

Statisticians Wage War at Phone Hearing

Battle of Words and Figures Feature of Clash Between State and Northwestern Bell Company.

The battle of statisticians threatened to wax warm in the telephone rate hearing before Referee Dunham in federal court Wednesday morning. Statisticians for the state are contending that the telephone company's operation costs are too high. The Lincoln Telephone company is being used for a comparison. The state claims that the per station expense of the Northwestern Bell Telephone company is much higher than the Lincoln company.

The statisticians for the telephone company claim that the Lincoln Telephone company is a poor comparison because of the size of the company and the small territory it serves.

They contend that the cost of operation for comparison should be based on "per \$100 investment." The cost "per \$100 investment" of the Northwestern Bell for 1921 was shown as \$4.43 in comparison with \$5.15 of the Lincoln company. The same cost for the Lincoln company in 1922 was \$4.80 and for the Northwestern Bell, \$4.45.

The state is also contending that the Northwestern Bell company is not organized as efficiently as the Lincoln company, while officials of the telephone company declared that the Northwestern company is one of the most efficient plants in the country.

Learning from statements made by the state representatives today, it is apparent that an attack will be made on the salaries of the officials of the telephone company here.

The state contends that the telephone company is "top heavy" with officials.

Adjustment of Prices Is Urged

Corn Good But Wheat Below Last Year, Questionnaire Shows.

Real improvement in the condition of the Nebraska farmer is dependent upon an adjustment of present price disparities, in the opinion of Walter W. Head, president of the Omaha National bank, following receipt of replies to a general questionnaire addressed to 200 Nebraska bankers concerning Nebraska farm and financial conditions.

The replies show that there will be little corn or old wheat coming to market in the next few months. The "carry over" of wheat is small, according to information supplied by bankers of the state, and the corn on hand will be used for feeding purposes before the new crop matures.

Many correspondents believed lower freight rates essential for future prosperity.

From 40 per cent to 60 per cent of the farm land in the state appears to be encumbered. There has been little default of interest or principal except in the Sixth district.

Wheat appears to be spotted, averaging somewhat poorer than a year ago, except in the Sixth district, which reports a better crop. Corn is reported in good condition, although from a week to two weeks late. Oats are reported in unusually good condition with a good yield. Miscellaneous crops generally are better than normal.

With few exceptions, farmers are reported to have made a profit on cattle shipped this year, although some of the correspondents state that it was small.

A number of replies declare that farm conditions are worse than a year ago. The overwhelming majority report the farmer "noticeably disturbed and disgruntled," the more encouraging reports are from the Third and Sixth districts, the former probably due to a wide diversification of crops and less wheat, the latter to grazing interests which appear to be less affected than straight farming.

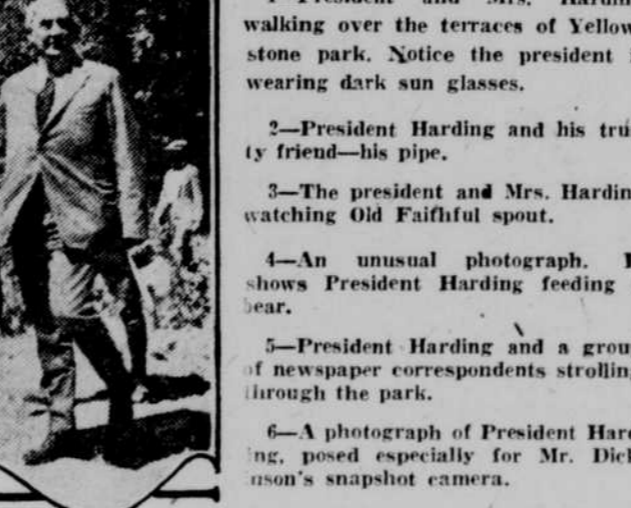
The condition of merchants varies very widely. Generally speaking, bank deposits have increased in all sections; loans have increased but not in the same proportion. Throughout the state there is practically no market for land; generally speaking, values are estimated at from 35 per cent to 50 per cent below 1919—approximated on the 1914 basis.

Wheat Growers Will Discuss Federal Aid

Spokane, Wash., Aug. 1.—A mass meeting of wheat growers to consider plans to urge President Harding to convene congress in special session will be held in Spokane August 6, J. C. Adams, president of the Farmers' Union of Washington and North Idaho, announced here yesterday. Special legislation "to stabilize the price of wheat and rescue the wheat farmer from his deplorable condition" will be advocated by the session, Mr. Adams announced.

