given as \$32,060,000; of the Minneapolis & Omaha as \$6,640,000, and of the Burlington as \$108,000,000 by their representatives.

"The Northwestern is assessed 15 per cent and the Minneapolis & Omaha 41 per cent above their real value," said Wymer Dressler, attorney for those roads.

#### Careful Compilation.

"We have made a careful compilation in the 26 counties through which the Northwestern runs in Nebraska and have found that farm lands are assessed at only 63 per cent of their real value," he declared.

Judge Jesse L. Root, attorney for

the Burlington, said his road is assessed at 25 per cent more than its actual value.

"There has been an intentional, systematic and continuous undervaluation of real estate in Nebraska for taxation purposes, except railroads," he declared.

The Burlington has offered to pay 65 per cent of the taxes assessed by counties and state and all of the taxes assessed by cities, towns and villages.

#### To Ask Phone Rate Increase.

Hugh LaMaster, assistant attorney general, declared the Burlington's first petition filed with the state tax department, made no complaint of high taxes for itself, but merely alleged that assessments on other real estate were for less than real value.

The Northwestern Bell Telephone company at this hearing will ask for power to increase its rates which the state railway commission has denied.

### Iowa Murders Believed Solved

#### Man Confessed Killing Two Sioux City Men, Police Say.

Sioux City, Ia., Dec. 18.—Two Sioux City mysterious murders, that of Dean S. Chandler, an ex-soldier, and John Miller, a Morningside college student, which long have baffled police, are believed to have been solved.

Martin Christopherson, in custody as a suspect, has confessed, according to the police.

Christopherson, believed by the police to be mentally unbalanced, was arrested Saturday and held in connection with two mysterious attacks on the home of Mrs. S. P. Meigs, last week.

While being questioned regarding the "shooting up" of the Meigs home Christopherson, the police say, confessed to the two murders.

#### Killed in Railroad Yards.

Blair, Neb., Dec. 18.—(Special.)—Fred Oberst, 61, was killed by a Northwestern switch engine in the railroad yards here, this morning. Both his legs were cut off and one arm badly crushed.

### Needy Children by Hundreds Are on Waiting List

#### Little Tots Are Waiting for Shoes to Be Bought by The Omaha Bee Fund.

A mother with five small children, deserted by the father, attempted suicide Sunday. Overwhelmed by toll day and night she swallowed poison. Her life was saved. But this is just an indication showing the desperate straits in which many wretchedly poor families are.

The Free Shoe Fund of The Omaha Bee steps into such homes and provides shoes for the little ones. Shoes are the one article used to buy shoes for the most rapidly and are hardest to replace.

There is a long waiting list of the children of just such homes as the one mentioned above waiting, waiting for the shoes which will be bought for them when the money comes in to the fund.

Each case is carefully investigated by the child's teacher, without cost to the fund. In fact there is no "overhead" expense of any kind allowed in this fund. Therefore, every cent you give is actually used to buy shoes for "littly poor little boys and girls."

Previously acknowledged: \$2,136.89  
E. H. W. .... 2.00  
Cash ..... 1.00  
Mrs. F. B. Hordford, Bladen, Neb. .... 2.00  
Elizabeth J. Morris, Wood Lake, Neb. .... 5.00  
Doris M. Goshert, Wood Lake, Neb. .... 2.50  
E. A. V. Boyce ..... 2.00  
Mrs. S. A. Stauber, Hebron, Neb. .... 2.00  
Third and Eighth Grades, Hampton, Neb. .... 2.00  
Seventh and Eighth Grades, Litchfield (Neb.) Schools ..... 1.60

Total ..... 2,157.59

If you can bring Christmas cheer to these needy ones, who will be made happy even by gifts of such necessities as shoes, send what you can to "Free Shoe Fund, The Omaha Bee, Omaha, Neb."

#### Coats in Court.

Judge Holmes in central police court yesterday continued the order of Judge Patrick that officials appearing in court must wear coats and not appear in shirt sleeves.

## Thompson, Belden & Co

### From Nine to Six are Shopping Hours at Thompson-Belden's; Not Open Evenings

#### If She Loves Out-of-Doors

A warm woolly sweater and scarf would please her immensely. The sweaters in almost every color are from \$3.85 to \$15. The scarfs are \$2.95 to \$7.95.



#### A Hand Bag

Is one of those smart accessories no woman can get along without. Hence a gift bag has won approval even before it has been received. There is an abundance of styles in duvety, velvet and fine leathers for prices that are most reasonable.



#### Gay Beads

That lend their brightening touch to a dark costume are a charming feminine gift. Their colorings are red, blue, amber, purple, coral, yellow and jet.

Priced \$1 to \$8.

#### Novelty Linen Towels

These are charming towels with hand-made Venetian lace insertion at one end and double-hem stitching where the colored borders of blue, pink or yellow meet the white linen. Price \$3.75.



#### Handkerchiefs In Holiday Array

This never failing gift is shown in an unusual assortment of styles.

Hand-embroidered linens in plain white, 60c each or \$3.50 for six.

Spanish and French embroideries on all white linen, \$1.25 to \$1.75.



#### Ear Rings

She'd be delighted with a pair or two, because every woman loves to follow the manner of the mode. They come in an interesting variation of shapes and in almost any bright coloring.

Price \$1 to \$2.50.



#### Toilet Waters

There are toilet waters galore to please the most discriminating. For a gift we suggest—

Mary Garden, \$1.35.  
Three Flowers, \$1.50.  
Colgate's, \$1 to \$1.50.  
Un Air Embaume, (Rigaud's), \$5.98.  
Djer Kiss Eau de, \$1.50.  
Palmer's priced 50c.



#### Silk Girdles

If her heavy winter coat calls for a girle, then one of heavy silk braid would prove to be a very appreciable gift. In brown, blue and black—

Priced \$2.25 to \$7.00



Main Floor

Main Floor

Main Floor

Main Floor

Main Floor



### THE Ford Transfer & Storage Company has found the Goodyear All-Weather Tread Solid Truck Tire to be tough, resilient and a sure gripper in heavy or icy going.

Goodyear Truck Tires are sold and serviced by the local Goodyear Truck Tire Service Station Dealer.


## GOODYEAR

### RUSCH TIRE SERVICE

AT 0629 2205-7 Farnam St.

## For Christmas

Father would like



### Waterman's Ideal Fountain Pen

"The Daddy of them all"

#### Selection and Service at Best Dealers the World Over

L. E. Waterman Company, 191 Broadway, N. Y.  
Chicago Boston San Francisco

### Bowen's

THE VALUE GIVING STORE

#### An Ideal Christmas Present an "ELDRIDGE" Two-Spool Sewing Machine



\$29.75 and Up Sold on Easy Terms Value-Giving Bargains

Used Sewing Machines  
"Howe" Machine ..... \$2.50  
"Davis" Machine ..... \$5.00  
"Household" Machine. \$7.50  
"New Home" Machine at ..... \$9.00  
"New Windsor" Machine at ..... \$12.50  
"Goodrich" Machine. \$15.00  
"Singer" Machine. \$18.00

Sold on Easy Terms. Trade Your Old Sewing Machine for a New "Eldredge" Two-Spool.

### A. R. Bowen & Co.

The Value-Giving Store  
Howard St. Between 15th and 16th

## Extra Special for Christmas Week

Only \$5 per Month

### Are the Special Christmas Terms That We Have Arranged on This Beautiful Model of the Genuine Victrola.



Mahogany or Walnut \$100

It is the latest product of the Victor Company, the most talked of instrument in the world today and by far the greatest value ever offered.



Special demonstration every evening during Christmas week. If you cannot come in phone for a Victrola concert in your home. Do it now!

## MICKEL'S

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