Governor Hart of Washington, Governor Dixon of Montana, Governor Pierce of Oregon, Governor Moore of Idaho, United States Senators C. C. Dill of Washington, W. A. Borah of Idaho, C. L. McNary of Oregon and Wheeler of Montana, and Congressmen J. W. Summers of Washington and Burton L. French of Idaho have been invited by President Adams to attend the conference. The state presidents of the farmers' unions of Montana and Oregon are also expected to be present. A thousand wheat growers are expected to attend, Mr. Adams said.

Omaha Man Has Views of Harding in Yellowstone Park



David Dickinson, secret service agent here, who toured Yellowstone park with President Harding and his party, was one of the many Omahans vitally interested in the bulletins concerning the president's health.

Dickinson is personally acquainted with President Harding and acted as one of his escorts during the recent Shrine convention in Washington.

When President Harding decided to tour Yellowstone park, Dickinson was chosen to arrange for the tour.

"The president and Mrs. Harding were happy when I last saw them as they departed from the park," said Dickinson Tuesday. "The beautiful scenery, the fresh air, and the rugged environment agreed with him. There was little speech making in the park and he and the rest of the party had an opportunity to really enjoy themselves with plenty of freedom."

"They tramped over the beautiful terraces and the president took great delight in calling the attention of various members of the party to unusual scenes."

"He smoked a pipe frequently, and when a photographer asked for permission to snap him as he smoked the pipe, he readily agreed."

"Several times during the tour he stopped to feed the pet bears. I believe while he was feeding the bears he was happier than at any time on the tour."

Agent Dickinson said that the president and Mrs. Harding were much interested in the spouting geysers and watched both the Giant and Old Faithful spout forth their streams from the bowels of the earth.

During the hot afternoons, when the sun was shining with all its force, President Harding would wear sun glasses. Members of the party were solicitous about the welfare and health of the president, according to Dickinson.

"He acted as happy as a boy, for it was his first trip to Yellowstone park. To the passerby he appeared as a 'tenderfoot' tourist. Mrs. Harding had visited the park before and pointed out various scenes to the president."

President Harding made a hit with the employes of the park because of his democratic manner, Dickinson said. "We all wished him Godspeed and good luck as he left, and he waved us a cordial greeting."

Burgess Bedtime Stories

By THORNTON W. BURGESS.

Unselfish love thinks of another. Forgetting self somehow or other. —Old Mother Nature.

Brave Little Nanny Meadow Mouse.

Just as long as she could stand it Nanny Meadow Mouse on the old scarecrow in Farmer Brown's cornfield watched Black Pussy watching the entrance to the old tin can at the foot of a fence post, waiting for Danny Meadow Mouse to come out. Nanny kept hoping that Black Pussy's patience would not hold out. But when Black Pussy was watching for a Mouse she has a great deal of patience. She knew that Danny Meadow Mouse was inside that can, and she knew that sooner or later he would come out. Nanny knew that Black Pussy knew this.

"I've got to do something," said Nanny to herself at last. "I've got to do something. That awful cat looks as if she intends to stay there the rest of the day if necessary. Danny will think she has gone away and will come out. If he does that will be the end of him. I'll never see him again. I've got to do something. I've got to do something."

Having made up her mind to do something, Nanny wasted no more time. She ran down the old scarecrow to the ground. She ran along between the rows of corn until she reached the end of them where she could peep out and see that old can and Black Pussy. It was only a few

feet from the corn to that old can. Black Pussy was crouched just at one side with her yellow eyes fixed on the little hole in that can, and the tip of her black tail was twitching with eagerness.

From where Nanny was she could look right in at the little round hole in the can. She could see Danny's face. He was close up to that hole peeping out. She knew that he

did it. Drawing a long breath, she darted out from that corn straight for that tin can. She made no noise. Black Pussy with her yellow eyes fixed on that hole didn't see Nanny until just as she darted in at that hole. Then it was too late.

Nanny was so excited that all she could say was, "I did it! I did it!"

"What did you do?" asked Danny. "I ran almost under Black Pussy's very nose," replied Nanny.

"What did you do that for?" demanded Danny.

"To keep you from coming out and getting caught," replied Nanny. "You know very well that you were getting ready to come out. That dreadful cat is still out there, and has been ever since you ran in here. Now that there are two of us here, she probably will stay the rest of the day. Oh Danny, I was so afraid you would be caught!"

"I guess I would have been but for you, my dear," said Danny very soberly as he rubbed noses with Nanny.

(Copyright 1923.)

The next story: "Was the World Coming to an End?"

\$5,000,000 for Actors' Home.

New York, Aug. 1.—Aged, poverty-stricken stage folks will be provided with a home where they will be treated as honored guests under the will of Percy G. Williams, former theatrical manager, who died recently, it was learned last night. Mr. Williams specified that his estate, valued at \$5,000,000, should eventually revert to founding the Percy G. Williams home for needy actors and actresses.



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